April-June 2025

ICAR-CICR Newsletter

ICAR-Central Institute for Cotton Research, Nagpur

An ISO 9001:2015 Certified Organization

Director's Message

Publication is a face of an organization revealing its activities and progress over a period of time. The ICAR-CICR Newsletter was regularly being published till September 2020. However, it was abruptly discontinued with the change in leadership of the Institute. As I assumed the charge of Director, ICAR-CICR on 4th April 2025, it was felt necessary to resume the publication of ICAR-CICR Newsletter to bring to the fore the activities being carried out by the Institute periodically. The activities covered during the period of this Newsletter started with the celebration of 49th Foundation Day of the Institute which falls on 1st of April.

April to June is an important period for cotton crop throughout the country since the planting of cotton starts from mid-April to mid-May in the North zone, June-July in the Central & South zones except for some parts of Tamil Nadu. The Institute takes pride that during this quarter, the prominent technology `AI Based Smart Trap for Realtime Monitoring of PBW' developed by the Institute was released at the hands of Shri. Shivraj Singh Chauhan, Hon'ble Union Minister of Agriculture, MoA&FW in the presence of Shri. Devendra Fadnavis, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Shri. Manikrao Kokate, Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture, Maharashtra, Shri. Ashish Jaiswal, Hon'ble Minister of State for Agriculture, Maharashtra, Dr. M.L. Jat, Hon'ble Secretary DARE & Director General, ICAR; Dr. D.K. Yadava, Hon'ble DDG (CS) and other dignitaries.

Cotton crop is facing numerous challenges of insect pest and disease incidences in all the cotton growing zones. Pink bollworm menace has spread in all the cotton growing regions of the country. With the increase in cost of insect pest management and cotton-picking due to scarcity of labourers, the returns from cotton crop have declined, in turn, reflecting decline in area, production and productivity of cotton over the last one decade. This Institute and SAUs working on cotton have more responsibility to address the challenges and issues concerning cotton production system in the country. Under the Institute led Special Project on Cotton, demonstrations conducted on promoting high density planting system (HDPS), closer spacing and ELS cotton showed an increase in average yield by 30% with HDPS and 39% with closer spacing. The integration of such improved and validated technologies and adoption by the farmers on a large scale shall definitely help to increase the productivity and overall production of cotton in the coming years.

I take this opportunity to thank the ICAR for giving me an opportunity and imposing trust on me to lead the cotton research. I am confident that, with the support of one and all, we will be successful in meeting out the challenges in the cotton production system.

V.N. Waghmare
Director

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Institute Events

1. ICAR-CICR Foundation Day

ICAR-CICR celebrated its 49th Foundation Day on 1st April 2025. The programme was organized by ICAR-CICR Staff Recreation Club. All staff members including Heads of Divisions, Scientists, Technical, Administrative & supporting staff of the Institute enthusiastically participated in the celebration. All HODs, Senior Administrative Officer and Finance & Accounts Officer addressed the staff, congratulated them and extended their best wishes on the occasion.

2. ICAR-CICR welcomes its new Director

Dr. V.N. Waghmare, Head, Division of Crop Improvement assumed the charge of Director, ICAR-CICR on 4th April, 2025. ICAR-CICR Staff Recreation Club organized a grand welcome programme in honour of the new Director of the Institute on 7th April 2025. On the occasion, the Director articulated his vision for the Institute and sought everyone's support in taking forward the Institute to new heights. All Heads of Divisions, Scientists, Senior Administrative Officer and Finance & Accounts Officer congratulated the Director and expressed to extend their full support to him in all his endeavours. All staff members attended the programme with great enthusiasm to welcome the new Director.

3. 135th birth anniversary of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar

ICAR-CICR celebrated the 135th birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar with great fervour. Being a national holiday on 14th April, the programme was organized on 15th April 2025. The celebration began with garlanding of Dr. Ambedkar's portrait, followed by a brief address by Dr. V.N. Waghmare, Director, ICAR-CICR highlighting his vision for an inclusive and empowered India. He urged all the staff members and students to get inspiration from Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's life, achievements, and his commitment to equality, education, and social reform. ICAR-CICR paid a tribute to the architect of India's Constitution through a commemorative event featuring a talk on “Contribution of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in Nation Building” by Prof. Ashok Godghate, Retired Professor, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar College, Deeksha Bhoomi, Nagpur. Prof. Godghate dwelled into the life of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar highlighting his struggle during his early education days, his education in reputed Universities abroad. He highlighted Babasaheb's contribution as a social reformer in improving the conditions of socially backward classes, farmers and worker rights, as an economist playing a major role in establishment of RBI, a great political leader with clear vision and plan of modern India and as a chief architect of Indian Constitution. All HoDs, Scientists and staff participated in the programme.

4. IFS Sales Counter

A dedicated sale counter for the products of Integrated Farming System was set up at KVK, ICAR-CICR, Nagpur on 5th June, 2025 offering onion, turmeric powder and garlic for sale to the staff. Dr. V.N. Waghmare, Director, ICAR-CICR, visited the stall and appreciated the quality of the produce and initiative taken by Smt. Sunita Chauhan, SMS (Home Science) for showcasing and promoting profitable production technology of these crops among the visiting farmers.

5. World Intellectual Property Day

The Institute Technology Management Unit (ITMU) of ICAR-CICR organized a programme to observe the "World Intellectual Property Day” on 2nd May 2025. Dr. Bharat N. Suryawanshi, Assistant Controller of Patents & Designs, Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Intellectual Property Management, Nagpur, graced the occasion as a Chief Guest and delivered a presentation on “Intellectual Property Rights and its importance”. He explained the essentiality of IPR in protection of inventions, inventor rights and its impact on nation development and economy. At the outset, Dr. K. Velmourougane, Scientist In-charge, ITMU, elaborated on how the ITMU is facilitating IPR-related activities including filing patents, trademark, and copyright registration. He informed that, in the past 5 years, ICAR-CICR has signed 42 MoUs and 17 MTAs related to research and extension activities with public and private organizations, apart from signing 11 MoUs with Universities facilitating student

teaching, research, and training. Around 120 participants including Scientists, technical and administrative staff and students participated.

6. Stakeholder consultation on Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan

Shri. Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Hon'ble Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare convened a high-level stakeholder consultation on Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan at Kavivarya Suresh Bhat Auditorium, Nagpur on 18th May 2025. Shri. Devendra Fadnavis, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra; Shri. Manikrao Kokate, Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture, Maharashtra, Shri. Ashish Jaiswal, Hon'ble Minister of State for Agriculture, Maharashtra, Dr. M.L. Jat, DG, ICAR; Dr. D.K. Yadava, DDG, ICAR and others attended the programme. As a part of the programme, an exhibition was organized to showcase different innovations of the Institute.

Dr. D.K. Yadava, DDG (CS) and Dr. V.N. Waghmare, Director, ICAR-CICR briefed the dignitaries on innovative cotton technologies and services rendered to farmers through various government schemes. Subsequently, the Hon'ble Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare launched the AI Smart Trap developed by ICAR-CICR. The AI Smart Trap uses artificial intelligence (AI) and sensor technology to automatically detect, identify, and transmit the data to a remote server at hourly intervals along with weather parameters for real time monitoring of pink bollworm in cotton fields.

7. International Day of Yoga

ICAR-CICR and ICAR-NBSS&LUP jointly observed the International Day of Yoga at Krishi Kunj Residential Complex, Bajaj Nagar, Nagpur on 21st June 2025. Dr. V.N. Waghmare, Director, ICAR-CICR, graced the occasion. Renowned Yoga Instructor, Shri. Gajanan Iyer conducted the session, guiding the participants through a series of asanas, breathing exercises and meditation techniques aimed at promoting physical, mental and emotional well-being. The event highlighted the importance of integrating yoga into daily life and emphasized the role of traditional wellness practices in enhancing workplace efficiency and personal health. Dr. Narayan Borkar, Scientist and Shri. Mahesh Tiwari, PS coordinated the programme. The event witnessed an enthusiastic participation from Scientists, administrative, technical and supporting staff of both the Institutes.

8. ICAR-CICR IRC Meeting 2025

During 21st and 22nd May, the third session of the Institute Research Council (IRC) meeting 2025 was held under the chairmanship of Dr. V.N. Waghmare, Director, ICAR-CICR. Dr. Neelkanth Hiremani, Secretary-IRC coordinated the meeting. In his opening remarks, the Director emphasized the importance of aligning the new research projects with Institute's priorities. He also highlighted the need for discussions on the Mission on Cotton productivity to make aware all Scientists about the programmes and technical activities proposed and to facilitate the identification of suitable project leaders. With this framework in place, the house discussed the new research projects, RAC recommendations, and projects proposed under Mission on Cotton Productivity.

Director's Visit and Participation in External Events

Date	Event
28.04.2025	Attended the cotton stakeholder's meeting at Udyog Bhawan, New Delhi organized by the Ministry of Textiles, New Delhi.
07.05.2025	Attended the ILO Roundtable Meeting with the relevant stakeholders under the chairmanship of Director, ILO at the Indore Marriott Hotel, Indore.
15.05.2025	Attended the Assessment Committee Meeting at ASRB, New Delhi as DG's Nominee for CAS for the assessment of Scientists working at ICAR-CICR, Nagpur.
20.05.2025	Attended the Annual Meet of Vice-Chancellors of Agricultural Universities and Director's Conference of ICAR Institutes at NASC, New Delhi.
27.05.2025	Attended the interactive meeting of the Textile Advisory Group for Cotton at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi held under the chairmanship of Shri. Giriraj Singh, Hon'ble Minister of Textiles.

Dignitaries Visit

1. Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra, Chairperson, PPV&FRA

Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra, Chairperson, PPV&FRA, New Delhi & formerly Secretary, DARE & DG, ICAR visited ICAR-CICR, Nagpur on 21st April 2025. He chaired an Interactive Session with all the Scientists of Nagpur headquarter; and Coimbatore and Sirsa Regional Stations on the thematic areas of cotton improvement, genomics, production and protection technologies for increasing the cotton production and productivity in the light of announcement of Mission on Cotton Productivity in 2025-26 budget by the Government of India. He critically reviewed all the activities and offered valuable suggestions to refine them for achievable targets within the stipulated period of five years. All Heads of Regional Stations, Heads of Divisions, Scientists of Nagpur and Regional Stations attended the meeting and took part in the deliberations.


2. Shri. Baldeo Singh, ICAR Governing Body Member

Shri. Baldeo Singh, ICAR Governing Body Member, New Delhi visited ICAR-CICR, Nagpur on 7th April 2025 and discussed about the challenges and prospects of cotton farming in India with Dr. V.N. Waghmare, Director and Heads of Division, ICAR-CICR, Nagpur. Dr. V.N. Waghmare briefed him about the research programmes undertaken by the Institute to improve cotton farming and farmers income. He also visited Biotechnology and Insectary labs.


3. Dr. S.N. Jha, DDG (Agricultural Engineering)

Dr. S.N. Jha, DDG (Ag. Engg.), ICAR, New Delhi briefly visited ICAR-CICR, Nagpur on 9th April 2025 and interacted with Scientists of the Institute. Dr. V.N. Waghmare, Director, ICAR-CICR welcomed the dignitary and briefed on the research programmes of the Institute.


4. Dr. M. Sheshu Madhav, Director, ICAR-NIRCA, Rajamundry

Dr. M. Sheshu Madhav, Director, ICAR-NIRCA, Rajamundry, visited ICAR-CICR, Nagpur on 15th April 2025. Dr. V.N. Waghmare, Director, ICAR-CICR welcomed the dignitary and briefed on the research programmes of the Institute. Dr. Sheshu Madhav had interactions with Scientists and visited Biotechnology and Tissue Culture labs.


5. Dr. Phundan Singh, Ex-Director, ICAR-CICR

Dr. Phundan Singh, Ex-Director, ICAR-CICR, former HoD, Crop Improvement and Plant Breeder visited ICAR-CICR Regional Station, Sirsa on 28th April 2025. He interacted with the Scientists and discussed the ongoing activities of different disciplines at the Station.

Stakeholders Visit

Reliance Foundation

Representatives of Reliance Group visited ICAR-CICR, Nagpur on 23rd April, 2025 and held discussion with Dr. V.N. Waghmare, Director, ICAR-CICR, Dr. Vishlesh Nagrare, Principal Scientist and Dr. Babasaheb Fand, Senior Scientist of the Institute.

Farmers Visit

Farmers of Churiya Block of Rajnandagaon District, Chhattisgarh

A group of 25 farmers from Churiya Block of Rajnandagaon District, Chhattisgarh, visited the KVK of ICAR-CICR, Nagpur on 22nd April 2025. Dr. V.N. Waghmare, Director, ICAR-CICR, interacted with them and discussed the key challenges they face in cotton production.

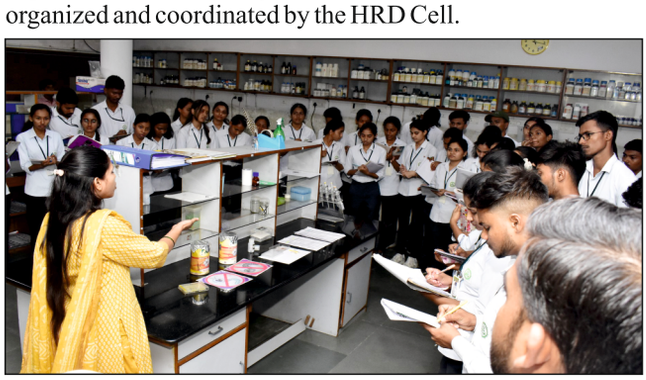
Students Visit

1. Jupiter Ayurveda College, Shankarpur

Ten students of Jupiter Ayurveda College, Shankarpur, Nagpur along with a faculty member visited the Tissue Culture Laboratory of ICAR-CICR, Nagpur on 9th April 2025. They interacted with the Scientists and got basic exposure about the ongoing research activities. The visit was coordinated by the HRD Cell.

2. College of Agriculture, Mul, Chandrapur

A group of 47 students and four faculty members from the College of Agriculture, Mul, Chandrapur visited ICAR-CICR, Nagpur on 15th May 2025. They visited Bt Referral lab, Tissue Culture Lab, and Insectary of the Institute. During the visit, the students interacted with Scientists and got a basic exposure about ongoing research activities. The visit was organized and coordinated by the HRD Cell.



Meetings / Trainings / Workshops Organized

1. Master Training for Better Cotton Programme Partner Staff

During 24-25 April 2025, a Master's Training (Trainers Training) on "Technological Innovations for Sustainable Cotton Cultivation" was conducted to equip the Better Cotton Programme Partner Staff on Best Management Practices (BMPs) of cotton agronomy and plant protection.

2. Master Trainers Training of OCA on organic input preparation and non-GMO seed management

A Master Trainers Training of Organic Cotton Accelerator (OCA) - a multi-stakeholder initiative was organized at ICAR-CICR, Nagpur on 24th April 2025. OCA is working to bring integrity, supply, security, and measurable social and environmental impact through organic cotton. Their interest was to know about organic input preparation and non-GMO seed management. While addressing them, Dr. V.N. Waghmare, Director, ICAR-CICR informed that desi cotton has no issue of GM contamination and has good production potential under organic condition. He urged them to utilize the non-Bt cotton cultivars developed by ICAR-CICR viz. CNH 1128, CNA 1032, CNA 1054, Suraksha and Nano for organic cultivation. Dr. V. Santhy, Dr. Ramkrushna G.I. and Dr. Shailesh Gawande delivered lectures on seed production, organic input preparation and Trichoderma production, respectively. Dr. Lucina Yeasmin from OCA along with Shri. Ajeet Kelkar and Shri. Ravi Kelkar from Abhinav AHRDO coordinated the visit.

3. Awareness-cum-training for cotton breeders on PVP registration of varieties

An awareness-cum-training programme for cotton breeders under AICRP on the process of registration of cotton varieties with PPV&FRA was organized on virtual mode on 30th April 2025. Shri. Dipal Roy Choudhary, Joint Registrar, PPV&FRA delivered a detail lecture on "Step-by-step guide for filling the application to register released and notified cotton varieties with PPV&FRA". Dr. V.N. Waghmare, Director, ICAR-CICR presided the meeting which was attended by more than 30 cotton breeders. Dr. V. Santhy, Principal Scientist and PI, DUS Project co-ordinated the programme.

4. Training for Field Scouts of Better Cotton

A four-day training course on "Better Management Techniques for Cotton Cultivation under North Zone Scenario" was organized by ICAR-CICR, Regional Station, Sirsa in collaboration with Better Cotton, Ambuja

Foundation, Bathinda from 29th April to 2nd May 2025. A total of 230 Field Scouts of Better Cotton, working across seven cotton growing districts of North Zone participated in the training programme. Dr. Subhash Chandra coordinated the training programme organized by Dr. Rishi Kumar, Head i/c. Dr. S.K. Verma, Dr. S.K. Sain, Dr. Amarpreet Singh, Shri. Satpal Singh and Shri. Sanjeev Kumar assisted in successful implementation of program.

5. Summer training programme for college students

During 3-23 June and 9-30 June 2025, two 21-day summer training programmes were organized at ICAR-CICR, Regional Station, Sirsa on "Field and laboratory techniques related to cotton crop production" for 10 M.Sc.(Botany) and 6 M.Sc.(Zoology) students, respectively, of Chaudhary Devi Lal University, Sirsa. Dr. Subhash Chandra coordinated the training programmes under the guidance of Dr. Rishi Kumar, Head i/c. Dr. S.K. Verma, Dr. S.K. Sain and Dr. Amarpreet Singh assisted in the successful implementation of programmes.

6. Field exposure visit-cum-training for Agricultural Officers

ICAR-CICR, RS, Sirsa organized a field exposure visit-cum-training for 35 Agricultural Officers of Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of Haryana on 18th June 2025 in collaboration with HAMETI, Jind, Haryana. Dr. Rishi Kumar and Dr. S.K. Sain delivered lectures, Dr. Amarpreet Singh organized field exposure visit and Dr. Subhash Chandra coordinated the programme.

Meetings / Trainings / Workshops Attended

1. Dr. V. Santhy, Principal Scientist participated in the 40th AGM of AICRP on Seed (Crops) held on virtual mode during May 14-15, 2025 organized by ICAR-National Institute for Seed Science and Technology, Mau, UP.
2. Dr. Suhas Gorakh Karkute, Senior Scientist and Dr. Debasis Paul, Scientist attended a 4-day training programme on “Laboratory quality management system and internal audit as per IS/ISO/IEC 17025:2017” at Southern Regional Laboratory, Chennai conducted by National Institute of Training for Standardization, Bureau of Indian Standards during May 19-22, 2025.
3. Dr. V.S. Nagrare, Principal Scientist participated in a Kisan Mela held at Bodwad, Jalgaon district organized by Cotton Association of India (CAI) on 27th May 2025.
4. Dr. Rishi Kumar, Head i/c, ICAR-CICR, Regional Station, Sirsa and Dr. S.K. Verma, Principal Scientist attended the Pre-Season Review Meetings of Stakeholders for Pink Bollworm Management under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, CCS HAU, Hisar on 2nd April 2025 at CCSHAU, Hisar. Dr. Rishi Kumar presented the progress report and action plan 2025-26 for pink bollworm management in North Zone.
5. Dr. Rishi Kumar, Head i/c, ICAR-CICR, Regional Station, Sirsa attended a meeting on Interstate Consultative and Monitoring Committee for kharif 2025 at Chandigarh Kisan Bhawan on 20th May 2025. He presented the progress report on plant stand and insect pest scenario and management strategies for the cotton season 2025-26.
6. Dr. R. Jaya Kumaravaradan, Scientist attended a 5-day training programme on “Foundation of Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) Modelling for Economic Policy Analysis” organized jointly by IFPRI and ICAR-NAARM during 23-27 June, 2025 at ICAR-NAARM, Hyderabad.

Capacity Building Programmes for Farmers

1. Exposure visit

On 18th May 2025, 180 (139 Male & 41 Female) SC farmers of Amti, Sawarkhanda, Khobna and Bodkhipeth villages in Kuhi taluka; and Tirkhura and Pipardol villages in Umred taluka, all from Nagpur district participated and visited the exhibition arranged as a part of the high-level stakeholder consultation convened by the Hon'ble Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare under Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan at Kavivarya Suresh Bhat Auditorium, Nagpur.

2. Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan

ICAR-CICR participated in an intensive agricultural outreach initiative under the Government of India's flagship Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan across the key cotton-growing and other districts of Maharashtra viz. Nagpur, Yavatmal, Gondia and Gadchiroli from 29th May to 12th June, 2025. The campaign focused on pre-kharif preparedness and knowledge dissemination for improved productivity and sustainability. As a part of this campaign, 12 expert teams comprising Scientists of ICAR-CICR and Subject Matter Specialists of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK) visited 3 villages each day, directly engaging with farming communities. These interactive sessions were designed to bridge the gap between cutting-edge agricultural research and grassroots application. The campaign was formally inaugurated at Chargaon, Bhivapur tehsil, Nagpur district, in the esteemed presence of Dr. V.N. Waghmare, Director, ICAR-CICR, along with officials from the State Agriculture Department, KVKs, and Dr.P.D.K.V., Akola.

The outreach programme focused on advanced technologies in crop production, animal husbandry and horticulture; promotion of high-yielding and stress-tolerant crop varieties; demonstration of water-efficient practices and integrated nutrient and pest management systems and detailed discussions on best agronomic practices in cotton, including HDPS and straight varieties for optimal yield. Special attention was given to cotton, a critical cash crop for Vidarbha region, with demonstrations of new technologies that promise higher productivity and improved resource efficiency. The teams informed the farmers about various government schemes, subsidies, and weekly agro-advisories that offer specific recommendations to support informed decision-making. By bringing innovations directly to the field, the campaign empowered lakhs of small and marginal farmers, strengthening rural economies and building climate-resilient farming systems across Maharashtra.

3. Workshop on "Pre-kharif Consultation: Technologies and BMPs for Enhancing Cotton Productivity"

A workshop on "Pre-kharif Consultation: Technologies & BMPs for Enhancing Cotton Productivity" was organized on 23rd May 2025 under Development Action Plan for Scheduled Caste (DAPSC). Dr. J.H. Meshram, Principal Scientist and Nodal Officer, DAPSC, outlined the scope of Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP) activities, encouraging farmers to actively participate in DAPSC initiatives aimed at community development. Dr. C.D. Mayee, Chief Guest of the programme urged the participants for enterprise diversification in response to unpredictable climate and encouraged them to consult ICAR-CICR Scientists to optimize input use and reduce cultivation costs. Dr. V.N. Waghmare, Director, ICAR-CICR highlighted the importance of soil health in sustainable cotton cultivation, urging farmers to enhance soil organic carbon through biomass management. He also emphasized the value of integrating allied agricultural enterprises such as goat rearing, poultry, dairy, and beekeeping to boost rural incomes. Dr. Ramkrushna G.I., Dr. Babasaheb Fand, Dr. S.P. Gawande, Dr. Rahul Phuke and Dr. Neelkanth Hiremani handled the technical session.

A total of 128 SC farmers (86 male and 42 female) of Savlapur and Chondi Bahadarpur villages of Arvi taluka in Wardha district; Katsur village of Teosa taluka and Pohara Purna village of Bhatkuli taluka in Amravati district; and Gowarpeth village of Nagbhir taluka in Chandrapur district participated in the programme. As a part of the programme, 30 sewing machines were distributed to women participants and tur seed, vegetable seed kit, knapsack sprayer, irrigation tube, crop protection kit containing fungicides, insecticides and nutrients, irrigation tube and LED torch, water purifier, manual twin wheel hoe, manual grubber weeder, manual stalk uprooter, grain storage bin and tarpaulin distributed to all participants. Shri. Akshay Kamble, Shri. Vijay Gaikwad and Shri. Ashwin Meshram coordinated the event.

4. Distribution of critical input under DAPSC

Critical inputs viz. tur seed, vegetable seed kit, knapsack sprayer, irrigation tube, crop protection kit containing fungicides, insecticides and nutrients, irrigation tube and LED torch, water purifier, manual twin wheel hoe, manual grubber weeder, manual stalk uprooter, grain storage bin and tarpaulin were distributed under Development Action Plan for Scheduled Caste (DAPSC) from 3rd to 6th June 2025 to 394 SC farmers (322 male & 72 female) of Khadki village in Narkhed taluka; Chikhali, Maina and Mendhepathar villages in Katol taluka; Hingna village in Saoner taluka, all from Nagpur district; Gandhinagar and Sharad villages in Kalamb taluka from Yavatmal district; Palwadi, Sultanpur and Husenpur villages in Tiosa taluka and Deori Nipani village in Bhatkuli taluka from Amravati district.

5. Training-cum-input distribution programme in Gondia district

A training-cum-input distribution programme was organised under DAPST scheme in collaboration with KVK, Hiwara, Gondia district for ST farmers of Kidangipar village on 10th June 2025. At the outset, Dr. Dipak T. Nagrale, Senior Scientist (Plant Pathology) and Nodal Officer of DAPST scheme explained the scheme objectives and explained the procedure and importance of seed treatment in integrated disease management of paddy and cotton crops. Shri. Vishal Ubarhande, Head-KVK, Gondia elaborated on the importance of mechanization in paddy cultivation. Shri. Manoj Bhomte, SMS (Agronomy), provided the detailed guidance on how to increase production and productivity through improved production technologies, sowing and irrigation management. On the occasion, seeds of improved PDKV-Sadhana and Metarhizium biopesticide formulation were distributed to the tribal farmers for planting during kharif 2025. Shri. Sujit Kumbhare, Technical Officer and officials of Kidangipar Gram Panchayat and KVK, Gondia coordinated the event.

6. Training-cum-input distribution programme in Gadchiroli district

A training-cum-input distribution programme was organised on 23rd June 2025 under DAPST scheme in collaboration with KVK, Sonapur, Gadchiroli district for ST farmers. Dr. Dipak T. Nagrale, Nodal Officer of the scheme explained the DAPST scheme objectives and interacted briefly about procedure and importance of seed treatment in integrated disease management of paddy and cotton crops. Dr. Shivaji Thube guided farmers on biological control measures for managing insect pests of cotton and paddy. Dr. Ulhas Galkate explained the significance of animal feed, vaccination and its role in improving animal health and milk production. Shri. Naresh Buddhewar explained the improved paddy cultivation practices. Shri. Sujit Kumbhare, Technical Officer and Shri. Sarang Shrirame, YP-I coordinated the event. During the programme, paddy seeds of PDKV-Tilak, PDKV- Sindewahi-2001 and dhaincha seeds were distributed to 75 participants.

7. Osmanabadi goat distribution

Under DAPSC, Osmanabadi goats were distributed to 15 SC farmers (13 male & 2 female) of Mendhepathar Jangali, Katol taluka of Nagpur district at KVK, ICAR-CICR, Nagpur on 8th May 2025.

8. Training-cum-critical input distribution programme

KVK, ICAR-CICR, Nagpur conducted a training-cum-critical input distribution programme on 16th April 2025 at Salaimendha village, Hingna taluka, Nagpur district, under Tribal Sub Plan. During the technical session, Dr. Ulhas Galkate, SMS (Veterinary Science) and convenor of the programme, emphasized the importance of balanced nutrition in goats, cows, and buffaloes to ensure better health and higher returns from livestock. He described balanced feeding as a key element in achieving profitability in animal husbandry. Dr. Galkate also sensitized farmers about the control of ecto and endo parasitic infestations in livestock to avoid economic losses and to prevent parasitic diseases, especially protozoan infections. He also highlighted the pivotal role of livestock in natural farming by contributing to soil health, animal health and human health.

Dr. Dipak Nagrale, Senior Scientist (Plant Pathology) urged farmers to utilize livestock dung effectively by treating it with Trichoderma and other bio-products to convert it into nutrient-rich organic manure, thereby increasing the organic matter content in the soil. He also discussed how natural farming can help in producing disease-free crops and the importance of livestock-based inputs in sustainable agriculture. Dr. Sachin Wankhede, SMS (Agrometeorology) created awareness among farmers about lightning safety measures, especially during the pre-monsoon period. He encouraged the farmers to join KVK's WhatsApp group to regularly receive weather-based agro-advisories issued every Tuesday and Friday for timely decision-making. Dr. Mayur Meshram, SMS (Agronomy) anchored the programme and shared insights on eco-friendly farming models that integrate livestock as a central component of sustainable agriculture. On the occasion, critical livestock inputs such as concentrate premix and medications for ectoparasitic and endoparasitic control were distributed to 50 participants.

9. Training-cum-input distribution programme on scientific goat farming

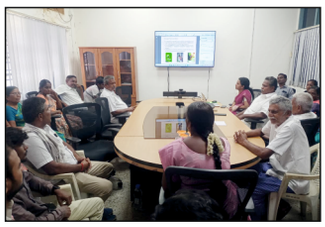
A training-cum-input distribution programme on scientific goat farming was conducted on 11th April 2025 at Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Mendhi Va Sheli Vikas Prakshetra, Pohara (Bandi) taluka, Amravati district under DAPSC scheme. Dr. U.V. Galkate, Dr. Babasaheb Fand, and Dr. Neelkanth Hiremani guided the farmers about goat management, feeding, and healthcare precautions. As a part of the programme, two female goats and 50 kg goat feed were distributed to each of the 76 SC farmers of Gandhinagar and Sharad villages in Kalamb taluka of Yavatmal district; and Pohara bandi village of Bhatkuli taluka in Amravati district.


10. Training on integrated crop management in cotton for Kodavasal farmers

ICAR-CICR Regional Station, Coimbatore conducted a training programme on "Integrated Crop Management in Cotton" during 21-22 April 2025 for 40 farmers of Kodavasal block, Tiruvarur district under SSEPERS/ATMA scheme of Tamil Nadu. Seven lectures were delivered in detail covering cotton varieties and hybrids, new agronomic techniques, soil health management, emerging pests, diseases and nematodes & their integrated management and economics of cotton. The lectures were followed by a farm visit where farmers got exposed to HDPS, poly-mulching, sensor-based irrigation system and recently released varieties. Dr. D. Kanjana, Senior Scientist and Dr. P. Valarmathi, Senior Scientist coordinated the programme as Convener and Co-convener, respectively.

11. Training on integrated crop management in cotton for Ammapettai farmers

ICAR-CICR Regional Station, Coimbatore conducted a training programme on "Integrated Crop Management in Cotton" on 16th May 2025 for 40 farmers of Ammapettai block, Erode district under SSEPERS/ATMA scheme of Tamil Nadu. Four lectures on agronomical technologies for yield enhancement in cotton, improved varieties and hybrids, emerging pests and diseases management were delivered by the Scientists of the Station. Dr. S. Usha Rani, Principal Scientist and Dr. J. Annie Sheeba, Senior Scientist coordinated the programme as Convener and Co-convener, respectively.

12. Training on integrated crop management in cotton for Manachanallur farmers

ICAR-CICR, RS, Coimbatore conducted a training programme on "Integrated Crop Management in Cotton" during 11-13th June 2025 for 40 farmers of Manachanallur block, Tiruchirappalli district under SSEPERS/ATMA scheme of Tamil Nadu. Fourteen lectures were delivered on cotton scenario in India, improved varieties and hybrids, HDPS, precision farming technologies, best nutrition management practices, physiological disorders, integrated pest, disease and nematode management, economics of value addition in cotton and transfer of technology. Scientist from CIRCOT delivered lecture on good practices in cotton harvesting and fiber testing. Farmers were taken around the farm to acquire an exposure to implements and their uses. Dr. S. Usha Rani, Principal Scientist and Dr. M. Sabesh, Principal Scientist coordinated the programme as Conveners while Dr. K. Shankarganesh, Senior Scientist as Co-convener.

Outreach Activities

ICAR-CICR, Regional Station, Sirsa is frequently visited by farmers. Scientists of the Station regularly remain in contact with farmers and issue agro-advisory regarding choice of varieties/hybrids as per their region-specific needs, best cotton production techniques and window-based management of sucking pest and bollworm.

Farmers Corner

Success story # 1

Name : Smt. Mangala Ashish Gajghate
Address : Pipardol, Umred taluka, Nagpur district, Maharashtra

Intervention

ICAR-CICR is actively promoting organic farming techniques to enhance soil fertility, reduce chemical dependency, and improve farmers' livelihood. Under the guidance of CICR, Smt. Gajghate established a Trichoderma production unit, and Dashparni Ark, a traditional botanical extract to manage pests. With a strong commitment to reducing chemical inputs and enhancing environmental health, she made a deliberate transition from conventional agriculture to a sustainable organic farming system on her farm. Moreover, she implemented a range of organic and natural farming techniques that improved both soil and crop performance:

- Regular composting and green manuring to enhance soil organic matter,
- Use of bio-fertilizers to support nutrient cycling naturally,
- Adoption of environment-friendly practices that improve soil health and reduce input costs, and
- Focus on crop quality and food safety to meet consumer expectations.


Achievement

Smt. Gajghate's organic produce gained recognition in the local market for its quality, earning her a better market acceptance and improved income stability. By aligning her farming practices with consumer demand for safe and chemical-free produce, she strengthened both farm sustainability and financial security. Her success inspired other farmers, especially women, to explore organic farming, natural input production, and sustainable agriculture. Smt. Gajghate actively shares her knowledge and practical experience, contributing to a growing community movement towards eco-friendly farming in the region.

Recognition

On 18th May 2025, she received the Progressive Farmer Award at the hands of Shri. Devendra Fadnavis, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra during the Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan programme held at Kavivarya Suresh Bhat Auditorium, Nagpur.

Success story # 2

Name : Shri. Dyaneshwar Mohan Mandavkar
Address : Godhani, Umred taluka, Nagpur district, Maharashtra

Intervention

In 2021–22, Shri. Mandavkar received two female goats and goat feed as an initial assistance under the SCSP programme of ICAR–CICR. He embraced this opportunity to improve his livelihood by adopting scientific goat management practices. Guided by expert advice, he implemented key practices such as:

- Durable and hygienic housing to protect animals from stress and disease,
- Balanced nutrition and feeding plans tailored to growth and reproduction,
- Routine vaccination and healthcare to ensure herd vitality,
- Regular monitoring and sanitation to prevent disease outbreaks and boost productivity.


Achievement

From the initial two goats, his herd expanded impressively to over 50 goats, all maintained under scientific conditions. Thanks to methodical rearing, care, and market engagement, goat enterprise is generating Rs.2.50 lakh per annum, whereby he could significantly contribute to his family's income and financial security. Shri. Mandavkar's success gained visibility in Godhani and surrounding areas, inspiring other marginalized families to explore goat farming as a viable livelihood option. His farm now serves as a replicable model, with neighbouring farmers showing enthusiasm to adopt similar livestock-based enterprises.

Recognition

In recognition of his innovative approach, exemplary management, and contribution to rural development, ICAR–CICR honoured Shri. Mandavkar with “Progressive Livestock Farmer Award” under the SCSP framework.

Success story # 3

Name : Shri. Dilip Pohane
Address : Daroda, Hinganghat taluka, Wardha district, Maharashtra

Intervention

Inspired by the HDPS awareness programmes conducted by CITI-CDRA under Special Project on Cotton during 2024-25 pre-season campaign, Shri. Dilip Pohane adopted HDPS in his 2 acres of light to medium soil. He meticulously followed the best management practices taught by the field-level functionaries of CITI-CDRA and the visiting Scientists of ICAR-CICR. He removed the monopodial branches at the time of weeding and sprayed two doses of plant growth regulator, Mepiquat chloride at 45 and 65 DAS to regulate the plant height and to ensure uniform maturation.


Achievement

The farmer achieved a seed cotton yield of 22 q/ac by adopting HDPS, 57% higher than his neighbours who achieved 14 q/ac by following conventional practices. Many farmers in the vicinity got impressed by his significant results and showed interest to adopt HDPS technology in the upcoming year.

Recognition

Doordarshan team visited his field and interviewed his experiences with HDPS technology.

Collaboration and Linkages

HPCL

ICAR-CICR and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL), Mumbai entered into a collaborative agreement on 27th June 2025 to evaluate "HP HMO", an eco-friendly bio-pesticide developed by HPCL for sustainable management of sucking pests in cotton. An MoU to this effect was formally signed between Dr. V.N. Waghmare, Director, ICAR-CICR and Shri. Naveen Kumar, DGM, HPCL, Nagpur in the presence of Dr. G.T. Behere, Head, Division of Crop Protection; Dr. K. Velmourougane, Scientist In-charge, PME Cell; and Dr. Rachna Pande, Senior Scientist (Entomology).

Lectures Delivered

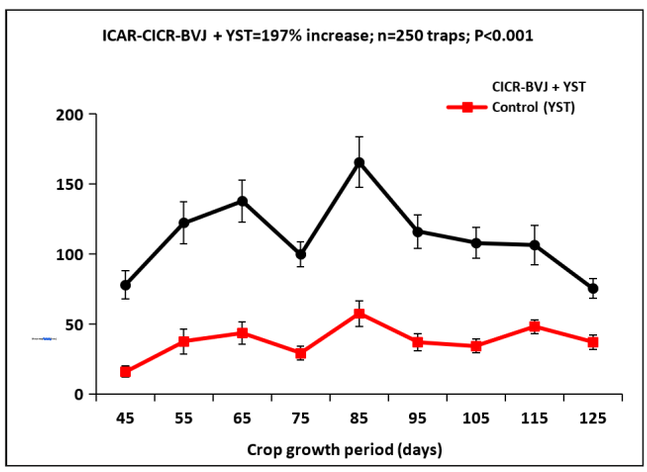
1. Dr. Rishi Kumar, Head i/c, RS, Sirsa and Dr. Subhash Chandra, Scientist delivered lectures during a training programme for Agricultural Officers (40 Nos.) of Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Govt. of Haryana organized by HAMETI, Jind, Haryana on 24th June 2025 at HAMETI, Jind.
2. Dr. V.S. Nagrare, Principal Scientist delivered a talk on HDPS and pest & disease management in cotton in a Kisan Mela held at Bodwad, Jalgaon district organized by Cotton Association of India (CAI) on 27th May 2025. About 150 farmers, 40 CAI office bearers, seed company owners/representatives, media personnel were present.

Research Progress

1. ICAR-CICR Jassid Attractant Formulation for the management of Jassid infestation in cotton

K. Velmourougane

Jassid (*Amrasca biguttula*) is a phloem-feeding insect that causes severe damage to cotton plants through sap sucking. Farmers largely pursue conventional insecticides to manage sucking pests which cost around Rs.3,500 to Rs.11,000 per hectare depending on the pest incidence. Furthermore, the continuous and indiscriminate use of insecticides results in pest developing resistance to insecticides, environmental pollution in terms of accumulation of pesticide residues in soils, adverse effects on natural enemies/beneficial insects, and resurgence of minor pests. In recent years, microbial-based volatile organic compounds have represented a new frontier in bioprospecting, where they produce complex volatile compounds having multifunctional roles in agriculture, including pest attraction or repulsion.



A novel bacterial-based jassid attractant formulation has been developed to enhance the attraction of jassid towards the yellow sticky trap (YST). The formulation has increased the attraction efficiency by 2.5 times. The use of this jassid attractant formulation will cost only Rs.1,300 to Rs.2,000 per hectare, including supplementary insecticide spray and manpower cost, thus saving around Rs.2,000 to Rs.6,500 per hectare on pest management. The patented technology has been submitted to Agrinnovate India Ltd. for commercialization.

2. Identification of desi cotton hybrid CICR 4 (CISAA 19-4) during VIC-2025

S.K. Verma

Desi Cotton Hybrid CICR 4 (CISAA 19-4) developed by ICAR-CICR, Regional Station, Sirsa was identified during the Varietal Identification Committee meeting for Non Bt Cotton Variety/ Hybrid held under the chairmanship of DDG (CS), ICAR, New Delhi on 19th June 2025. The Desi hybrid CISAA 19-4 recorded 8% yield advantage over zonal check and 19% over local check hybrids. The hybrid CISAA 19-4 has genetic potential seed cotton yield of 43.72 q/ha and mean seed cotton yield of 30.92 q/ha was realized based on evaluations at 23 environments/locations in the North zone states. CISAA 19-4 has 21.6 mm fibre length (UHML) which was 10.7% higher than Popular Zonal Check Desi Hybrid KR-64 (19.3 mm). Insect and disease incidence were comparable with check hybrids. The hybrid was recommended for identification in Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan (North zone) under Irrigated conditions.

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9. Kumar, R., Nagrare, V.S., Shah, V., Singh, S., Pandher, S., Singh, S., Verma, S.K., Paul, D., Rathore, P., Shukla, A.K., Singh, M.K., Saurabh, S., Kumar, H., Kaur, R., Singh, P.K., Waghmare, V.N. and Prasad, Y.G. (2025). Evaluation of transgenic cotton lines expressing an insecticidal fern protein against whitefy, Bemisia tabaci (Gennadius). Journal of Cotton Research. https://doi.org/10.1186/s42397-025-00210-8.
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Book chapter

1. Ngangom, B., Velmourougane, K., Kumar, U., Prasanna, R. (2025). Protein nanocarriers for the delivery of phytoconstituents. In: Singh, A., Kulhari, H., Sahran, V.A. (Eds.) Formulating Pharma-, Nutra-, and Cosmeceutical products from herbal substances: Dosage Forms and Delivery Systems. John Wiley & Sons Inc., Hoboken, New Jersy. pp. 633-639. https://doi.org/10.1002/9781119769484.ch22.
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3. Kumar, R., Singh, A., Singh, S., Singh, G., Pooniya, S.K. and Chandak, S. (2025). Status of Bollworm complex in Bt-cotton and their management. Page: 103-111. In Book of "Pest Management Interventions in Changing Climate Scenario for Sustainable Agriculture" published by ICAR & CCSHAU, Hisar. (CCS HAU/PUB#25-131) ISBN: 978-93-49184-18-3).

Policy Implication

Exclusive scale of finance for HDPS cotton cultivation

R. Jaya Kumaravaradan

Impressed by the impact of HDPS on rainfed cotton cultivation in Akola district of Maharashtra, as brought out by the Special Project on Cotton, the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, has proposed implementing a Cotton Saturation Project in the district to bring 50,000 ha of cotton area under HDPS during kharif 2025 without direct financial support to farmers but by creating an enabling institutional mechanism through public–private partnerships. In this context, NABARD has accepted ICAR-CICR's cost estimates of HDPS cotton cultivation under rainfed conditions and the Public Sector Banks of Maharashtra have announced a scale of finance of ₹92,000/ha for HDPS cotton cultivation during kharif 2025, in addition to the existing scale of finance of ₹75,000/ha for rainfed cotton and ₹85,000/ha for irrigated cotton. This will encourage large-scale adoption of HDPS in cotton by farmers to increase cotton productivity and production at the regional and national levels.

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SLTC Fixed Scale Of Finance For The Year 2025-26

(Rupees per Hectare)

SR. No.	CROP	SOF-Rate Fixed by SLTC for 2025-26	
		Mini	Maxi
	KHARIP		
1	KHARIP PADDY/IMPROVED	68000	82500
2	KHARIF PADDY (SUMMER /BASMATI)	68500	82500
3	KHARIP PADDY	61000	81250
4	KHARIP JAWAR (I)	36000	56000
5	KHARIP JAWAR (U)	33000	51000
6	BAJRA (I)	38000	54000
7	BAJRA (U)	32000	49000
8	BAJRA SUMMER	28000	36000
9	MILET (Ragi, Warai, Rajgira)	40000	50000
10	MAIZE (I)	45000	65000
11	MAIZE (U)	36000	48000
12	MAIZE (SWEET CORN)	36000	48000
13	TUR (I)	52000	65000
14	TUR (U)	47000	54000
15	MUNG (U)	28000	32000
16	MUNG (SUMMER)	28000	32000
17	UDID(U)	25000	34000
18	GROUNDNUT (I)	50000	62000
19	GROUNDNUT (U)	45000	60000
20	SOYABIN	58000	75000
21	SUNFLOWER (I)	30000	42000
22	SUNFLOWER (U)	27000	40000
23	SEASAME (U)	27000	36000
24	LINSSEED (I)	27000	36000
25	COTTON (I)	65000	85000
26	COTTON (U)	60000	75000
27	HIGH DENSITY PLANTING SYSTEM (HDPS) (COTTON)	92000	92000
28	SUGARCANE (ADSALI)	165000	180000
29	SUGARCANE (PRE-SEA)	145000	170000
30	SUGARCANE (SURU)	145000	170000
31	SUGARCANE (RATOON)	125000	160000
	RABBI/SUMMERCROP		
32	RABBI JAWAR (I)	36000	54000
33	RABBI JAWAR (U)	36000	54000
34	WHEAT (I)	45000	60000
35	GRAM (I)	45000	60000
36	GRAM (U)	36000	46000
37	SAFFLOWER	27000	43000

THE M.S. CO-OP. BANK LTD. CFA DEPTT. MUMBAI

Cotton Scenario

R. Jaya Kumaravaradan

2024-25 turned out to be a rollercoaster year for cotton in India. Against the backdrop of persistent pest issues and seed cotton valued below Minimum Support Price for two consecutive years, the country's cotton area was forecasted to decline by 9% from 12.40 mha sown in 2023-24 to 11.30 mha in 2024-25. Consequently, the seed cotton production for 2024-25 is pegged at 307.00 lakh bales as per the 3rd advance estimates of Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, compared to 325.00 lakh bales achieved in 2023-24. Apprehensive of a low domestic supply coupled with lower international prices and import duty waiver on extra-long staple cotton, the textile mills rushed to import raw cotton piling up around 40 lakh bales against 15.20 lakh bales imported in 2023-24.

As the 2024-25 cotton marketing season started in October 2024, farmers were once again starring at a lower price below MSP for their harvested seed cotton due to lack of demand from local ginning mills. At this juncture, Cotton Corporation of India stepped in and procured 100.00 lakh bales of seed cotton from farmers across the country at MSP.

Looking forward, cotton sowing for 2025-26 was already over in the north zone and it is almost completed in the central zone. Though the acreage is forecasted to remain at a reduced level of 11.40 mha, the production is expected to reach 320.60 lakh bales, as IMD has forecasted an above normal south-west monsoon over central and south peninsular India; and normal over northwest India.

ICAR-CICR in the News

एचडीपीएस कापूस लागवड करणाऱ्यांना १२ हजारांचे कर्ज

केंद्रीय कापूस संशोधन संस्थेच्या पाठपुराव्याला आले यश

विनोद इंगोले : अॅग्रोवन वृत्तसेवा

नागपूर : एचडीपीएस (हाय डेन्सिटी प्लँटिंग सिस्टीम) पद्धतीने लागवड करणाऱ्या शेतकऱ्यांच्या पीककर्जात बँकांकडून यंदा वाढ करण्यात आली आहे. त्यानुसार गेल्या हंगामातील ६६ हजार रुपयांवरून यंदा प्रति हेक्टर तब्बल १२ हजार रुपयांचे पीककर्ज दिले जाणार आहे. केंद्रीय कापूस संशोधन संस्थेकडून 'नाबार्ड'समोर केलेल्या सादरीकरणाअंती हा निर्णय घेण्यात आल्याने ही मोठी उपलब्धी मानली जात आहे.

...यावर होतो खर्च

पारंपरिक पद्धतीत एकरी चार बाय दीड फूट अंतर ठेवत झाडांची संख्या ७ हजार र एचडीपीएस लागवडीमध्ये तीन बाय अर्धा फूट असे लागवड अंतर राखत २१ हज झाडांची संख्या असते. त्यानुसार पारंपरिकमध्ये दोन पाकिटांची गरज राहते तर लागवड पद्धतीत एकरी सहा बियाणे पाकिटांची गरज भासते. एचडीपीएसमध्ये फ्लॅरच्या माध्यमातून लागवड होते. १५०० ते १७०० रुपये एकरी मोहतत्त्वा उपलब्धता होते. अतिरिक्त वाढ नियंत्रित ठेवण्यासाठी वाढरोधकांचा वापर

सरळ वाढणारे तसेच लवकर येणाऱ्या वाणाची लागवड होते. कापूस वेचणी लवकर होत असल्याने गुलाबी बो नुकसान टाळता येते. पहिल्या वेचणीत ४० टक्के क कापूस त्यानंतर दोन वेचणीत मिळतो.

- दिलीप ठाकरे, शेतकरी

रविवार विशेष

सकाळ अॅग्रोवन १३

रविवार, २७ एप्रिल २०२५

मुलाखत

विनोद इंगोले

कापसाच्या संकरितऐवजी सरळ वाणांवर भर हवा

देशाची कापूस उत्पादकता कमी आहे. त्या संदर्भात काय करणार?

जगातील बहुतांश देशात कापसाच्या संकरित ऐवजी सरळ वाणांचा उपयोग होतो. त्यामुळे शेतकऱ्यांना कमी दरात बियाण्यांची उपलब्धता होते. येत्या काळात भारतीय शेतकऱ्यांना सरळ वाणांचा पर्याय देण्याचा भर राहणार आहे. त्यासोबतच कोणत्याही तंत्रज्ञानाची उपयोगिता तपासून पेकनच्या धर्तीवर भारतीय शेतकऱ्यांसाठी उपलब्ध करून देणे जास्तीत जास्त माहिती केंद्रीय कापूस संशोधन संस्थेचे नवनियुक्त संचालक डॉ. विजय वाघमारे यांनी दिली.

बियाण्यांच्या उपलब्धतेचा प्रश्न कसा सोडवणार?

गुलाबी बोंड अळीबद्दल काय सांगाल?

सरळ वाणांचा वापर जगात होतो का?

इतर देशांपेक्षी काय सांगाल?

कापूस पिकातील यांत्रिकीकरणाविषयी काय सांगाल?

लोकमत

केंद्रीय कापूस संशोधन संस्थेंतर्गत आदिवासी शेतकऱ्यांना बियाणांचे वाटप

पिकांच्या उत्पादन वाढीवर मार्गदर्शन : ५० शेतकऱ्यांना

प्राप्त झालेल्या बियाणांस उपस्थित शेतकरी आणि अधिकारी.

आरखडा योजनेच्या उद्दिष्टांची सविस्तर माहिती दिली. त्यांनी प्रगत कृषी तंत्रज्ञान आणि शाश्वत पद्धतीद्वारे आदिवासी शेतकऱ्यांना सक्षम बनवण्यासाठी या योजनेचे महत्त्व सांगितले.

मनोज भोमटे यांनी धान पेरण्याची पद्धत आणि त्याचे उन्नत व्यवस्थापन कसे करावे याबद्दल उपस्थित शेतकऱ्यांना महत्त्व पटवून दिले.

कार्यक्रमासाठी सुजित कुंभरे, ग्रामपंचायत किरंगीपार व कृषी विज्ञान केंद्र येथील सर्व कर्मचाऱ्यांनी सहकार्य केले. यावेळी गावातील एकूण ५० अनुसूचित जमाती समूहातील शेतकऱ्यांना प्रत्येकी पीडीकेवी-साधना (३० किलो) व मेटारहिझियम जैविक कीडनाशक (१ लिटर) खरीप

Farmers' training by KVK held at Salaimendha village

■ Staff Reporter

KRISHI Vigyan Kendra (KVK) of ICAR-Central Institute of Cotton Research (ICAR-CICR), Nagpur, conducted a Farmers' Training cum Critical Input Distribution Programme at Salaimendha village, Hingna Taluka, recently.

The training programme was held under the Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) scheme. The objective of the programme was to enhance the economic status of tribal farmers by improving the productive and reproductive performances of their livestock, thereby contributing to income generation and

Dr Galkate described balanced feeding as a key element in achieving profitability in animal husbandry. He also sensitised farmers about the control of ecto and endoparasitic infestations in livestock to avoid economic losses and to prevent parasitic diseases, especially protozoan infections.

Dr Dipak Nagrale, Senior Scientist (Plant Pathology), ICAR-CICR, Nagpur, urged farmers to utilise livestock dung effectively by treating it with Trichoderma and other bio-products to convert it into nutrient

issued every Tuesday and Friday for timely decision-making.

Dr Mayur Meshram, SMS (Agronomy), anchored the programme and shared insights on eco-friendly farming models that integrate livestock as a central component of sustainable agriculture. On this occasion, critical livestock inputs such as concentrate premix and medications for ectoparasitic and endoparasitic control were distributed to the participating farmers.

The programme was organ- guidance of

Dr V N Waghmare assumes charge of Director, ICAR- CICR

■ Staff Reporter

DR VN Waghmare assumed charge of Director, ICAR-Central Institute for Cotton Research (CICR), on April 4. Dr Waghmare was earlier Head of the Crop Improvement Division at ICAR-CICR. He has been selected by the Agricultural Scientists Recruitment Board, New Delhi, as

Contd on page 2

Dr V N Waghmare assumes charge...

Director of ICAR-CICR, Nagpur, the very Institute in which he joined as a Scientist (Genetics and Plant Breeding) back in November 1994. He was Director (Acting) of the Institute for three years during 2017 to 2020. He obtained his M Sc and Ph D Degrees in Genetics from the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi. Dr Waghmare has a rich research experience of more than 31 years in ICAR and has to his credit several research publications in National and International journals of repute, books, book chapters, many popular articles and technical bulletins. Dr Waghmare is also a Foreign Consultant/International Expert for the Uzbekistan Cotton Improvement Proje

With this experience about 31 years in co research, Dr Waghma expected to take the Central Institute for Research to new hei the current scenari ton cultivation and production and pr over the last one several challenge cotton scenario try, he has a vi out region-sp and hybrids with adoptio production practices Density (HDPS) s product across states

Farmers from Chhattisgarh visit Krishi Vigyan Kendra, ICAR-CICR

■ Staff Reporter

A GROUP of 25 farmers from Churiya Block of Rajnandgaon District, Chhattisgarh, visited the Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) at the ICAR-Central Institute for Cotton Research (CICR), recently, as part of an training cum exposure visit aimed at enhancing their understanding of modern and sustainable agricultural practices. The objective of the visit was to provide firsthand knowledge of the Integrated Farming System (IFS) model and introduce farmers to the latest technologies in natural farming, goat farming, integrated pest management (IPM) and other sustainable methods that can boost productivity and farm income.

Dr V N Waghmare, Director, ICAR-CICR, interacted with the visiting farmers and discussed key challenges they face in crop production. He encouraged them to adopt improved crop varieties and modern farming technologies to enhance yields in an environmentally sustainable manner. KVK scientists and subject matter specialists demonstrated vital techniques such as soil testing, seed treatment, identification of insect pests and organic pest control strategies. These practical sessions aimed to equip farmers with useful and implementable knowledge for improving their farming practices.

The programme was successfully organised and managed by Dr M R Meshram, with the vote of thanks proposed by Dr U V Galkate.

Support from Dr P B Deulkar, Ajay Kawale, Prashant Gaikwad and Rajesh Giradkar was instrumental in the successful execution of the event.

दैनिक भास्कर | नागपुर | सोमवार, 23 जून 2025 | bhaskarhindi.com

बचेगा कपास... संक्रमण मात्र 10%, उत्पादन में 18-20% वृद्धि, कीटनाशक छिड़काव 38.6% कम

दीपिका धनेश्वर | नागपुर.

गुलाबी कीड़ों के लगातार हमलों ने किसानों की नींद उड़ा दी है। यह कीट कपास के अंदर ही अंदर घुसकर फसल को नष्ट कर देता है। यहां तक कि रासायनिक छिड़काव भी बेअसर हो जाता है। परिणामस्वरूप, उत्पादन घटता है, गुणवत्ता कम होती है। फसल का उचित मूल्य नहीं मिलने से किसानों को आर्थिक रूप से नुकसान उठाना पड़ता है। ऐसे संकट के समय, एआई स्मार्ट ट्रैप एक संभावित समाधान के रूप में उभरने का दावा नागपुर आईसीएआर-सीआईसीआर के डायरेक्टर डॉ. विजय एन. वाघमारे ने किया है। बता दें कि विदर्भ क्षेत्र, खासकर नागपुर, अकोला, वर्धा, यवतमाल, अमरावती और चंद्रपुर जैसे जिले, कपास की खेती के लिए प्रसिद्ध हैं। यहां हर वर्ष लगभग 17 से 18 लाख हेक्टेयर भूमि पर कपास बोई जाती है।

2018 में शोध हुआ था शुरू

'एआई स्मार्ट ट्रैप' तकनीक को आईसीएआर-केंद्रीय कपास अनुसंधान संस्थान (सीआईसीआर) के नागपुर, सिरसा और कोयम्बटूर के वैज्ञानिकों की टीम ने विकसित किया है। यह ट्रैप विशेष रूप से गुलाबी सुंडी यानी गुलाबी कीड़े (पिंक बॉलवर्म) पर नियंत्रण के लिए डिजाइन किया गया है। साल 2018 में इस पर शोध शुरू किया गया था। यह तकनीक आर्टिफिशियल इंटेलिजेंस (एआई) और फेरोमोन अट्रैक्शन पर आधारित है।

4-5 ट्रैप से पूरे गांव की खेती को राहत

एक एआई स्मार्ट ट्रैप यूनिट की लागत लगभग 42,000 रुपये है। डॉ. वाघमारे कहते हैं कि यदि इसका बड़े पैमाने पर निर्माण किया जाए और किसी निजी कंपनी के साथ साझेदारी की जाए, तो इसकी लागत में कमी संभव है। एक गांव में यदि 4-5 ट्रैप लगाए जाएं, तो पूरे क्षेत्र की फसल को गुलाबी कीड़ों से सुरक्षा मिल सकती है। यह तकनीक किसानों को न केवल फसल सुरक्षा देती है, बल्कि उनकी आर्थिक स्थिति भी सुधार सकती है।

एआई से जुड़ी तकनीक और पंजाब में परीक्षण : इस ट्रैप को डॉ. वाई. जी. प्रसाद और डॉ. के. रमेश के नेतृत्व और डॉ. विजय वाघमारे के मार्गदर्शन में विकसित किया गया है। इसे सबसे पहले पंजाब के मानसा, बठिंडा और श्री मुक्तसर साहिब जिलों के 18 गांवों में वर्ष 2024-25 के दौरान पायलट प्रोजेक्ट के रूप में प्रयोग किया गया। इस ट्रैप में मौजूद कैमरे प्रतिदिन कीटों की गतिविधि रिकॉर्ड करते थे। एल्गोरिदम की सहायता से गुलाबी कीड़ों की उपस्थिति की पुष्टि की। किसान मोबाइल ऐप, वॉयस मैसेज और घोषणाओं के माध्यम से रोजाना अलर्ट प्राप्त करते रहे। इस तकनीक के परिणाम चौंकाने वाले रहे जहां पहले 30% से 65% तक संक्रमण होता था, वहां अब ये 10% से भी कम रह गया। इसके साथ ही कीटनाशक छिड़काव में 38.6% की कमी और उत्पादन में 18-20% की वृद्धि देखी गई।

नई क्रांति : एआई स्मार्ट ट्रैप' बताता है गुलाबी कीड़ों का रियल टाइम

ऐसे किया जाता है ट्रैप?

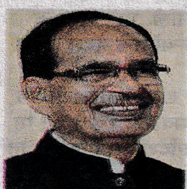
फेरोमोन ट्रैप का उपयोग एक प्रभावी जैविक तरीका है। यह ट्रैप कीड़ों को आकर्षित करके उन्हें पकड़ने के लिए लगाया जाता है। मादा इल्ली एक विशेष रसायन उत्सर्जित करती है, जिसे गॉसिप्ल्युअर कहा जाता है। यह एक प्रकार का फीरोमोन होता है, जो नर इल्ली को आकर्षित करता है। नर और मादा के इस आकर्षण से ही गुलाबी सुंडी (पिंक बॉलवर्म) जैसे कीड़ों का प्रजनन होता है। कीट नियंत्रण में इसी स्वाभाविक प्रक्रिया का उपयोग करते हुए, आर्टिफिशियल गॉसिप्ल्युअर तैयार किया गया है। जब इस आर्टिफिशियल फीरोमोन को ट्रैप में प्रयोग किया जाता है, तो यह नर कीटों को भ्रमित करता है और वे प्राकृतिक मादाओं तक नहीं पहुंच पाते। परिणामस्वरूप उनका प्रजनन चक्र बाधित हो जाता है। इन ट्रैपों में नर कीड़े आकर्षित होकर फंस जाते हैं। ट्रैप को खेतों में लगाने के बाद, इसमें फंसे कीड़ों की संख्या प्रतिदिन एआई की मदद से गिनी जाती है। इससे कीट की आबादी का अनुमान लगाकर समय रहते प्रभावी नियंत्रण के उपाय किए जाते हैं।

विस्तार की योजना

यह रिसर्च 2018 में शुरू किया गया और 2024-25 में इसका डेमोंस्ट्रेशन किया गया। इसकी सफलता से उत्साहित होकर कृषि मंत्रालय ने 2025-26 की फसल ऋतु में इस तकनीक को अन्य राज्यों में विस्तार देने की योजना बनाई है। हमने इसके पेटेंट के लिए भी आवेदन किया है। सब सही रहा और किसी निजी कंपनी और सरकार के सहयोग से 4 से 5 ट्रैप प्रति डिस्ट्रिक्ट लगाया जाएगा।

- डॉ. विजय एन. वाघमारे, डायरेक्टर, आईसीएआर- सीआईसीआर, नागपुर

अॅग्रोवन वृत्तसेवा



शिवराजसिंह चौहान

नागपूर : ''देशात १६ हजार शास्त्रज्ञ आहेत, त्यांच्याकडे बुद्धिमत्ता आहे, ते संशोधन करतात परंतु ते प्रयोगशाळेत करतात आणि शेतकरी काम करतो शेतात. शेतकऱ्यांच्या नेमक्या गरजा काय आहेत ते लक्षात घेतले जात नाही. त्यामुळे हे तंत्रज्ञान बांधावर पोहोचलेच नाही. यापुढे आता दिल्लीतून नाही, तर शेता... संशोधनाची दिशा ठरेल.''

कृषिमंत्री कोकाटे म्हणाले

- कापसात एचटीबीटीला मान्यता मिळावी.
- शेती कामांचा समावेश रोजगार हमी योजनेत व्हावा.
- केंद्राकडून भांडवली गुंतवणुकीसाठी निधी मिळावा.
- खते लिंकिंग रोखण्यासाठी कायद्यात सुधारणा आवश्यक आहे.

'एआय' फेरोमेन सापळा

केंद्रीय कापूस संशोधन संस्थेने एआय तंत्रज्ञान आधारीत फेरोमॅन ट्रॅप विकसित केले आहे. गुलाबी बोंड अळीचे नियंत्रण याद्वारे प्रभावीपणे शक्य होईल. त्यासोबतच मातीच्या प्रकाराची माहिती देणाऱ्या पहिल्या नॅशनल सॉइल स्प्रेक्ट्रल लॅबोरेटरीचे उद्घाटन शिवराज सिंह चौहान यांच्या हस्ते करण्यात आले.

देशात १२० लाख हेक्टरवर कापूस लागवड होणार

केंद्रीय कापूस संशोधन संस्थेचे संचालक डॉ. विजय वाघमारे यांचा दावा

विनोद इंगोले : अॅग्रोवन वृत्तसेवा

डॉ. विजय वाघमारे

नागपूर : देशात गेल्या हंगामात ११३ लाख हेक्टर कापूस लागवड होती. या हंगामात १०० लाख हेक्टरच्या मर्यादित कापूस लागवड होईल, असे सांगितले जात आहे. मात्र या खरीप हंगामात कापूस लागवड क्षेत्र १२० लाख हेक्टरवर ...

गुलाबी बोंड अळीची समस्या असली तरी त्याबाबत शेतकऱ्यांमध्ये जागरूकता वाढली आहे. त्यामुळेच या अळीच्या नियंत्रणासाठी शेतकरी आधीपासून सतर्क आणि प्रयत्नशील असतात. परिणामी गुलाबी बोंड अळीमुळे लागवड क्षेत्र कमी झाले किंवा होत आहे, असे म्हणणे चुकीचे आहे. यावर्षी देशात १२० लाख हेक्टर, तर महाराष्ट्रात सुमारे ४० लाख हेक्टरवर कापूस लागवड राहील.

कापूस शेतीतील समस्या

- दरातील चढ-उतार.
- आयात-निर्यात धोरण.
- गुलाबी बोंड अळीचा प्रादुर्भाव.
- वेचणी व इतर कामांसाठी मजुरांवर अधिक अवलंबित्व.
- मजुरी, कीड नियंत्रणावर होणारा सर्वाधिक खर्च
- दराअभावी उत्पादकता खर्चा... भरपाई न होणे.
- सिंचनाअभावी प्रभावित ... उत्पादकता.

महाअॅग्रो

कापसाचे वाण नाही, तर जमीन हीच उत्पादकता वाढीत अडसर

कापूस संशोधन संस्थेचे संचालक डॉ. विजय वाघमारे यांचे मत

विनोद इंगोले : अॅग्रोवन वृत्तसेवा

डॉ. विजय वाघमारे

नागपूर : देशात उत्पादनक्षम कापूस वाणांची वानवा नाही, मात्र इतर पूरक संशोधनासह जमीन आरोग्यावर भर दिल्यास निश्चितच कापसाची उत्पादकता वाढेल, असा विश्वास केंद्रीय कापूस संशोधन संस्थेचे संचालक डॉ. विजय वाघमारे यांनी 'अॅग्रोवन'शी बोलताना व्यक्त केला.

डॉ. वाघमारे म्हणाले, की कापसाच्या उत्पादकता वाढीत अनेक घटक प्रभावी ठरतात. त्यातील संरक्षित सिंचन, त्याबरोबरच जमिनीचा कर्ब या अत्यंत महत्त्वाच्या बाबी आहेत. महाराष्ट्रात सुमारे ४० लाख हेक्टरवर कापसाची लागवड होत असताना त्यातील १५ ... हेक्टर क्षेत्र एकट्या विदर्भात ... १५-१६ लाख ...

जमीन आरोग्यही दुर्लक्षित

पाण्याबरोबरच मातीची सुपीकता हा देखील उत्पादकतेवर प्रभाव करणारा घटक आहे. सध्या ०.२ ते ०.४ असा सेंद्रिय कर्ब आहे. तो १ टक्क्यापेक्षा अधिक असेल तर कापसाची उत्पादकता दुप्पट निश्चितच वाढेल. जमीन आरोग्यावर लक्ष दिल्याने केंद्रीय कापूस संशोधन संस्थेच्या प्रक्षेत्रावर प्रात्यक्षिकांतर्गत हेक्टरी ५० क्विंटल उत्पादन मिळविता आले. नजीकच्या काळात संस्थेने हेक्टरी ३० क्विंटलपर्यंत मजल गाठली आहे.

पिकाची वाढ, फूल तसेच बोंडधारणा या कालावधीत पावसाचे नियोजनबद्ध वितरण झाले तर कापूस पिकातून अपेक्षित उत्पाकदता आणि उत्पन्नाचा पल्ला गाठणे शक्य होते. मात्र नजीकच्या काळात मॉन्सूनच्या पाण्याचे ... विस्कळीत पद्धतीने होत आहे. त्याचा परिणाम उत्पादक...

- डॉ. विजय वाघमारे, संचालक, केंद्रीय ...

कापसात उपलब्ध सर्वच तंत्रज्ञान प्रभावी नाही

केंद्रीय कापूस संशोधन संस्था संचालक विजय वाघमारे यांचा दावा

विनोद इंगोले : अॅग्रोवन वृत्तसेवा

नागपूर : जगात उपलबब्ध असलेले सगळेच तंत्रज्ञान आपल्या भागातील कापूस उत्पादकांसाठी प्रभावी ठरेल, अशी अपेक्षा चुकीची आहे. इतकेच नाही तर जगात उपलब्ध कापूस पिकातील बरेचसे तंत्रज्ञान प्रभावी नाही, त्यामुळेच ते कापूस उत्पादकांवर थोपविणे अन्यायकारक ठरणार असल्याचा दावा केंद्रीय कापूस संशोधन संस्थेचे संचालक डॉ. विजय वाघमारे यांनी केला.

कापूस उत्पादन क्षेत्रात जगात उपलब्ध सर्वच प्रकारचे तंत्रज्ञान अनेकदा प्रभावी नसल्याचे निरीक्षणाअंती समोर आले आहे. त्यामुळेच भारतीय कापूस शेतीला पूरक तंत्रज्ञान देण्यावर भर राहणार आहे. सध्या बीजी-१ आणि बीजी-२ यांची पेटंट मुदत संपल्याने दोन्ही वाण रॉयल्टीमुक्त असल्याने त्याचा वापर संशोधनात्मक पातळीवर करता येणार आहे.

- डॉ. विजय वाघमारे, संचालक, केंद्रीय कापूस संशोधन संस्था, नागपूर

केंद्रीय कापूस संशोधन संस्थेचे संचालक म्हणून पदभार स्वीकारल्यानंतर डॉ. विजय वाघमारे यांनी 'अॅग्रोवन'समवेत संवाद साधताना हा दावा केला. ते म्हणाले, ''जगातील अनेक देशांमध्ये कापसाचे उत्पादन घेतले जाते. त्या भागातील भौगोलीकस्थितीनुसार तेथील तज्ज्ञांद्वारे संशोधनात्मक काम होते. मोठी जमीनधारणा आणि अशा क्षेत्रातील बहुतांश कामे यांत्रीकीकरणाच्या माध्यमातून केली जातात. ही बाबही संशोधन करताना विचारात घेतली जाते. त्यामुळेच एका देशात कापसात उपलब्ध विदेशी तंत्रज्ञान सरसकट भारतीय किंवा इतर देशांतील शेतकऱ्यांवर थोपविणे चुकीचे ठरते. अनेकदा जगातील इतर कापूस उत्पादक देशांमध्ये असलेले तंत्रज्ञान भारतीय शेतकऱ्यांकरिता उपयोगाचे असल्याचे सांगत ते येथील शेतकऱ्यांकरिता उपलब्ध करावे, अशी मागणी होते. त्याकरिता दबावही वाढविला जातो. परंतु अशा तंत्रज्ञानाची उपयोगिता आणि ते किती प्रभावी आहे, याचा तुलनात्मक अभ्यास होण्याची गरज आहे. शास्त्रज्ञ म्हणून आमच्या नजरेतून बघितल्यास जगातील अनेक प्रकारचे तंत्रज्ञान तितकेसे प्रभावी नाही. त्यामुळेच त्याचा प्रसार आणि प्रचारही होत नाही किंवा त्याची उपयोगितादेखील तितकीशी नाही.''

ते म्हणाले, ''आपण विदेशी जर्मप्लाझम भारतात आणल्यास तो जीन आपल्या वाणात टाकल्यानंतर त्याच्या प्रक्षेत्रांवर चाचण्या घेणे क्रमप्राप्त ठरते. या बाबीला पाच ते सहा वर्षांचा कालावधी लागतो. त्यापेक्षा भारतीय शेतकऱ्यांच्या गरजांनुरूप संशोधनाची उपलब्धता आवश्यक ठरते. उपलब्ध जीएम तंत्रज्ञानयुक्त कापूस वाणांमधील जीनचा प्रभाव १२० दिवसांनंतर कमी होते. याच कारणामुळे गुलाबी बोंडअळीची प्रतिकारशक्ती वाढत असल्याचे निरीक्षण आहे.''

Personnel

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Ram Pratap

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Promotion

1. Shri. Sathya Kumar, ACTO, T (7-8), ICAR-CICR Regional Station, Coimbatore promoted to CTO (T-9).

Probation clearance & confirmation

1. Smt. Lakshmi Rangaswamy, SSS, ICAR-CICR RS, Coimbatore
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Retirement

1. Smt. Subhadra Kawale, SSS, ICAR-CICR, Nagpur retired in May, 2025
2. Shri. Suresh Ingle, T-5 (Driver), ICAR-CICR, Nagpur retired in June, 2025.

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