

Retirements



Mr. Gul Muhammad, Secretary PCCC



Mr. Musawar Ali, APS, CCRI Multan



Mr. Mukhtiar Ahmad, Beldar



Mr. Muhammad Afzal, Beldar

Visit of Students of 6th Semester B.Sc (Hons) Agriculture (Water Management)

A group of 18 students of 6th Semester B.Sc. (Hons) Agriculture (Water Management), Bahauddin Zakariya University Multan, led by Dr. Amir Shakoor, Assistant Professor visited CCRI Multan. Dr. Zahid Mahmood, Director CCRI Multan gave briefing about the Institute. The class was later visited farm machinery applied in cotton cultivation by Dr. Muhammad Naveed Afzal, Head Agronomy.



Radio Talks

Hafiz Muhammad Imran, Scientific Officer, Cytogenetics Section, CCRI Multan recording talk on FM 101 on "Cotton Seed Purity Issues and Their Solutions" along with host RJ Malik Abid Khakhi.



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Old Shuja Abad Road, Multan, Pakistan

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Technical Advisory Committee Meeting of the National Biosafety Commission

The 22nd meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), of the National Biosafety Centre, Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency was held at Islamabad on 30th January, 2018 under the chairmanship of Mrs Farzana Altaf Shah, Director General, Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency, Islamabad. Cases of 46 transgenic varieties of various crops were presented in the meeting from the public and private sector institutions for biosafety clearance and testing under field conditions. Dr. Zahid Mahmood, Director CCRI Multan presented cases of the following 09 promising upcoming Bt cotton varieties developed by CCRI Multan and 05 Bt cotton varieties developed by Cotton Research Station, Ghotki for conducting field trials.

Varieties of CCRI, Multan

Cyto-515, CIM-663, CIM-653, CIM-651, CIM-645,
CIM-643, CIM-642, CIM-636, CIM-343

Varieties of CRS, Ghotki

GH-142, GH-Mubarak, GH-Deebal,
GH-Haadi, GH-Baghdadi

Dr. Zahid Mahmood, Director CCRI Multan presented background development phases and performance of these varieties. He stated that these varieties are bollworm resistant, early maturing, possesses high yield potential, better fibre characteristics. It is hoped that approval and release of these varieties for commercial cultivation will significantly contribute to the over-all cotton production. He further stated that these varieties will be included in the National Coordinated Varietal Trial 2018, after grant of permission for the field trials, for their testing under various ecological zones. The commission, after reviewing performance of varieties and high level of resistance against bollworms, granted permission for conducting field trials of these varieties.

Approval of Projects for Cotton Research and Development

A Comprehensive Integrated Scientific Approach for the Development of Sustainable Management Strategies of Pink Bollworm (*Pectinophora gossypiella*): This is a collaborative project involving Central Cotton Research Institute Multan, University of Agriculture Faisalabad, Entomological Research Institute Ayub Agricultural Research Institute Faisalabad, Muhammad Nawaz Sharif University of Agriculture Multan and National Institute for Biotechnology & Genetic Engineering Faisalabad. Moreover, the Agriculture Extension Department and the Department of Pest Warning & Quality of Pesticides Punjab will also be engaged in the project. The project will encompass management of Pink boll worm through integrated pest management, molecular approaches and development of resistant cotton germplasm. The project is funded by the Punjab Agricultural Research Board (PARB) and the project period spans over three years duration.

Management of Whitefly by Integrated Strategies and Development of Resistant Cotton Germplasm through Genetic Engineering: This is also a collaborative project involving Central Cotton Research Institute Multan, Department of Entomology University of Agriculture Faisalabad, Entomological Research Institute Ayub Agricultural Research Institute Faisalabad, Muhammad Nawaz Sharif University of Agriculture Multan, Cotton Research Institute Government of the Punjab Multan and National Institute for Biotechnology & Genetic Engineering Faisalabad. Moreover, the Agriculture Extension Department and the Department of Pest Warning & Quality of Pesticides Punjab will also be engaged in the project. The project will involve characterization of whitefly through conventional and molecular approaches, development of whitefly management strategies based on natural enemies and integrated

pest management strategies and development of resistant cotton germplasm against whitefly by RNA interference. This project is also funded by the Punjab Agricultural Research Board (PARB) and the project period spans over three years duration.

Better Cotton Initiative (BCI) for Sustainable Cotton Production in Pakistan: This project has been included in the Textile Policy 2014-19 developed by the Ministry of Commerce & Textile Industry, Government of Pakistan. The Pakistan Central Cotton Committee (PCCC) has been assigned the task to execute the "Better Cotton" project for three years (2017-2020) in the Punjab and Sindh provinces in coordination with organization of Better Cotton Initiative (BCI), Pakistan and other stakeholders. The project will cover districts of Multan and D.G. Khan in Punjab province and district Shaheed Benazirabad, Naushero Feroze and Dadu in Sindh province. This project will be executed by the CCRI, Multan and CCRI Sakrand through designated Provincial Coordinators. The proposed Better Cotton Production Program of PCCC will help the farmers to produce better quality cotton in Pakistan. The qualitative and quantitative factors involved in cotton production losses will be investigated thoroughly and tackled through better guidance and training of the farmers for cost effective and better quality cotton production in Punjab and Sindh provinces.

Project Steering Committee Meeting of the PARB Funded Projects

Dr. Noor ul Islam Khan, Chairman, Punjab Agricultural Research Board (PARB) chaired the meeting of the PARB Funded Cotton Projects held at CCRI Multan on Jan 27, 2018. Prof. Dr. Asif Ali, Vice Chancellor, Muhammad Nawaz Sharif University of Agriculture, Multan Dr. Zahid Mahmood, Director CCRI Multan; Dr. Saghir Ahmad, Director Cotton Multan; Prof Dr Shafqat Saeed, Dean Faculty of Agriculture MNSUA Multan; and other collaborating partners attended the meeting. The Project Investigators described about the plan of work and activities to be carried out for the management of Pink bollworm and Cotton Whitefly under the project.



Management Campaign for Pink bollworm

Mr. Junaid Khan Doha, Scientific Officer, Entomology Section conducted survey of fields and cotton ginning factories for collection and monitoring of Pink Bollworm larvae. He also gave recommendations and guidance for elimination of stubble/ debris of cotton in District Khanewal. The survey will also be continued in other adjoining areas for management of Pink bollworm.



FAO Roundtable Consultation

"Roundtable Consultation on TCP Project "Building Capacity of Federal Seed Certification and Registration Department to Facilitate Seed and Plant Supply Industry Regulation held on Wednesday, 17th January 2018 at FAO Office NARC, Islamabad". Dr. Zahid Mahmood, Director CCRI Multan informed about the cotton seed technology development for guidance of the farmers. Dr. Shakeel Ahmad Khan, Seed Sector Consultant (FAO), briefed about the status of capacity building of seed analysts under the project. Dr. Dennis Thompson, International Seed Sector Analyst (FAO) gave briefing about the future perspective and vision for seed sector.



Visit of Vice President, PCCC

Dr. Khalid Abdullah, Vice President, PCCC along with Dr. Zahid Mahmood, Director CCRI Multan visited the Entomology Section of the Institute. Dr. Rabia Saeed, Head Entomology and Mr. Junaid Khan Doha, Scientific Officer Entomology informed about the entomological studies related to Pink bollworm and insect pests management carried out by the Section.



Demonstration of Mechanical Cotton Picker for Picking Leftover Bolls

The practical demonstration of mechanical picker for picking leftover bolls of the cotton crop was arranged at CCRI Multan. Dr. Zahid Mahmood, Director CCRI Multan stated that application of mechanical picker for picking leftover bolls will help in not only eradicating larvae of Pink bollworm present in the leftover bolls but will also pick additional 4 to 5 maunds of cotton.

