

Research Advisory Committee (RAC) Meeting

1-2 December 2016, ICAR – CICR, Nagpur

Research Advisory Committee (RAC) meeting was held at ICAR-Central Institute for Cotton Research (CICR), Nagpur during 1-2 December 2016. The meeting was chaired by Dr. B.V. Patil, Director of Education, University of Agricultural Sciences, Raichur, and Karnataka. The following RAC members and officials attended the meeting:

- Dr. T. Pradeep, Director (Seeds), Seed Research & Technology Centre, PJTSAU, Rajendranagar, Hyd.
- Dr. A. K. Dhawan, Former Head, Entomology, PAU, Ludhiana & State Coordinator (Punjab) IRM.
- Dr. A. J. Shaikh, Ex-Director, Central Institute for Research on Cotton Technology, Mumbai.
- Dr. Sunil Mukherjee, NASI, Sr Scientist, Platinum Jubilee Fellow, Genetics Dept, University of Delhi.
- Dr. R. K. Singh, Assistant Director General (Commercial Crops), ICAR, New Delhi.
- Dr. K. R. Kranthi, Director, ICAR-CICR, Nagpur.
- Dr. A. H. Prakash, Project Coordinator (Cotton) & Head, CICR, Regional Station, Coimbatore.
- Dr. O. P. Tuteja, Principal Scientist, ICAR-CICR, Regional Station, Sirsa.
- Dr. M. V. Venugopalan, Member Secretary, RAC, ICAR-CICR, Nagpur.
- Dr. K. P. Raghavendra, Scientist, ICAR-CICR, Nagpur.
- Dr. H. B. Santosh, Scientist, ICAR-CICR, Nagpur.



Dr. K. R. Kranthi, Director, ICAR – CICR, Nagpur welcomed the Chairman and members of RAC. In his introductory remarks, the Chairman RAC expressed his happiness over the crop condition in the country during 2016-17. He reiterated that timely sowing, well distributed rainfall and above all, the relentless training and information campaign coordinated by ICAR-CICR, SAUs and State governments that kept the key pests (pink bollworm and whitefly) under control were the reasons for high yields expected this year. He stressed on strengthening research to control pink bollworms, on mechanical picker for small holdings and compact early varieties with Bt suitable for High Density Planting System and amenable to mechanical picking. Action Taken Report (ATR) was placed before the RAC for deliberation. Dr. B. V. Patil, Chairman, RAC expressed satisfaction on ATR and appreciated the research efforts of the institute.



Dr. K. R. Kranthi, Director ICAR-CICR, in his presentation "Global and National Cotton Perspectives" emphasized that sustainable cotton production depends upon prudent use of water and agrochemicals. He presented the National and Global cotton scenario and narrated the reasons for enhanced yields (> 1500 kg lint/ha) achieved by Australia, China, Brazil, Turkey, Mexico and Israel. The reasons for low yields and approach to improve cotton yields in India were also elaborated. The Chairman and the members of RAC widely appreciated the presentation.

Research Advisory Committee members along with the Director, ICAR-CICR and Heads of divisions/sections/regional stations visited different experimental fields and laboratories and interacted with the scientists regarding the research programmes being implemented. The research achievements during 2016 were

presented by Heads of the Division of Crop Improvement, Crop Production, Crop Protection, I/c Biotechnology Section, Head CICR Regional Station Coimbatore and Dr. O.P. Tuteja from Regional Station Sirsa. The work being carried out was reviewed thoroughly. The committee appreciated the efforts and made several suggestions and some specific recommendations. The chairman and members of RAC also released CICR Technical Bulletin on *Whitefly and CLCuD management strategies for cotton in North India*. The meeting concluded with the vote of thanks proposed by Dr. V. N, Waghmare, Head, Division of Crop Improvement.



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