



October-December 2025

ICAR-CICR



Newsletter

ICAR-Central Institute for Cotton Research, Nagpur

An ISO 9001:2015 Certified Organization

Director's Message



The period between October and December is very critical for cotton crop since harvest nears completion in the north zone while boll development, boll bursting and picking happen in the early sown crop of central and south zones. This year, the unseasonal heavy rainfall in Haryana and the extended monsoon in Maharashtra and Telangana caused heavy damage to the crop. This led to delayed harvesting and arrival of cotton to the mandis. The extended crop also delayed the subsequent pickings so much so that, a lion's share of cotton is still left in the field by the end of December.

During this period, the Institute celebrated various flagship programmes viz. World Cotton Day, World Soil Day, Kisan Diwas, Swachhta Pakhwada and Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh Pakhwada; organized Hindi Karyashala and webcasted the launch of PM-Dhan Dhaanya Krishi Yojana & Self-Reliance in Pulses Mission and the release of 21st PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi, for the farmers.

On the research front, PMEC of the Institute reviewed the ongoing research activities of the Regional Station, Sirsa. A team of Scientists visited ICAR-AICRP centres in North zone, monitored the State sponsored trials at Regional Station, Sirsa and the common zonal trials of GEAC approved BG-II hybrids across the North zone states. Scientists published eight research papers, a book and six popular articles. They participated in various national and international conferences and presented their research works. The ICAR-CICR AI-smart pheromone traps installed across Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan on a pilot basis helped the farmers to effectively manage the pink bollworm.

On the developmental side, an interface meeting of all the stakeholders was convened to discuss the emerging challenges of cotton cultivation in the North zone. Scientists from Regional Station, Coimbatore participated in a meeting convened by the Collector of Virudhunagar district and addressed the concerns of cotton farmers. Capacity

development programmes were conducted for the farmers under various schemes.

As a matter of pride, our staff participated in the ICAR Inter-Zonal Sports Meet 2024 held at ICAR-ISRI, Lucknow and brought accolades to the Institute. Our student Ms. Veer Pooja Ranganath, M.Sc. (Plant Pathology) has joined as a Cotton Farming-Team Member in Fast Retailing (India) Material Corporation Pvt. Ltd, New Delhi through IARI Placement Cell.

2026 marks the Golden Jubilee year and the Institute will be celebrating its 50th Foundation Day. All the Scientists are expected to come out with the achievements at their individual front and also the Institute over the last 50 years and showcase the technologies, publications and overall achievements.

V.N. WAGHMARE
Director

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Institute Events

1. World Cotton Day

ICAR-CICR, Nagpur in collaboration with Ambuja Foundation, Chandrapur, marked the 5th World Cotton Day with a vibrant celebration on 7th October 2025, bringing together farmers, scientists, and industry partners under the theme “Cotton: The Fabric of Our Life.” In his keynote address, the Chief Guest, Dr. S.V. Sarode, Former Director of Research, Dr. PDKV, Akola, outlined a strategic 3M approach [Monsoon, Mati (Soil), and Marketing] as essential for enhancing soil health and cotton production. Dr. V.N. Waghmare, Director, ICAR-CICR emphasized the significant potential of desi cotton species for climate resilience. He also announced that the upcoming Cotton Technology Mission (2025-30) is poised to significantly strengthen cotton research and development efforts across India.

Dr. Y.S. Shivay, Professor (Agronomy), Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi stressed the need for increased mechanization at every stage: from land preparation to harvesting to improve cotton quality. Shri. Pramod Meshram, Senior Officer, Ambuja Foundation, highlighted the importance of timely interventions to protect crops from stress and appreciated the efforts of ICAR-CICR. He detailed how collaborative projects with ICAR-CICR have successfully enhanced the incomes of rainfed cotton farmers. A few outstanding cotton farmers were also felicitated. Dr. A. Manikandan, Senior Scientist coordinated the programme attended by around 75 cotton farmers and 50 staff members of Ambuja Foundation, Chandrapur. The programme was moderated by Smt. Sangita Mukalwar, Ambuja Foundation. The World Cotton Day was also celebrated at ICAR-CICR Regional Station, Sirsa with a lecture by Dr. S.K. Verma, Principal Scientist on the importance of cotton in international scenario, attended by staff and students.



2. PMEC Meeting

The Project Monitoring and Evaluation Committee (PMEC) meeting was held at ICAR-CICR Regional Station, Sirsa on 10th October 2025 under the chairmanship of Dr. V.N. Waghmare, Director, ICAR-CICR to evaluate the ongoing research activities of the Station. Dr. G.T. Behere, Head, Division of Crop Protection; Dr. R. Raja, Principal Scientist, Dr. Dipak T. Nagrale, Senior Scientist and all the Scientists of ICAR-CICR Regional Station, Sirsa attended the meeting. The committee visited all the field experiments and laboratories; and offered suggestions for improvement.



3. Hindi Karyashala

ICAR-CICR Regional Station, Sirsa organized Hindi Karyashala on 10th October, 2025. Dr. V.N. Waghmare, Director, ICAR-CICR reviewed the Hindi initiatives carried out at the Station. ICAR-CICR Regional Station, Sirsa effectively co-ordinates Hindi activities in collaboration with Nagar Rajbhasha Karyanvayan Samiti (NARAKAS). Several lectures are regularly being organized for the staff, students and farmers. Dr. V.N. Waghmare appreciated Dr. Amarpreet Singh, Nodal Officer and all staff for their collective efforts to promote Hindi in official communications.



4. Webcasting the launch of PM-Dhan Dhaanya Krishi Yojana and Self-Reliance in Pulses Mission

Shri. Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India launched the 'Pradhan Mantri Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana' and the 'Self-Reliance in Pulses Mission' on 11th October 2025 at NASC, New Delhi. The 'PM Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana' is a coordinated initiative involving 36 sub-schemes across 11 Ministries, designed to accelerate agricultural progress in aspirational districts. The 'Self-Reliance in Pulses Mission' aims to make India self-sufficient in pulses production, reducing dependence on imports in the light of rising domestic demand.

ICAR-CICR, Nagpur webcasted the event to around 200 farmers of Nagpur, Wardha and Amravati districts in the esteemed presence of Adv. Ashish Jaiswal, Hon'ble Minister of State in the Government of Maharashtra. In his address, Adv. Ashish Jaiswal urged farmers to adopt modern agricultural technologies and move towards self-reliance as envisioned by the Hon'ble Prime Minister. He also felicitated a few participant progressive cotton farmers in recognition of their outstanding contribution towards adopting innovative cultivation practices, achieving higher productivity and promoting sustainable cotton farming in the region.

Earlier, Dr. Blaise Desouza, Director I/c, ICAR-CICR briefed the participants on the objectives of the programme and emphasized the importance of adopting cotton-legume intercropping systems. He highlighted that such practices not only improve soil health and fertility but also contribute to enhancing dietary protein intake from 55 g/day to 80 g/day, thereby supporting the envisioned mission of achieving self-



reliance in pulses. Dr. A.L. Waghmare, Director, Directorate of Cotton Research; Shri. Umesh Ghatge, Joint Director of Agriculture, Nagpur; Shri. Ravindra Manohare, District Superintendent Agriculture Officer, Nagpur; and Dr. Archana Kadu, Project Director, ATMA, Nagpur, graced the occasion by their August presence.

5. Stakeholders Interface Meeting

ICAR-CICR Regional Station, Sirsa organized the 5th Interface Meeting to “Enhance Cotton Productivity under Changing Climate Scenario in North Zone” on 12th October 2025 under the Chairmanship of Dr. D.K. Yadava, Hon'ble DDG (CS), ICAR, New Delhi. The meeting was attended by Dr. S.S. Gosal, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, PAU, Ludhiana; Dr. V.N. Waghmare, Director, ICAR-CICR, Nagpur; Directors of Research of SAUs viz. CCSHAU, Hisar; SKRAU, Sri Ganganagar; PAU Ludhiana; and AU, Jodhpur; Heads of Divisions Dr. G.T. Behere and Dr. A.S. Tayade; Scientists Dr. R. Raja, Dr. V.S. Nagrare and Dr. Dipak Nagrale; Scientists from SAUs; officials of the State Agriculture Department, KVKs and NGOs; representatives of seed companies and agro-input distributors; and progressive farmers. The stakeholders discussed various issues and emerging challenges of cotton cultivation in the North Zone.

Dr. Rishi Kumar, Head I/c, ICAR-CICR Regional Station, Sirsa opened the discussion through a presentation on the current status of cotton cultivation, associated biotic and abiotic stresses and other challenges in the region. Dr. V.N. Waghmare, Director, ICAR-CICR discussed the challenges and new initiatives in cotton research. He highlighted the management of cotton stalks in the off-season and key issues affecting cotton production, including limited canal water availability, PBW infestation, boll rot disease incidence, and crop lodging due to excessive rainfall. He emphasized the need to breed spinnable, shattering-tolerant desi varieties with improved fibre quality for crop diversification.

Dr. S.S. Gosal, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, PAU, Ludhiana, emphasized on comprehensive management strategies for cotton cultivation. He highlighted the importance of expanding the area under desi cotton, adoption of micro-irrigation, fertigation, subsurface irrigation, use of quality seed and efficient canal water management.

Dr. D.K. Yadava, Hon'ble DDG (CS), ICAR, New Delhi in his special address emphasized the need for expansion of area under desi cotton, adoption of need based micro-irrigation and fertigation, management of PBW, whitefly, CLCuD, boll rot and TSV. He stressed for research on abiotic stresses management in cotton, use of exotic germplasm in breeding programmes to develop better plant types. He also emphasized on the importance of timely advisories to farmers with common package of practices, research on high GoT seeds, availability of quality seed, soil health improvement, and the use of drone technology in precision agriculture. He underscored the need for water-saving irrigation practices, supportive Government policies, diversification of cropping patterns particularly in sandy loam soils, and collaborative PBW management involving all the stakeholders through time-bound action plans. He advised the seed production organizations to use SATHI Portal to ensure seed traceability. He urged to hasten the tool development for mechanization in cotton, AI trap commercialization and insect-disease forewarning system.



6. Vigilance Awareness Week

The Institute observed Vigilance Awareness Week from 27th October to 2nd November 2025. The week began with an Integrity Pledge taken by all staff at CICR, Nagpur and Regional Stations at Coimbatore and Sirsa. On 31st October 2025, a guest lecture on “Role of Vigilance for Good Governance” was delivered by Shri. Anil Jittawar, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Anti-Corruption Bureau, Nagpur. The interactive session enhanced awareness on anti-corruption and good governance. The event was presided over by Dr. G.T. Behere, Director I/c, ICAR-CICR and coordinated by Dr. V. Santhy, Principal Scientist and Vigilance Officer.



7. Rashtriya Ekta Diwas

Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day) was observed on 31st October 2025 at ICAR-CICR, Nagpur and its Regional Stations at Coimbatore and Sirsa to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and to honour his pivotal role in fostering national and political integration and unity in India. Under the chairmanship of Dr. G.T. Behere, Director I/c, ICAR-CICR all staff of the Institute took the Ekta Pledge to preserve and strengthen the unity and integrity of India.



8. ICAR Inter-Zonal Sports Meet

A contingent of 10 players participated in the ICAR Inter-Zonal Sports Meet 2024, held during 4–7 November 2025 at ICAR–Indian Sugarcane Research Institute, Lucknow. Our players participated in the 100 m, 800 m and 1500 m running, 5 km cycling, long jump, shot put, Javelin and Table Tennis. Shri. Raj Gawande, Assistant won the Gold Medal in 800 m and 1500 m running; and adjudged as the Best Player of the

event. Shri. Dinesh Mahule, Senior Technician won the Gold Medal in 5 km cycling.



9. Mass singing of "Vande Mataram"

Shri. Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India inaugurated the year-long celebration of 150 years of the National Song "Vande Mataram" composed by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay in New Delhi on 7th November 2025. Marking the occasion, all staff of the Institute assembled and sang Vande Mataram.



10. Webcasting the release of PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi

ICAR-CICR-KVK in collaboration with ICAR-CICR, webcasted the release of 21st instalment of PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi by Shri. Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister on 19th November 2025. Around 100 farmers from Hingna, Saoner taluka; Mendhepathar, Katol taluka; Pipardol and Tirkhura, Umred taluka; and Amti, Kuhu taluka of Nagpur district witnessed the event. Dr. V.N. Waghmare, Director, ICAR-CICR presided over the programme. In his address, he emphasized the need for farmers to adopt cost-effective, sustainable and improved agricultural technologies. He highlighted the importance of IFS, allied enterprises, soil fertility improvement and scientific crop rotations to manage pest and disease incidences and enhance farm profitability. Dr. Kishor Tribhuvan, Senior Scientist coordinated the event.



11. Constitution Day

ICAR-CICR observed Constitution Day on 26th November 2025 with great pride and commitment to the constitutional values that guide our nation. Presided by Dr. V.N. Waghmare, Director, ICAR-CICR all staff of the Institute collectively read out the Preamble of the Constitution of India. Addressing the gathering, Dr. V.N. Waghmare commended the

contribution of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in framing the Indian Constitution, and explained the importance of Constitution in our daily lives. He emphasized that the four main values of the Constitution viz. Justice, Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity will help build a strong and fair society. He encouraged everyone to follow these values both at work place and in personal life, and be responsible citizens. To mark the occasion, Shri. Bodhi Ramteke, an advocate and researcher dedicated to advancing constitutional consciousness and justice for marginalized communities delivered a special lecture on constitutional rights and social justice.



12. World Soil Day

ICAR-CICR, Nagpur celebrated the 11th World Soil Day on 5th December 2025 with a special lecture by Dr. K. Velmourougane, Principal Scientist (Agricultural Microbiology) on the theme "Healthy soils for healthy cities". He detailed how healthy urban soils contribute to food production, supplying 5 to 10% of global vegetables, water purification, carbon storage, temperature regulation, and biodiversity conservation. He advocated for a shift from generic fertilizer use to Soil Test Crop Response (STCR)-based application to enhance nutrient efficiency and soil vitality. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. G.T. Behere, Director I/c, ICAR-CICR emphasized that strong soil health is the foundation of sustainable cotton farming and human well-being.

Dr. Vinita Gotmare, Head I/c, Division of Crop Improvement shared insights on cotton wild species and stressed tree planting along roadsides for climate resilience. Dr. K. Mahadev Reddy, Head I/c, ICAR-CICR-KVK, Nagpur addressed peri-urban issues like drainage and waste management, promoting microbial decomposers for turning organic waste into soil nutrients. Dr. Blaise Desouza, Principal Scientist (Agronomy) explained how precision farming and urban kitchen/rooftop gardens can meet up to 10% of a city's vegetable and flower needs. Dr. A. Manikandan, Senior Scientist (Soil Science) presented recent innovations in soil health research. All Scientists, technical and administrative staff and students participated in the event.



13. Kisan Diwas

ICAR-CICR, Nagpur celebrated Kisan Diwas on 23rd December 2025 commemorating the 123rd birth anniversary of Shri. Chaudhary Charan Singh, the fifth Prime Minister of India. On the occasion, the live address by Shri. Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Hon'ble Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare was webcasted to farmers. ICAR-CICR-KVK in collaboration with National Institute of Post Harvest Technology, Pune jointly organized a one-day training on modern cotton management for 36 farmers. During the inaugural address, Dr. V.N. Waghmare, Director, ICAR-CICR elaborated the benefits of HDPS and Closer Spacing technologies. Dr. A.S. Tayade, Head, Division of Crop Production and Dr. K. Mahadev Reddy, Head I/c, ICAR-CICR-KVK explained the achievements of Special Project on Cotton. Dr. Dipak Nagrale, Senior Scientist (Plant Pathology); Dr. Shivaji Thube, Senior Scientist (Entomology); Dr. U.V. Galkate, SMS (Veterinary Science); Smt. Sunita Chauhan, SMS (Home Science) and Shri. Ratnadeep Ramteke, STA handled the technical session.



14. Swachhta Fortnight

The Swachhta Mission Implementation Committee organized various events in observance of 'Swachhta Pakhwada' (Cleanliness Fortnight) during 16-31 December 2025, marking two weeks of intensive activity focused on hygiene, sustainability and community engagement. The programme commenced with a solemn Swachhta Pledge, setting the tone for the subsequent activities that included specialized awareness sessions, deep-cleaning sanitation drives on campus, and a 'Waste to Wealth' competition to foster innovation among young researchers.

Teams undertook shramdaan in nearby villages by cleaning public spaces like temples, schools, markets and ponds along with targeted awareness campaigns on plastic pollution and waste water management under the slogan "Toilet to Tap". The Pakhwada also aligned with the Institute's agricultural mandate. On Kisan Diwas (Farmers' Day), a training was

conducted for farmers on modern cotton management which emphasized on-farm plastic waste management. Environmental effects were underscored by a plantation drive and a project to convert barren land into cultivable area.

The campaign's final phase saw heightened public interaction through large-scale signature campaigns, a vibrant Swachhta Rally and Walkathon along Wardha Road, which saw participation from hundreds of staff and local residents. Throughout the fortnight, updates and achievements were widely disseminated through social media and press outreach to amplify the message of collective responsibility for a cleaner India. The fortnight-long programme concluded with a valedictory function wherein Dr. V.N. Waghmare, Director, ICAR-CICR felicitated the sanitation workers, gardeners, drivers and committee members who were instrumental in the campaign's success, and gave away prizes to winners of Swachhta-themed quiz, slogan, essay and art competitions. Similar activities were conducted at Regional Stations Coimbatore and Sirsa. Dr. A. Manikandan, Chairperson of the Committee coordinated the events at Nagpur headquarter while Dr. A. Sampathkumar and Dr. Subhash Chandra, Members coordinated at Regional Stations, Coimbatore and Sirsa, respectively.



Director's Visit and Participation in External Events

Date	Description
03.10.2025	Meeting with Godrej Agrovet Ltd. to explore potential areas of research collaboration in cotton.
28.10.2025 to 30.10.2025	Visited ICAR-AICRP on Cotton trials and cotton breeding material at MPKV, Rahuri.

Date	Description
31.10.2025	Attended the workshop on “Redefining agricultural research ecosystem in Maharashtra”, organized by MCEAR, Pune.
31.10.2025	Attended the Foundation Day Programme of Dr. PDKV, Akola.
14.11.2025	Attended the outreach VC meeting on National Awards for e-Governance (NAeG 2026).
21.11.2025	Participated in the 16 th Agrovision Inaugural Ceremony at RTMNU, Nagpur as a Guest of Honour.
06.12.2025	Attended the online meeting convened by Textiles Committee, Mumbai.
08.12.2025	Participated in the 1 st meeting of stakeholders held online for the cotton season 2025-26 under the aegis of Committee on Cotton Production and Consumption (COCPC).
08.12.2025	Participated in the online meeting to review the progress of iGOT courses and development of domain iGOT courses by DARE/ICA, held under the chairmanship of Hon'ble DG, ICAR.
11.12.2025	Online presentation of EFC of the Institute to DDG (CS).
18.12.2025	Participated in the EFC meeting for appraisal of 'Mission for Cotton Productivity' of DARE held at Kartavya Bhavan, New Delhi, held under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Expenditure).
22.12.2025	Participated in the online meeting for exploring and expediting the import of potential germplasm and varieties, held under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble DDG (CC), ICAR.
22.12.2025	Participated in the online meeting to discuss revamping of AICRPs, held under the chairmanship of DDG(CS), ICAR.
27.12.2025	Participated in AGROTECH-2025 - a state level mega agriculture exhibition including Charcha Satra organized on the eve of 127 th birth anniversary of Dr. Punjabrao alias Bhausaheb Deshmukh at University Sports Ground, Dr. PDKV, Akola.

Dignitaries Visit

Dr. Dinesh K. Agarwal, Registrar General, PPV & FRA

Dr. Dinesh K. Agarwal, Registrar General, PPV & FRA, New Delhi visited the ICAR-CICR Regional Station, Coimbatore on 22nd December 2025 and interacted with the Scientists. He briefly narrated the functions of PPV & FRA and emphasized the need for co-operation of different Institutions.



Stakeholders Visit

Agricultural Officers of Tamil Nadu

A delegation of 3 Assistant Directors of Agriculture and 6 Agricultural Officers headed by Shri. S. Iyamperumal, Deputy PD (ATMA) from the Department of Agriculture, Thanjavur district, Tamil Nadu visited ICAR-CICR, Nagpur on 28th October 2025 as a part of their Inter-State Exposure Visit. During the interactive session between Scientists and

the delegation, Dr. G.T. Behere, Director I/c, ICAR-CICR explained about strategies to combat the pervasive pink bollworm threat. He emphasized on adoption of short-duration cotton varieties and the use of AI-smart pheromone trap for effective pest monitoring. Dr. A.S. Tayade, Head, Crop Production Division noted that the shallow and medium soils of Thanjavur district are ideal for promoting HDPS and Closer Spacing techniques to maximize the cotton yield.

Dr. Vinita Gotmare, Head I/c, Crop Improvement Division identified labour shortage as one of the probable reasons for cotton area reduction in Tamil Nadu and suggested Bt-cotton varieties which are suitable for mechanical picking. Dr. K. Mahadev Reddy, Head I/c, ICAR-CICR-KVK appreciated the contribution of ELS from Tamil Nadu to the nation and urged for community participation to successfully manage pink bollworm. Shri. S. Iyamperumal identified the Cauvery basin's rice-fallow areas as amenable for rice-cotton rotation system to enhance land use efficiency. During the field visit, Dr. A. Manikandan, Senior Scientist (Soil Science) demonstrated detopping practice in cotton and biochar production techniques to boost cotton yield. Smt. Rachana Deshmukh and Shri. Chandrasekar Mundafale coordinated the visit.



Students Visit

1. Shri Shivaji College of Agricultural Biotechnology, Amravati

A group of 38 students and 2 faculty members of Shri Shivaji College of Agricultural Biotechnology, Amravati visited ICAR-CICR, Nagpur on 10th October 2025 and another batch of 70 students and 5 faculty members on 7th November 2025. They interacted with Scientists and gained valuable insights into the ongoing research activities in the Biotechnology Lab, Tissue Culture Lab, IFS Unit and Insectary. The visit was coordinated by HRD Cell.



2. Ramkrushna Bajaj College of Agriculture, Wardha

A group of 34 students of Diploma in Agricultural Extension Services for Input Dealers (DAESI) from Ramkrushna Bajaj College of Agriculture, Wardha visited the Insectary, Technology Park and IFS Unit at ICAR-CICR, Nagpur on 14th November 2025. They interacted with the Scientists and gained basic exposure to the Institute's ongoing research activities. The visit was coordinated by HRD Cell.



Meeting / Training / Workshop / Event Organized

1. Central zone field functionaries of BCI

ICAR-CICR, Nagpur organized a one-day training programme on “Diagnosis and integrated disease management practices in cotton” for 27 field functionaries of Better Cotton Initiative (BCI) and its partner organizations on 4th November 2025. Dr. V.N. Waghmare, Director, ICAR-CICR inaugurated the programme and emphasized the importance of on-farm training for field personnel to strengthen their understanding of fundamental aspects of cotton cultivation and crop protection, particularly under changing climatic conditions. He highlighted the need for ecologically sound, practical technologies and discussed challenges related to pest and disease identification, pesticide use, and value chain management in cotton.

Dr. G.T. Behere, Head, Division of Crop Protection discussed the impact of climate change on cotton cultivation and the

emergence of new diseases such as Tobacco Streak Virus (TSV), boll rot, target leaf spot and grey mildew. Ms. Swapna Vincent, Programme Manager (Implementation & Capacity Building), BCI-India, underscored the significant role of field functionaries in disseminating improved cultivation practices across cotton-growing regions. Dr. S.P. Gawande, Dr. D.T. Nagrale and Dr. N.S. Hiremani, Senior Scientists handled the technical session through interactive lectures, field demonstrations, and laboratory techniques. Smt. Mithila Meshram, Senior Technical Assistant and Shri. Akshay Kamble, Senior Technician coordinated the programme.



2. South zone field functionaries of BCI

ICAR-CICR Regional Station, Coimbatore organized a one-day training programme on “Diagnosis and integrated disease management practices in cotton” for 31 field functionaries of BCI on 26th November 2026. Shri. Akhil Dev, Senior Program Coordinator, BCI, New Delhi and Dr. M.V. Venugopalan, Principal Scientist (Retd.), ICAR-CICR graced the inaugural session presided over by Dr. A.H. Prakash, Head. In the Technical Session, Dr. A.H. Prakash made a brief presentation on cotton scenario in India elaborating the crop production technologies in cotton. Dr. A. Sampathkumar, Senior Scientist (Plant Pathology) discussed the diagnosis and integrated disease management practices in cotton. Dr. P. Valarmathi, Senior Scientist (Plant Pathology) discussed on current developments and challenges in plant viral diagnostics. During the field visit, the trainees were exposed to the field-level challenges in identification of fungal foliar diseases caused by *Alternaria*, *Cercospora* and *Stemphylium* and TSV. Dr. A. Sampathkumar, Dr. P. Valarmathi and Shri. Sathyakumar, CTO coordinated the programme.



Participation in Meeting / Training / Workshop / Event

Name & Designation	Name of Event	Organizer/ Venue	Date	Role
Dr. Narayan Borkar, Scientist	Training on "Application of semiconductors, sensors, and drones in smart agriculture"	Tulsiramji Gaikwad-Patil College of Engineering & Technology, Mohagaon, Nagpur	06.10.2025 to 11.10.2025	Trainee
Dr. S.K. Verma, Principal Scientist	Monitoring & Evaluation of AICRP Trials and ICAR Bt Cotton Trials	Central Zone's AICRP centres	25.10.2025 to 02.11.2025	Chairman of monitoring team
Dr. Rishi Kumar, Head I/c, ICAR-CICR Regional Station, Sirsa	Monitoring & Evaluation of Biosafety Research Level-I trials (BRL) of GE Cotton lines or events	CCSHAU, Hisar; RRS-PAU, Bathinda; Nihalkhera, R & D site of RASI Seeds	28.11.2025 to 29.11.2025	Expert
Dr. Rishi Kumar, Head I/c, ICAR-CICR Regional Station, Sirsa	Interaction with Scientists & cotton Entomologists regarding off-season survival and carryover of PBW	PAU, Ludhiana	19.12.2025	Expert
Dr. K. Sankaranarayanan, Principal Scientist	Farmers training programmes under Special Project on Cotton	SIMS CDRA, Coimbatore at Madukarai MYRADA KVK, Erode at Koochikallur SIMS CDRA, Coimbatore at Keeranatham SIMS CDRA, Coimbatore at Virugapatti, Tiruppur SAKVK, Coimbatore at Kuppachipalayam	21.11.2025 26.11.2025 03.12.2025 12.12.2025 23.12.2025	Resource person
Dr. Rishi Kumar, Head I/c, ICAR-CICR Regional Station, Sirsa	Kisan Mela on Crop Residue Management	KVK, Sirsa and Department of Agriculture at Dabwali, Sirsa	25.12.2025	Resource person
Dr. A.H. Prakash, Head, ICAR-CICR Regional Station, Coimbatore Dr. A. Sampathkumar, Senior Scientist	SAC meeting	MYRADA-KVK, Gobichettipalayam, Erode district	30.12.2025	Member

Capacity Building Programmes for Farmers

1. Training-cum-Input Distribution Programme

A training-cum-input distribution programme was organized on 7th October 2025 at ICAR-CICR, Nagpur under DAPSC scheme. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. V.N. Waghmare, Director, ICAR-CICR highlighted the importance of cotton crop in enhancing farmers' income and strengthening the rural economy. Critical agricultural inputs viz. knapsack sprayers, irrigation tubes (lapeta pipes) and LED rechargeable torches were distributed to 20 participant farmers of Amboli, Umred taluka, Nagpur district to support efficient crop management and field operations.

A similar programme was organized on 11th October 2025 for 50 farmers of Nagpur, Wardha and Amravati districts. Dr. S.P. Gawande, Senior Scientist, Dr. N.S. Hiremani, Scientist and Dr. Pooja Verma, Scientist handled the Technical Session. Critical inputs viz. gram seed (JAKI 9218), wheat seed (MACS 6222), and bio-fertilizers including Azotobacter, Phosphate Solubilizing Bacteria (PSB), and Trichoderma were distributed to all participant farmers.

Another programme was organized on 28th October 2025 for 114 farmers of Wadvihara, Katol taluka and Parsodi, Parseoni taluka of Nagpur district; Mangaon, Samudrapur taluka of Wardha district; and Sultanpur and Husepur, Teosa taluka of Amravati district. The technical session was handled by Dr. Sunil Mahajan, Principal Scientist; Dr. Ramkrushna G.I., Dr. S.P. Gawande and Dr. B.B. Fand, Senior Scientists; Dr. N.S. Hireman and Dr. Kishor Tribhuvan, Scientists; and Dr. U.V. Galkate, SMS, ICAR-CICR-KVK. Critical inputs viz. gram seed (JAKI 9218), wheat seed (MACS 6222) and bio-fertilizers including Azotobacter, Phosphate Solubilizing Bacteria (PSB), and Trichoderma were distributed to all participant farmers.

All these programmes were coordinated by Dr. J.H. Meshram, Principal Scientist and Nodal Officer, DAPSC and his team.



2. Tripartite Meeting of Cotton Farmers, Scientists and Traders

A tripartite meeting of cotton farmers, Scientists and traders was convened by Dr. N.O. Sukhaputra, Collector, Virudhunagar district, Tamil Nadu at TNAU-Cotton Research Station, Srivilliputhur on 16th October 2025. Dr. N.O. Sukhaputra urged the Scientists and traders to address the

concerns of cotton farmers. Dr. K. Sankaranarayanan, Principal Scientist (Agronomy), Dr. S. Usha Rani, Principal Scientist (Agricultural Extension) & Dr. P. Valarmathi, Senior Scientist (Plant Pathology) of ICAR-CICR Regional Station, Coimbatore addressed their concerns and elaborated on the cotton growing environment of the district, technology options available with ICAR-CICR and achievements made through Special Project on Cotton in the district. Director of Research, TNAU; Scientists of TNAU-Cotton Research Station and Officials of the State Agriculture Department, SIMA, CCI, FPO, Syncom Agritech, BIS were also present. In his concluding remarks Dr. N.O. Sukhaputra advised to identify the area-specific varieties, ensure the availability of required seeds, promote best practices for quality cotton production, conduct awareness programmes for farmers and interface meeting with cotton traders to sort out procurement issues. A total of 120 farmers participated in the programme.



3. Training-cum-Input Distribution Programme

A one-day training-cum-input distribution programme was organised under DAPST scheme for the tribal farmers at Nimdari, Achalpur taluka, Amravati district on 17th October 2025. Dr. Dipak T. Nagrale, Senior Scientist (Plant Pathology) and Nodal Officer of the scheme explained the objectives of the scheme to empower tribal farmers through advanced agricultural technologies and sustainable practices. He also highlighted various disease management methods and integrated crop management techniques to maintain the health of paddy, cotton and chickpea. Shri. Akshay Shirsagar, Agricultural Officer briefed farmers about various government schemes for agriculture. Shri. R.M. Ramteke, STA discussed the best management practices of chickpea and cotton. Smt. Laxmi Kale, Village Representative graced the occasion as a Chief Guest and distributed a kit of chickpea seeds (Jaki-9218), neem oil, *Trichoderma viride* 1%, pheromone trap and Heli lure to 55 tribal farmers.

A similar programme was conducted at Nimkund, Achalpur taluka, Amravati district on 29th December 2025. On the occasion, Dr. Narayan Borkar, Scientist (FMP) emphasized the importance of modern agricultural machinery, implements and seeders to reduce production costs and time while increasing the crop yield. Shri. Manoj Tayade, AAO and Smt. Ratabai Nagle, Village Representative were also present. A kit of vermibed, lapeta pipe, PSB formulation, *Trichoderma viride* 1% and N:P:K (19:19:19) were distributed to 71 tribal farmers of Nimkund, Kalwit, Malhar and Gondvihar villages.

A similar programme was conducted at Bhulori, Chikhaldara taluka, Amravati district on 30th December 2025. Along with

the team of ICAR-CICR Scientists, Smt. Jasamuji Bete, Village Representative, Shri. Nikesh Jamkar, AAO and Shri. Nishant Ingle, BTM-ATMA were also present. A kit of tarpaulin, lapeta pipe, PSB formulation, Propiconazole 25% EC, *Trichoderma viride* 1% and N:P:K (19:19:19) were distributed to 55 tribal farmers.



4. IPM of Off-season PBW

ICAR-CICR Regional Station, Sirsa organized a series of trainings on “Integrated pest management in cotton with special reference to pink bollworm in off-season” under RASI-ICAR-CICR-CSR Project at Arniawali, Sirsa, Haryana for 76 farmers on 23rd October 2025; at Rajpura Sahani, Haryana for 75 farmers on 24th October 2025; at Fatta Maluka, Punjab for 78 farmers on 29th October 2025; at Ramgarh, Rajasthan for 78 farmers and ginning industry representatives on 31st October 2025; at Dutarawali, Abohar, Punjab for 80 farmers on 14th November 2025; at 9 ML Lathanwali, Sriganganagar, Rajasthan for 110 farmers on 26th November 2025; and at Chadiwal and Alimohammad villages of Sirsa for 25 farmers under MGMG on 13th November 2025. Farmers were demonstrated how the surviving PBW larvae in cotton stalks and double seeds will be a potential source of infestation for the next season.



5. Empowering SC Farmers through Coloured Cotton

ICAR-CICR, Nagpur in collaboration with MGM-KVK,

Gandheli, Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar district organized a training programme on “Cultivation, processing, and commercialization of coloured cotton” on 31st October 2025 in Aminabad and Ibrahimpur villages under DAPSC scheme. The participant farmers visited the field demonstration of coloured cotton variety Vaidehi-1 and had a hands-on training in yarn-making and weaving using solar-powered charkhas by experts from Gram Sewa Mandal, Wardha in the presence of Shri. Kakasaheb A. Sukase, Senior Scientist and Head, MGM-KVK. Dr. Jayant Meshram, Principal Scientist and Nodal Officer of DAPSC scheme and Dr. Rahul Phuke, Senior Scientist coordinated the programme.



6. Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh Pakhwada

Government of India has institutionalized Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh Pakhwada from 1st to 15th November 2025 to honour the sacrifice, culture and heritage of India's tribal communities and to bring their stories of courage and nation-building into the national consciousness; and observance of Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas on 15th November marking the 150th birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda, one of India's most revered tribal freedom fighters and an enduring symbol of resistance against colonial oppression.

Marking the occasion, ICAR-CICR has organized a series of capacity building programmes for the tribal farmers across Maharashtra under DAPST scheme: on 1st November at Lendezari and Vitpur villages, Tumsar taluka, Bhandara for 46 farmers; on 2nd November at Ghoti, Tumsar taluka, Bhandara for 55 farmers; on 3rd November at Nimdari, Achalpur taluka, Amravati for 50 farmers; on 4th November at Pimpalkhuta, Achalpur taluka, Amravati for 40 farmers; on 5th November at Kalwit, Achalpur taluka, Amravati for 46 farmers; on 6th November at Churni, Chikhaldara taluka, Amravati for 92 farmers; on 7th November at Vastapur, Chikhaldara taluka, Amravati for 49 farmers; on 8th November at Jamlivan, Chikhaldara taluka, Amravati for 47 farmers; on 9th November at Ukhali, Hingna taluka, Nagpur for 58 farmers; on 10th November at Bothali, Umred taluka, Nagpur for 76 farmers; on 11th November at Chinchoni, Maregaon taluka, Yavatmal for 82 farmers; on 12th November at Koregaon, Armori taluka, Gadchiroli for 35 farmers; on 13th November at Dhannur, Mulchera taluka, Gadchiroli for 57 farmers; on 14th November at Mutnur, Chamorshi taluka, Gadchiroli for 44 farmers; and on 15th November at Nimgaon, Dhanora taluka, Gadchiroli for 69 farmers.

Dr. Dipak T. Nagrale, Senior Scientist and Nodal Officer of DAPST scheme organized the programmes along with Dr. Shivaji H. Thube, Senior Scientist; Dr. Suhas G. Karkute, Scientist; Dr. Narayan Borkar, Scientist; Shri. Sujit Kumbhare, Technical Assistant; Dr. P.B. Deulkar, CTO; Shri. R.M. Ramteke, STA; Shri. Abdul Wasim, TA; and Shri. Sarang Shrirame, YP-1, involving the representatives of

Gram Panchayat, School, Agriculture Department, Police Department and other local institutions of respective villages.



7. Field Day-cum-Input Distribution Programme

A field day-cum-input distribution programme on Trichocard application was organized at Bandara, Chandrapur district on 7th November 2025 under NFSNM-IRM-PBW project. Dr. Shivaji Thube, Senior Scientist (Entomology) and Dr. Dipak Nagrale, Senior Scientist (Plant Pathology), Chandrapur district coordinators, organized the event. During the programme, Shri. Mayur Wabhitkar, SRF explained in detail the importance of Trichocards in biological pest management and their role in suppressing PBW population. He highlighted the advantages of integrating biological control agents with the existing Insecticide Resistance Management (IRM) strategy to reduce chemical pesticide dependence. Shri. Yasin Pathan, SRF demonstrated the Trichocard placement, release timing, and field-level monitoring. He also guided farmers on maintaining proper spacing and synchronization with the crop growth stage for effective pest suppression. As a part of the

event, Trichocards were distributed to 60 participant farmers from 5 villages, along with information on their handling and integration with other IPM components.



8. Farmers Field Training

A farmers field training was organized at Sayyadpur, Gangapur Taluka, Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar on 4th December 2025 under the IRM-PBW project. The project is being implemented across five villages in the district during the current cropping season by the NARP of VNMKV, Parbhani. During the interactive session, Dr. V.S. Nagrare, Principal Scientist (Entomology) and PI of the project, enquired the participant farmers about their field experiences and guided them on identification of major pests and diseases, effective control methods, importance of IRM strategies, use of pheromone traps for monitoring and techniques to significantly improve overall cotton yield. Dr. Dhyaneswar Mutkule, Associate Professor (Entomology) & Co-PI, and other project officials were also present. Shri. Pandit Bhagre, Village Sarpanch assured the community's support for the initiative. Around 60 farmers participated in the programme.



9. Developmental Programmes for NER

Under North East Region (NER) funds of the Institute, three projects viz. “Genetic improvement of comilla cotton and development of health care products and enterprise” for the College of Community Science, CAU, Tura, Meghalaya with



a budget outlay of Rs.33.65 lakhs; “Towards development of model village for beekeeping in Arunachal Pradesh” for the College of Agriculture, CAU, Pasighat, Arunachal Pradesh with a budget outlay of Rs.32.02 lakhs; and “Promotion of orchid cultivation in Sikkim for enhanced livelihood opportunities” for ICAR-NRC for Orchid, Pakyong, Sikkim with a budget outlay of Rs.20.00 lakhs, were approved for improving the livelihood of the people in the region. Further, a project on “Skill development for sustainable agriculture and livelihood in East Siang District, Arunachal Pradesh” was approved to College of Agriculture, CAU, Pasighat, Arunachal Pradesh with a budget outlay of Rs.10.50 lakhs under AICRP on Biotech Crops.

Farmers Corner

Technology: AI-smart pheromone trap for real-time monitoring of pink bollworm

Intervention

ICAR-CICR developed AI-smart pheromone traps were deployed across 18 villages in Mansa, Bathinda and Sri Muktsar Sahib districts of Punjab @ 6 units per district during 2024-25 for real-time monitoring of pink bollworm (PBW). Based on the data from the trap, daily alerts on PBW damage status and weekly advisories on management strategies were issued to all the stakeholders and cotton farmers in Punjab. Voice messages were also sent to all the farmers of a particular district whenever a trap catch recorded PBW incidence above ETL. Mass media and social media channels are also utilized to disseminate the advisories. Pest alerts were sent to farmers via personal phone calls, group messages and announcements from Gurudwara Sahibs on regular basis.

Achievement

With area wide monitoring and issue of timely alerts, the PBW infestation was brought down significantly from 30-65% during the last few years to below 10% during 2024-25 in the adopted villages. The PBW had 4 to 5 population peaks during the season and a maximum catch of 447 moths/trap/week was observed. From 38th standard week onwards, the trap catches were found to be consistently high. Despite high trap catches, the boll damages were observed to be below ETL in most of the adopted farmers’ field due to timely alert and prompt pest management interventions. The technology adopted farmers sprayed an average 6.2 insecticide rounds as compared to 10.1 by non-adopters.



Timely pest alerts using AI Trap helped the farmers to manage the PBW below the ETL, resulting in a 38.61% reduction in pesticide usage, a 34.20% reduction in pesticide costs and an 18.54% increase in yield compared to conventional pest management practices.

Expected benefit

- Reduced pesticide usage and reduction in pink bollworm damage by implementing timely monitoring and management strategies.
- Improvement in the quality of cotton for the textile industry.
- Establishment of AI and IoT based pest surveillance in digital agriculture era.

Participation in Webinar / Seminar / Conference

1. Dr. P. Valarmathi, Senior Scientist (Plant Pathology) participated and presented a paper on “Emergence of cotton rust caused by *Phakopsora gossypii* in South India: A growing threat” in the 10th International Conference in Hybrid Mode on “Global Research Initiatives for Sustainable Agriculture & Allied Sciences (GRISAAS-2025)”, organized by Astha Society during 5-7 October 2025 at MPUAT, Udaipur, Rajasthan.
2. Dr. Narayan Borkar, Scientist (Farm Machinery and Power) participated and presented a paper on “Comparative performance and energetics of planters and seeders under High-Density Planting System in cotton” in the 59th Annual Convention on “Engineering Innovations in Agriculture 5.0 - An International Symposium on Mechatronics and Robotics in Pre and Post Production Agriculture”, held during 10-12 November 2025 at ICAR-Central Institute of Agricultural Engineering, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.
3. Dr. P. Valarmathi, Senior Scientist (Plant Pathology) participated and presented a paper on “Necrosis disease of Cotton: an emerging threat and its management” in the Indo-French Seminar on “Interface of Plant Disease Epidemics, Food Safety, and Food Security: Implications for One Health”, organized by the Institut Agro Rennes-Angers, France at TNAU, Coimbatore during 12-14 November 2025.
4. Dr. A. Sampathkumar, Senior Scientist (Plant Pathology) participated online in the 9th International Conference on “Advances in Agricultural, Biological and Biodiversity Conservation for Sustainable Development (ABCD 2025)”, organized by the Department of Studies in Botany, University of Mysuru and ATDS, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh at the University of Mysuru, Manasgangotri, Mysuru during 13-15 November 2025.
5. Dr. Blaise Desouza, Principal Scientist (Agronomy) participated in the 6th International Agronomy Congress on “Re-envisioning Agronomy for Smart Agri-food Systems and Environmental Stewardship”, organized by the Indian Society of Agronomy at CSIR-National Physical Laboratory, New Delhi during 24-26 November 2025.

6. Dr. Ramkrushna, G.I., Senior Scientist (Agronomy) participated and presented a paper on “Landscape diagnostic survey of cotton production practices in Maharashtra” in the 6th International Agronomy Congress on “Re-envisioning Agronomy for Smart Agri-food Systems and Environmental Stewardship”, organized by the Indian Society of Agronomy at CSIR-National Physical Laboratory, New Delhi during 24-26 November 2025.
7. Dr. Amarpreet Singh, Senior Scientist (Agronomy) participated and presented a paper on “Management of fruiting structures' shedding in hybrid Bt cotton” in the 6th International Agronomy Congress on “Re-envisioning Agronomy for Smart Agri-food Systems and Environmental Stewardship”, organized by the Indian Society of Agronomy at CSIR-National Physical Laboratory, New Delhi during 24-26 November 2025.
8. Dr. Amarpreet Singh, Senior Scientist (Agronomy) participated and presented a paper on “Effect of integrated nutrient management practices on the productivity of cotton-wheat cropping systems” in the 33rd National Conference on “Land and Water Management for Ecological Restoration and Agricultural Sustainability” organized at Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana, Punjab during 8-10 December 2025.
9. Dr. P. Valarmathi, Senior Scientist (Plant Pathology) participated and presented two papers on “Evaluation of *Gossypium barbadense* germplasm for tolerance to Tobacco Streak Virus and Thrips in field conditions” and “Tobacco Streak Virus-induced necrosis in Cotton: symptom expression and disease progression in *Gossypium barbadense*” in the National Conference on “Transforming Plant Health Management: Integrating Traditional Practices with Modern Innovations for Global Food Security”, organized by the Indian Phytopathological Society (Southern Zone Chapter) at PAJANCOA & RI, Karaikal, UT of Puducherry during 18-19 December 2025.
10. Dr. A Sampathkumar, Senior Scientist (Plant Pathology) participated and presented a paper on “Outbreak of Tobacco Streak Virus in cotton and factors influencing its spread and severity in south zone” in the National Conference on “Transforming Plant Health Management: Integrating Traditional Practices with Modern Innovations for Global Food Security”, organized by the Indian Phytopathological Society (Southern Zone Chapter) at PAJANCOA & RI, Karaikal, UT of Puducherry during 18-19 December 2025.

Invited Lectures

1. Dr. D. Kanjana, Senior Scientist (Soil Science) delivered a talk on “Integrated nutrient management for cotton production” in SONA FM, a community radio as a part of the show “Vaazhvin Thodakkam Vivasayam” (Agriculture is the Beginning of Life) on 5th December 2025, commemorating the World Soil Day.
2. Dr. Rishi Kumar, Head I/c, ICAR-CICR Regional Station, Sirsa delivered a lecture on off-season management of PBW in the district-level training-cum-workshop on

natural farming organized by the State Department of Agriculture on 12th December 2025 at Sirsa. Around 500 farmers and other stakeholders participated in the programme.

Research Progress

1. Monitoring AICRP Centres in North Zone

Dr. V.N. Waghmare, Director, ICAR-CICR along with Heads of Divisions and Scientists visited the AICRP centres in North Zone viz. CCSHAU, Hisar; SKRAU, Sri Ganganagar; PAU, Faridkot and PAU, Bathinda and ICAR-CICR Regional Station, Sirsa during 11-14 October 2025.



2. Monitoring Haryana State Trials

The Director of Research, CCS HAU, Hisar and Joint Director Agriculture (Cotton), Haryana visited ICAR-CICR Regional Station, Sirsa on 14th October 2025 and evaluated the Haryana state sponsored trials going on in the premises.



3. Monitoring & Evaluation of Common Zonal Trials of GEAC Approved BG-II hybrids

Dr. Rishi Kumar, Head I/c, Dr. S.K. Verma and Dr. S.K. Sain, Principal Scientists of ICAR-CICR Regional Station, Sirsa along with the Scientists of SAUs participated in the evaluation of common zonal trials of GEAC approved BG-II hybrids across the North Zone on 16th October 2025.



Publications

Research Papers

1. Bhargavi, B., Blaise, D. and Nalayini, P. 2025. Water footprint, runoff and soil loss assessment of cotton production in central India. *Cleaner Water*, 4: 100119. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.clwat.2025.100119>.
2. Borkar, N.T., Nayak, A.K. and Sivashankari, M. 2025. Development and performance evaluation of battery assisted weeder for paddy crop. *ORYZA-An International Journal of Rice*, 62(4): 359-366.
3. Kanjana, D., Sheeba, J.A. and Usharani, S. 2025. Enhancing nanofertilizers performance for better yield and quality of cotton. *Plant Science Today*, 12 (sp4): 01-07.
4. Sheeba, J.A., Kanjana, D. and Prakash, A.H. 2025. Potassium silicate modulates leaf water relations and membrane integrity in cotton (*Gossypium hirsutum* L.). *Biological Forum*, 17(11): 5-10.
5. Acharya, L.K., Birah, A., Kumar, A., Khokhar, M.K., Singh, S.P. and Kumar, R. 2025. Validation of integrated pest management module for major pests of Bt cotton in north-west India. *Indian Journal of Agricultural Sciences*, 95 (10): 1205-1210.
6. Kumar, R., Singh, A. and Paul, D. 2025. Planting dates and rate of nitrogen fertilization influences whitefly population dynamics and incidence in cotton (*Gossypium hirsutum* L.). *Discover Ecology*, 1:11. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s44396-025-00011-y>.
7. Bhattiprolu, S.L. and Sain, S.K. 2025. Field efficacy of rhizospheric fungi & chemicals against major foliar diseases in cotton. *Journal of Cotton Research and Development*, 39(2): 211-218.
8. Onkarappa, T., Sowmya, H.H., Ratnaparkhe, M.B., Shivakumar, M., Chandra, S., ... and Nataraj, V. 2025. Evaluation of soybean [*Glycine max* (L.) Merrill] germplasm for yield and attributing traits for rabi season in the southern Indian zone. *Indian Journal of Plant Genetic Resources*, 38(3): 314-324.

Books Edited

Kumar, S., Pandey, J., Singh, R.A., Singh, A., Deepanshu and Jadhav, V.N. 2025. *Revolutionary agriculture and allied sciences*. ISBN 978-93-49921-37-5. The Pustakalya publications, Lucknow, U.P., India. Pp.140.

Popular Articles / Technical Articles / E-Publications

1. Singh, A., Kumar, R., Sain, S.K., Kumar, S., Kanjana, D., Chandra, S. and Verma, S.K. 2025. Integrated nutrient management in cotton for better crop productivity under north Indian scenario. *Just Agriculture*, 6(4): 49-53.
2. Kamble, M.V., Sarkar, A., Singh, A. and Saha, S. 2025. Impact of biochar on soil physical and chemical properties. *Trends in Agriculture Science*, 4(10): 5294-5298.
3. Singh, A., Kumar, S., Kumar, R., Sain, S.K., Chandra, S.

and Verma, S.K. 2025. ਨਦੀਨਾਸ਼ਕਾਂ ਦੀ ਸੁਚੱਜੀ ਵਰਤੋਂ (Proper use of herbicides). *Krishi Jagran (Punjabi)*, 27(12): 8-11.

4. Valarmathi, P. 2025. Bacteriophage-based biosensors and bioassay for detection of plant-pathogenic bacteria. *AGROBIOS Newsletter*. Vol. XXIV (5): 23-24.
5. Valarmathi, P. and Kanjana, D. 2025. Antimicrobial activity of chitosan against phytopathogens. *AGROBIOS Newsletter*. Vol. XXIV (6): 16-17.
6. Kanjana, D., Raja, R., Usharani, S., Sheeba, J.A., Singh, A. and Prakash, A.H. 2025. Customized fertilizer – A thought for sustainable cotton production. *Cotton Innovations, International cotton Researchers Association*, 5(7): 10-13.

Cotton Scenario

Dr. Isabella Agarwal

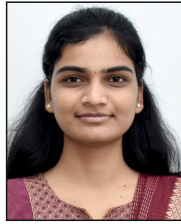
The global cotton scenario during the quarter ending December 2025 was marked by tightening of supply due to production cuts in major regions like the U.S. and India, though this was partially offset by a massive crop in China and continued growth in Brazil. Vietnam and Bangladesh led global imports, with Vietnam reaching record levels of 8.1 million bales to feed its growing textile industry. The Cotlook-A Index, the benchmark price of spot cotton in the international market remained relatively stable but drifted slightly lower, moving from 76 to 74 cents/lb by late 2025. Brazil's dominance to maintain its position as a top exporter is in place with output during 2025-26 rising. High volatility due to trade tariffs was recorded, particularly impacting India's textile exports, which face a 20-35% reduction in competitiveness. There is an increasing focus on organic and sustainable cotton, with India leading in organic production, which is becoming a crucial factor in securing premium international orders.

In the meantime, the domestic cotton scenario was defined by a surge in imports, government-led price support, and yield concerns due to unseasonal rainfall. Cotton acreage for the 2025-26 season slipped by approximately 2.6-3.5% to 10.90-11.00 mha. Heavy, untimely rainfall in October across Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Telangana delayed harvesting and negatively impacted fibre quality, leading to high moisture content in early arrivals. Indian cotton exports faced a slowdown due to weak global demand and a lack of price competitiveness. Only 4.5 lakh bales were shipped by December 2025, against a full-season target of 15 lakh bales. The Indian cotton market experienced a bearish trend, with arrivals starting slowly due to heavy rains and prices often falling below MSP. Production is projected to be lower, with Cotton Association of India estimating it to be around 305.00-309.50 lakh bales, while imports remain high at 50 lakh bales. High raw material costs and subdued yarn demand have significantly reduced profit margins for spinners. The Indian textile industry is under pressure, with reduced export competitiveness and a shift in demand towards man-made fibres.

Academic Progress

Selection and placements

Ms. Veer Pooja Ranganath, M.Sc. (Plant Pathology) at IARI Academic hub, Nagpur has been selected as “Cotton Farming-Team Member” in Fast Retailing (India) Material Corporation Private Ltd, New Delhi on 29th October 2025 through IARI Placement Cell.



Awards and Recognition

1. Dr. P. Valarmathi received the best oral presentation award in the X International Conference in Hybrid Mode on Global Research Initiatives for Sustainable Agriculture & Allied Sciences (GRISAAS-2025), organized by Astha Society at MPUAT, Udaipur, Rajasthan during 5-7 October 2025.
2. Dr. P. Valarmathi has been nominated as Editor of the journal “Indian Phytopathology” for the period 2025-27.

ICAR-CICR in the News

बोटोणी गावात 'जनजातीय गौरव वर्ष पंधरवाडा'
केंद्रीय कापूस संशोधन, कृषी विभागाचा संयुक्त उपक्रम, शेतकऱ्यांना मार्गदर्शक

पांजरी येथे शेतीशाळेचे आयोजन

CICR celebrates 'World Cotton Day - 2025'
THE ICAR-Central Institute for Cotton Research (CICR), Nagpur, celebrated the fifth World Cotton Day under the theme 'Cotton: The Fabric of Our Life,' bringing together farmers, scientists, and industry.

लहू की लौ
डबवाली में 'स्वस्थ भूमि, समृद्ध किसान, विकसित भारत' विषय पर विशाल किसान मेले का आयोजन

खेतों में भेड़-बकरियों को चराने से नष्ट होगी गुलाबी सुंडी : डॉ. ऋतु
गुलाबी सुंडी के गैर ऋतु में जीवित रहने के सोत पर किसान गोष्ठी आयोजित

ICAR-CICR hosts awareness event on PM Dhan Dhaanya Krishi Yojana
ICAR-CICR, Nagpur, in collaboration with KVK Nagpur, organised a one-day live streaming and awareness programme for 300 farmers on the launch of the PM Dhan Dhaanya Krishi Yojana, the National Mission on Pulses, and other initiatives.

Pest infestation delays cotton procurement in Vidarbha
Bollworm (right) and 'Spodoptera litura' - a leaf-eating caterpillar - known to cause extensive defoliation in several parts of Nagpur, Wardha, and Yavatmal districts.

Personnel

Joined

Dr. Basanagouda Gonal joined as Scientist (Genetics & Plant Breeding) at ICAR-CICR, Nagpur on 27.10.2025.



Promotion of Scientists

1. Dr. Amarpreet Singh, Senior Scientist (RGP 8000) promoted to Senior Scientist (RGP 9000) w.e.f. 15.09.2023
2. Dr. A. Manikandan, Senior Scientist (RGP 8000) promoted to Senior Scientist (RGP 9000) w.e.f. 01.01.2025
3. Dr. Neelkanth Hiremani, Scientist (RGP 7000) promoted to Senior Scientist (RGP 8000) w.e.f. 01.01.2025
4. Dr. Shah Vivek Hanskumar, Scientist (RGP 7000) promoted to Senior Scientist (RGP 8000) w.e.f. 01.01.2025



5. Dr. K. Baghyalakshmi, Scientist (RGP 7000) promoted to Senior Scientist (RGP 8000) w.e.f. 05.07.2025

Promotion of Technical Staff

1. Shri. Mayurkumar Meshram, STA (T-4), ICAR-CICR, Nagpur promoted to TO (T-5) w.e.f. 01.01.2025
2. Shri. Homraj Mundafale, STA (T-4), ICAR-CICR, Nagpur promoted to TO (T-5) w.e.f. 02.07.2025

Retirement

1. Smt. Chandabai Chapekar, SSS, ICAR-CICR, Nagpur retired in October 2025
2. Shri. Naresh Godghate, SSS, ICAR-CICR, Nagpur retired in November 2025
3. Shri. Mahesh Tiwari, Private Secretary, ICAR-CICR, Nagpur retired in December 2025
4. Shri. Damodar Chinurkar, SSS, ICAR-CICR, Nagpur retired in December 2025



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