

Central Institute for Cotton Research

Twentieth Weekly Advisory for Cotton Cultivation: 3rd to 10th December 2012

"The advisory is based on inputs received from the State Agricultural Universities of the respective states"

NORTH ZONE

Cotton picking is complete

CENTRAL ZONE

Gujarat

Weather condition is suitable for cotton crop. Crop condition was over all good and satisfactory and some experiments are near to maturity stages.

Maharashtra

Cotton plants are drying wherever roots are damaged with cracks. Trash free cotton should be picked.

Madhya Pradesh

Crop has reached maturity and picking is on.

Odisha

The cotton crop is at 22 to 23 week (boll maturity and boll opening) stage. No rainfall is expected during this five days period. Picking of fully open bolls may be done during clear weather conditions. Harvested seed cotton must be dried under sun for 1-2 days to reduce the moisture content and prevent from fungal discoloration.

SOUTH ZONE

Andhra Pradesh

The weather is dry during the period under report and after the Neelam Cyclone, the crop duration is extended and following measures are to be taken. Foliar application of 2% KNO₃ or 2% urea along with 1% MgSO₄ is recommended for square, flower, boll formation and boll development. The weather is congenial for the development of diseases. Hence prophylactic sprays with Copper oxy chloride 3g + Streptocycline 100 mg/l water or Mancozeb 2.5g/l + Streptocycline 100 mg/l water or systemic fungicides like Propiconazole 1ml/l or Carbendazim 1g/l or combination product like Captan + Hexaconazole 1g/l are suggested for the control of diseases. Similarly appropriate measures are to be taken for the control of jassids and whitefly.

Karnataka

Lower night temperature with moderate to severe cold weather prevails in all the districts as per the forecast during next week. Due to severe cold conditions, leaf reddening in Bt cotton is increasing in all areas. Advised to continue the foliar application of 2 % of urea or DAP with 1% MgSO₄ along with measures to control sucking pests like jassids and thrips. In *herbaceum* and *arboreum* cotton, grey mildew

disease is increasing in some areas. It is suggested to spray the crop with Carbendizim 50 WP @ 1g/lit of water for effective control. First picked kapas has to be sold separately to get higher selling price in the market. Light irrigation has to be given after each picking wherever irrigation facilities are available. In early sown conditions the kapas picking is completed. It is suggested to uproot the stalks immediately so that short duration pulses can be sown as second crop. Rabi crops like *Chickpea* or *wheat* can be grown as second crop wherever irrigation facilities are available. Cotton stalks uprooted have to be used for composting or vermicomposting instead of burning as fuel. Wherever facilities are available, the cotton stalks can be incorporated into the soil with rotoslasher or rotovator.

Tamil Nadu

There is a delay in North east monsoon over the State. The delayed rain is expected to affect the crop growth as it is in peak boll development stage. Take control measures for sucking insects. In the winter vertisol zone with high rainfall of Madurai, Virudhunagar, Tirunelveli and Tuticorin district, the cotton crop is in flowering and boll formation stage. The stray incidence of bollworm *Helicoverba armigera* has been noticed in non Bt varieties for which plant protection measures may be taken on need basis.

Note: The advisory is based on inputs received from the State Agricultural Universities of the respective states and for queries or clarifications or details, the Project coordinator (cotton), Coimbatore may be contacted.

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