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CENTRAL COTTON RESEARCH INSTITUTE, MULTAN

Pakistan Central Cotton Committee
Ministry of National Food Security & Research
Old Shuja Abad Road, Multan, Pakistan

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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Visit of Chinese Researchers

A group of 05 cotton researchers from China comprising of Prof. HE Zifu, Director; Prof. LYC Littua, Research Leader, Ms Tang Yafei, Researcher; Ms CHEN Ting, Researcher; Mr. Guojun, Research from Plant Protection Institute, Guangdong Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Guangzhou, China visited CCRI Multan on August 16, 2018. Prof. Dr. Shafqat Saeed, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, MNSUA Multan; Dr. Qamar Saeed, Assistant Professor, and Dr. Waqar Jaleel, Researcher from BZU Multan also accompanied the delegation. The objective of the delegation was to observe and monitor the Cotton whitefly and CLCuV diversity across cotton belt of the Punjab. Dr. Zahid Mahmood, Director, CCRI Multan briefed the delegation about cotton leaf curl virus (CLCuV) research program conducted at the Institute. He stated that the Institute pioneered in the development of CLCuV resistant varieties during 1996-97. However, with the virus mutation in Burewala in 2005, all the resistant varieties become susceptible. Dr. Zahid further stated that the Institute has tested wild species and the cotton germplasm imported from various countries including USA against this disease.



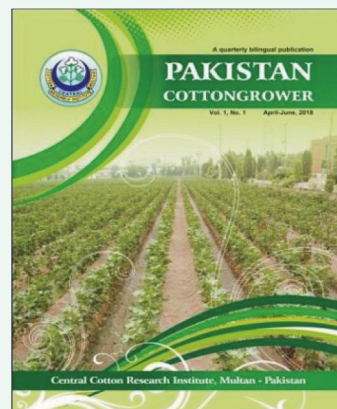
Cotton Crop Management Group (CCMG) Meeting

The 4th Meeting of the Cotton Crop Management Group (CCMG) was held at CCRI, Multan on 10.08.2018 under the chairmanship of Dr. Wasif Khurshid, Secretary Agriculture, Punjab. Status of current cotton crop was discussed in detail. The inputs supply position was anticipated satisfactory including the availability of cotton pests-specific pesticides. Farmers complained about problems of shortage of canal irrigation water and higher prices of pesticides. Secretary assured to address the problems with the concerned departments.



Launching of “Pakistan Cottongrower”

CCRI, Multan has initiated publication of a quarterly journal “Pakistan Cottongrower”. The journal is bilingual, published in Urdu and English languages. Articles related to cotton agronomy, varietal development, insect pests & diseases management, and post-harvest handling are published. Moreover, weather condition (temperature, rainfall), cotton market news and world cotton outlook of the subject quarter are also regular feature of the Journal. Articles of researchers and technical field officers of private pesticide/seed/fertilizer industry are also encouraged for publication with approval by the Editorial Board. The journal is being widely distributed among cotton researchers, academicians, private pesticide & seed association and most importantly the cotton farmers. Interested researchers, students, technical officers of pesticide/seed industry/NGOs and farmers can subscribe the journal at an annual subscription fee of Rs.350/= (four issues) for receiving regular issues of the journal. The subscription fee can be sent to the “Managing Editor, Pakistan Cottongrower, Central Cotton Research Institute, Old Shuja Abad Road, Multan” for regular subscription.



Consultative workshop “Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Program for Pakistan”

Ministry of Climate Change, Government of Pakistan, Islamabad organized two-day consultative workshop “Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Program for Pakistan” from August 7-8, 2018. Dr. Zahid Mahmood, Director CCRI Multan attended the workshop and deliberated upon the land degradation, lowering soil fertility, salinity and water logging issues challenging the cotton production in the country. Moreover, acute water shortage, frequent droughts, and mismanagement of land resources also resulting in reduced productivity and ultimately growing poverty in cotton growing areas.



Visit of Cotton Classers from PCSI, Multan

A group of 15 cotton classers led by Mian Nasir Ali, Officer Incharge, Pakistan Cotton Standards Institute (PCSI) Regional Office, Multan visited CCRI Multan on August 9, 2018. Dr. Zahid Mahmood, Director CCRI Multan gave briefing about cotton research and development activities carried out by the Institute. Dr. Muhammad Naveed Afzal, Head, Agronomy Section briefed about efficient cotton production practices and post-harvest cotton handling to the participants. The participants also visited Fibre Technology Laboratory and were briefed by Muhammad Ilyas Sarwar, Head about various fibre testing equipment. Training was imparted “Importance of Cotton Fibre Properties for Yarn Manufacturing and Processing” by Mr. Danish Iqbal, Scientific Officer, Fibre Technology for the classers.



Consultative Meeting of Cotton Stakeholders

A Consultative meeting of cotton stakeholders was held at MNSUA, Multan on August 27, 2018. The meeting was chaired by Ms Benish Fatima, Additional Secretary (Task Force), Agriculture Department, Government of the Punjab. The participants included representative from PCGA, APTMA, NGOs working with farmers for cleaner cotton production, provincial agriculture department, PCSI and cotton farmers. Dr. Zahid Mahmood, Director CCRI Multan attended the meeting and apprised about issues regarding lower cotton prices and measures for supporting cotton farmers accordingly. He stated that three major players i.e., farmers, ginners and textile industry simultaneously face challenges related to cotton marketing. Farmers are faced with the problem of lower prices, while ginners raise concern about mixing of inert material in cotton, low GoT, poor quality lint and varietal admixture. Similarly, textile mills also have problems like yellow pigment cotton, poor yarn quality, low fiber strength and high moisture and inert contents in cotton. Therefore, there is a need to devise a collective strategy for settling issues of each stakeholder. Dr. Zahid Mahmood further proposed that the Fair Trade Model can also be applied in which they are paying Rs.200 to 400 per 40 kgs to the farmers producing better cotton. The meeting concluded on the following points:

- i) Strict implementation of the Cotton Control Ordinance, 1966
- ii) APTMA gives more value to local farmers and industry cannot survive on imported cotton, therefore, willing to pay more for cleaner cotton.
- iii) PCGA ready to pay Rs.200/40 kg as incentive to the farmers for *sangli* and moisture free cotton.
- iv) Neelum Seeds Multan also announced to pay Rs.250/40 kgs premium on same grounds.
- v) Federal Government must immediately interfere for Intervention Price when prices down.



Weekly Meeting of the Technical Working Group on Cotton

The weekly meeting of the Technical Working Group on Cotton was held at the Directorate of Agriculture Extension, Bahawalpur on 09.08.2018 chaired by Ms Benish Fatima, Additional Secretary (Task Force), Agriculture Department, Government of the Punjab. The meeting finalized recommendations with regard to insect pest management and their chemical control. Dr. Rabia Saeed, Head, Entomology Section presented list of recommended insecticides in controlling insect pests of cotton. The information is being disseminated to the farmers.

Seed Dealers Training Program

CCRI Multan and FSC&RD organized two-days training program for the seed dealers at CCRI Multan on 29-30 August, 2018. Around 1000 seed dealers were trained for doing business of only approved and certified seed properly labeled as per laid conditions under Seed Act 1976. Dr. Zahid Mahmood, Director CCRI Multan stressed for marketing of approved seed for ensuring optimum crop productivity as well food security in the country. The dealers were trained in all the pre-requisites for seed business and the successful candidates were recommended to the Agriculture Department for issuance of required documents including licences



Tree plantation under 'Sarsabz o Shadab Pakistan' Campaign

Dr. Zahid Mahmood, Director CCRI Multan initiated "National Tree Plantation Campaign" by planting of "Terminalia (plant)" along with other staff members on the eve of 14th August 2018, Independence Day Celebrations. Dr. Zahid Mahmood, Director stated that trees are life and we must plant trees to save life for our future generations. He also appealed all to plant at least one tree at their homes.



Ceremony for Hoisting of National Flag

Hoisting of National Flag ceremony was held today the 14th August, 2018. Dr. Zahid Mahmood, Director, CCRI Multan hoisted the national flag. All the staff members along with their kids also participated in the ceremony and prayed for the prosperity of the country. National anthem was also sung in the ceremony. Dr. Zahid Mahmood, Director CCRI Multan stated that we must all work hard with complete dedication and devotion for the country.



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