

ICAR-Central Institute for Cotton Research

Final advisory of the 2015-16 cotton cropping season

Cotton crop is in the final stages of harvest in central and southern regions of the country

1. Wherever more than 8-10 green bolls per plant are present still in the crop, boll damage may be monitored by dissecting 20 to 50 green bolls collected randomly to cover an area of one acre. Wherever the pink bollworm larval infestation levels are more than 20% in 20-50 dissected green bolls, one pyrethroid spray may be taken up immediately to prevent any further damage to green bolls. Insecticide spray must be done to protect green bolls only after picking the fully opened bolls. Farmers are advised to terminate the crop in January.
2. Avoid prolonging of crop through irrigation and fertilizers as late formed bolls may severely attract pink boll worm incidence. Avoid ratooning and summer cotton. This is necessary to reduce pink bollworm incidence and bollworm resistance to Bt-cotton.
3. Harvesting should be done from the fully opened bolls after 10 am in the morning. Clean picking may be taken to get better price in the market. Ensure clean cotton is stored in clean cloth bags. First harvested cotton should be kept separately and dried properly before storing them in clean cloth bags. Avoid usage of gunny bags to prevent contaminating the cotton. Picking may be finished at the earliest possible.
4. Crop rotation may be followed to break life cycle of pests, diseases and weeds.
5. Old cotton seed stored in go-downs or homes serve as a carryover for pink bollworm moths. If the seeds are infested, these may be destroyed immediately.
6. Do not store stalks, residues and infested seed cotton. Prompt removal and destruction of cotton stubbles to prevent carryover of pest to next season should be done. Stalks and residues may be composted instead of burning the crop residues.

Thanks for following the ICAR-CICR cotton advisories. Thanks for the encouraging feedback, Cotton sowing will start in April in north India. The next advisory will start in the third week of March 2016. Good bye until then.

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