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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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National Seminar "Cotton Production Technology"

CCRI Multan organized one-day seminar on "Cotton Production Technology" at Dr. Mahbub Ali Auditorium CCRI Multan on May 7, 2018. The seminar was chaired by Haji Sikandar Hayat Khan Bosan, Minister for National Food Security & Research, Government of Pakistan, Islamabad. Dr. Khalid Abdullah, Cotton Commissioner, Ministry of National Food Security & Research also co-chaired the seminar. Around 250 agriculture researchers, academia and farmers attended the seminar. Private seed/pesticide companies also displayed products at the stalls planted during the event.



Haji Sikandar Hayat Khan Bosan, Minister for National Food Security & Research while addressing the gathering, stated that government has recently approved an amount of Rs.2.5 billion for cotton research and development in the country. Government has also taken initiatives for supporting cotton farmers through provision of subsidy on fertilizer, reduce tariff on electricity for tubewells, reduction in GST on pesticides and many other support measures. The Minister said that the government was taking all out efforts, utilizing all resources to upgrade agriculture sector and improve the financial condition of the farming community. He said that farming community was facing the problem of availability of better quality seed but added that researchers were busy day and night in developing varieties that can survive all odds including the climate change. He said that the government has provided Rs.100 billion worth of subsidies to cotton farmers that were relevant to all stages from sowing to harvest. He said that national cotton production showed better results this year compared to last year. The Minister added that prices of Phutti were also better this year which should be encouraging for farmers. Dr. Khalid Abdullah, Cotton Commissioner / Vice President PCCC stated that cotton production has been volatile due to

changing climate (heavy rains, drought, high temperatures), insect pests & disease incidence and marketing issues over the past few years. However, despite all these problems, the country produced three million bales more than the last year's production and attributed this success to the researchers' hard work.

Dr Zahid Mahmood, Director, CCRI Multan said that scientists were engaged in developing varieties that are high yielding, and can tolerate pest attack, and climate change factors. Moreover, research work was also in progress for the management of Pink bollworm and Whitefly and findings would help farmers in a big way to counter the pest attack. The scientists of CCRI Multan delivered lecture on cotton production technology, agronomic practices for profitable cotton production, selection of cotton varieties, judicious use of fertilizer, insect pests management and cotton leaf curl virus (CLCuV) disease management. The pesticide companies also showcased their products and services by installing stalls during the event which were visited by farmers, researchers and other participants.

Training Program for Scientists from C-4 Countries

The delegation of 08-member researchers from C4 countries (Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali and Benin) visited CCRI Multan on May 02, 2018 in connection with participation in 15-days Training Program under Technical Assistance for C-4 countries organized by the PCCC. Dr. Zahid Mahmood, Director CCRI Multan welcomed the distinguished guests and gave briefing about the cotton research and development activities of the Institute. The scientists of CCRI Multan imparted training in areas of cotton production technology, integrated pest management, cotton leaf curl virus management, cotton wild species and germplasm and fibre properties and testing. The participants also visited cotton research, education and extension institutions, ginning, spinning and textile units of the area, and seed / pesticide associations.



International Recognition & Appreciation for CCRI Multan

The visiting researchers from C4 countries as well as the Pakistan's Mission in WTO at Geneva conveyed appreciations for extending cooperation and facilitation provided by CCRI Multan during their visit. The delegates also appreciated organizing the cotton training program especially varietal development, insect pests and disease management and marketing aspects. CCRI Multan also offered to host short and long term training program in future as well to the researchers from C4 countries.

Growing Cotton in Hydroponics for Nutrient-Efficiency Studies at CCRI, Multan

The Plant Physiology/Chemistry Section of the Institute has planted cotton in hydroponics to screen germplasm for potassium uptake efficiency. The study focuses to identify potassium efficient and inefficient cotton genotypes under low to high levels of applied potassium. A couple of pot and field trials will follow later on to evaluate the role of K in drought tolerance and its impact on nitrogen uptake. Hydroponics is a subset of hydroculture for growing of plants in a soil-less medium or an aquatic-based environment. In hydroponics all required mineral nutrients are added to water that are taken up by the plant roots which remain submerged in water. Air is continuously circulated in water to keep plants alive. Plants require very little outside nutrition during the early stages of growth, but those needs change throughout the season. A plant that is forming and growing fruit requires more nutrients than a seedling as it emerges.

Consequently, different nutrient solution formulations are used as the plants mature. Some of the major benefits of hydroponics include: lack of toxins, using less water, less space, less nutritional matter, early harvesting, elimination of soil-born diseases and it also provides steady production rates. Owing to genetic diversity, cotton cultivars differ in

nutrient requirement and assimilation which needs to be explored for improved nutrient efficiencies. Hydroponics provides an ideal uniform environment for such studies as the medium is free of soil and its complex interactions. Results of the study will provide basic information about exact K requirement of genotypes as well as the impact of K on nitrogen uptake by cotton.



Visit of Prof. Serik Doman, Xinjiang China

Prof. Serik Doman, from Xinjiang China, visited CCRI Multan on April 30, 2018 who has been awarded scholarship by the Xinjiang Regional Government, China to visit Pakistan to prepare a report on Pakistan agriculture with the cooperation of UVAS, Lahore. Accordingly, he will submit research report to the Provincial Government of Xinjiang, China under the scheme of CPEC project and seek for opportunities between Pakistan and Xinjiang Region of China to cooperate in agriculture sector in future. In this connection, Mr. Serik visited various agriculture research institutions in Pakistan for studying the agricultural production problems and needs of Pakistan so that assistance could be made in this regard.



Dr. Zahid Mahmood, Director, CCRI Multan briefed the guest about cotton research and development activities carried out by the Institute. He also highlighted the production problems and issues confronting with cotton sector in Pakistan. Moreover, Dr. Zahid Mahmood, also proposed measures for bilateral cooperation among Pakistan and Xinjiang Province on cotton crop research and production.

Cotton Crop Management Group Meeting

2nd meeting of the Cotton Crop Management Group (CCMG) held at CCRI Multan on May 12, 2018 under the chairmanship of Ms. Beenish Fatima, Additional Secretary (Task Force) Punjab. Syed Fakhre Imam, Ex Speaker National Assembly, Dr. Khalid Abdullah, Cotton Commissioner, MNFSR, Islamabad; Prof. Dr. Asif Ali, Vice Chancellor, MNSAU, Dr. Zahid Mahmood, Director CCRI Multan; representative from all stakeholders attended the meeting. Cotton sowing, canal water irrigation, electricity situation, weather forecast, insect pests and disease situation, pesticide availability and other cotton related issues were discussed and decisions were taken for implementation.



Publication of Book Chapter "Genetic Mapping in Cotton"

The scientists of the Institute contributed in publishing of Chapter "Genetic Mapping in Cotton" in the Book entitled "Past, Present and Future Trends in Cotton Breeding" (ISBN: 978-1-78923-077-2). The Book was published by the InTech Publishers, UK. The authors of the book included Adem Bardak, Khezir Hayat, Oktay Erdogan, Zahid Mahmood, Noor-ul-Islam Khan, Muhammad Atif Iqbal, Halil Tekerek and Mehboob-ur-Rahman. The book was jointly sponsored by PARB, Lahore and Kahramanmaras Sutcu Imam University, Kahramanmaras, Turkey. The Book Chapter was submitted for publication in July 24th 2017, reviewed on January 26th 2018 and finally published on May 2nd 2018. The web link is: <http://mts.intechopen.com/articles/show/title/genetic-mapping-in-cotton>.



Inauguration of Cold Room Chamber & ICRA Secretariat

Haji Sikandar Hayat Khan Bosan, Minister for National Food Security & Research, Islamabad inaugurated Cold Room Chamber and ICRA Secretariat at CCRI Multan on May 28, 2018.

Dr. Zahid Mahmood, Director CCRI Multan informed that with this facility, cotton seed can be stored for 25 to 50 years for utilizing in future cotton breeding programs as well as distribution to other national and international cotton research institutions.



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