

October, 2018

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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Farmers' Field Day

CCRI Multan organized Farmers' Field Day on October 16, 2018. More than 300 cotton farmers from Multan, Vehari, Khanewal, Lodhran, Layyah, Mianwali, Rajanpur, DG Khan and Ghotki, Khairpur, Sanghar and Mirpurkhas from Sindh province participated in the program. Dr. Zahid Mahmood, Director CCRI Multan briefed the visiting farmers about cotton varietal development program and research activities carried out by the Institute. Later, the farmers were visited different field experimental fields for observing the field performance of advanced cotton lines developed at the Institute. The Sectional Head also showed cotton experimental fields of different advanced lines to the visiting farmers. The advanced lines included CIM-303, CIM-632, Cyto-510, Cyto-511, Cyto-515, CIM-678, CIM-789, CIM-343, CIM-663, and CIM-602. Moreover, the fields of big boll size, long staple, tolerant to CLCuV, heat & water stress tolerant lines and natural colored cotton fields were also visited. Farmers showed enthusiasm and greater interest in cotton varieties developed at the Institute and appreciated the role of cotton scientists for evolution of high yielding varieties.



Training program "Non-GMO Cotton Breeding, Preparation of Organic Fertilizer, Testing of Non GMO Yield, and Geotagging of Cotton Fields"

CCRI Multan organized two-days training program "Non-GMO Cotton Breeding, Preparation of Organic Fertilizer, Testing of Non GMO Yield, and Geotagging of Cotton Fields" on October 12 -13, 2018 for the contracted farmers from Basti Jandheerwala, Bara Salata, Muzafargarh and representatives of South Asian Sourcing (SAS) Pvt. Ltd., from Sialkot and Fair Trade, Islamabad. The SAS established supply chain from farms to the warehouse and comply with the International Fair Trade Standards (proof of Non GMO, trade name of fertilizers, pesticides and production technology for growing non-GMO cotton to enhance yield). The SAS has sub-contracted a Ginning Unit and plan to engage a Knitting unit for Socks/Hosiery as additional Entity under FLO certification process. Dr. Zahid Mahmood, Director CCRI Multan briefed the participants about cotton varietal development, production technology, parameters of producing organic cotton and fertilizer production and geotagging of cotton fields in the country.



Training Program "Picking Practices for Clean Cotton Production & Fibre Quality"

CCRI Multan and WWF-Pakistan organized one-day training program on "Picking Practices for Clean Cotton Production and Fibre Quality" at Khanewal on Oct 10, 2018. Mr. Muhammad Ilyas Sarwar, Head; Mr. Danish Iqbal, Scientific Officer, Fibre Technology CCRI Multan participated and delivered lectures on proper picking practices for clean cotton, fibre quality preservation and marketing of clean cotton. Mr. Meelad Hussain, Project Coordinator, WWF Pakistan and Mr. Ikram Ullah, Cotton Ginner also talked on the occasion.



Visit of NIM Delegations

The participants of 26th Mid-Career Management Course (In-land Study Tour) from National Institute of Management, Lahore & Islamabad visited CCRI Multan on October 17-18, 2018. Dr. Zahid Mahmood, Director CCRI Multan briefed about the cotton research & development activities carried out at the Institute. Participants also visited cotton fields of the Institute and appreciated the research work conducted by the scientists.



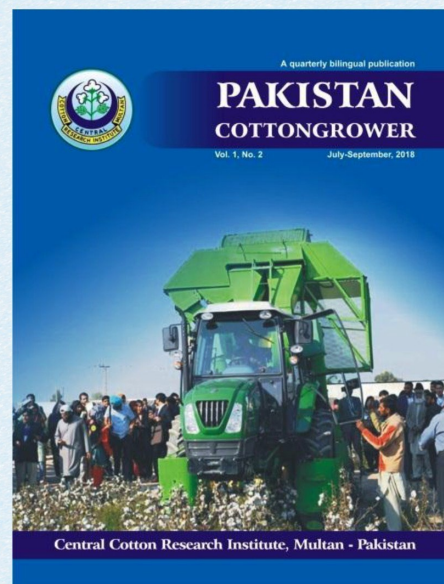
Meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on National Food Security & Research

The meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on National Food Security and Research was held on October 10, 2018, under the chairmanship of Senator Syed Muzaffar Hussain Shah. The meeting was attended by Senator Muhammad Ali Jamot, Senator Imamuiddin Shouqeen and senior officers from the Ministry for National Food Security and Research, IRSA, PARC and Central Cotton Research Institute Multan. The Committee was briefed on expected shortfall in the production of cotton in 2018. The Committee was informed that acute shortage of water during the current Kharif season had adversely affected cotton sowing. He asked the Pakistan Central Cotton Committee to make recommendations to address the issue so that the cost of production in cotton circulation may be contained. Dr. Zahid Mahmood, Director CCRI Multan apprised about the measures taken by the Institute in cotton productivity enhancement programs i.e., evolution of high yielding cotton varieties, organizing training programs for the field staff of Agriculture Department, private pesticide & seed association especially for the management of Pink bollworm and Cotton Whitefly. Moreover, the scientists of the Institute participated actively in devising fortnightly management strategy for cotton crop during the current season. The Senators appreciated the cotton research and development activities carried out by the Institute and hoped that with the collaborative efforts and government support, the cotton productivity can be enhanced to meet local textile demand.



Publication of "Pakistan Cottongrower"

The Institute has initiated publication of a quarterly journal "Pakistan Cottongrower" which is published in Urdu and English languages. The objective for publication of this journal is to disseminate cotton research findings, research articles, cotton production guidelines, prevailing cotton prices and world cotton outlook. Moreover, highlights of key events held at the Institute are also published in the journal. The current issue contains papers related to (i) cotton crop 2018: challenges & interventions, (ii) Pink bollworm management, (iii) Potassium uptake in cotton through Hydroponics System, (iv) relay cropping (v) impact of temperature on fibre traits, (vi) clean picking, (vii) seed quality improvement (viii) mechanical picking (ix) farmers' field day at CCRI Multan. The journal is well-appreciated by the readers especially agriculture students, farmers and private seed/pesticide sector.



Visit of Agricultural Reporters from Print & Electronic Media

A delegation of agricultural reporters from print and electronic media visited CCRI Multan. The team comprises media persons from Geo TV, Abtak, Rohi TV, Jang, Nawa-i-waqt, Khabrain, Dunya, Pakistan and Daily Aftab. Dr. Zahid Mahmood, Director CCRI Multan briefed the media persons about cotton research and development activities of the Institute. The media persons also visited fields of advanced lines developed by the Institute.



Spot Examination of Candidate Varieties

Spot examination of Bt and Non-Bt candidate lines planted during 2018 season was held at Punjab Seed Corporation Farm, Khanewal on October 22, 2018. Dr. Abid Mahmood, Director General Agriculture (Research), Punjab supervised the program. Cotton Botanist / Breeders of relevant advanced lines attended the program. A total of 46 Bt cotton varieties and 04 Non-Bt cotton varieties from public and private sector institutions were planted which were examined by the Committee. Among these, 04 Bt cotton varieties of CCRI Multan (CIM-343, CIM-663, Cyto-515, Cyto-225) and 01 Non-Bt cotton variety (CIM-717) were also included in the program. Dr. Zahid Mahmood, Director CCRI Multan participated the spot examination of the advanced lines.



Cotton Mechanical Hand Picker

Dr. Asad Farooq, Chairman, Department of Fibre & Textile Technology, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad distributed cotton mechanical hand picker among CCRI Multan; CCRI Sakrand, CRS DI Khan and CRS Ghotki under the project "Agriculture Innovation Program (AIP-07) - Best Cotton Picking Practices for Female Workers using Mechanical Hand Picker". The mechanical hand picker will be tested/demonstrated in fields at various locations. Dr. Zahid Mahmood, Director CCRI Multan appreciated efforts of the Department of Fibre & Textile Technology for developing low cost technologies especially for small farmers.



Cotton Traveling Seminar 2018

The participants of 2018-Cotton Traveling Seminar, organized by the PCCC, visited CCRI Multan on October 21, 2018 and reviewed performance of advanced strains being tested under various trials i.e., National Coordinated Bt. Varietal Trial; National Coordinated Non-Bt Trial, Provincial Coordinated Cotton Trial, and Zonal Varietal Trial. The team was led by Mr. Muhammad Yasin, Cotton Botanist, Cotton Research Institute, Khan Pur. The traveling seminar is being conducted annually to review the performance of advanced cotton lines developed by cotton research institutions, agricultural universities, and private sector seed companies. The varieties are being tested under different agro-ecological zones encompassing the whole cotton belt of the country. Dr. Zahid Mahmood, Director CCRI Multan briefed the participants about performance of advanced lines developed by the Institute. The advanced lines included CIM-303, CIM-632, Cyto-510, Cyto-511, Cyto-515, CIM-678, CIM-789, CIM-343, CIM-663, and CIM-602 exhibiting excellent field performance.



Visit to Cotton Fields



Annual Review of Experiments

Mr. Muhammad Tanveer Javaid , Scientist Emeritus and former Secretary PCCC attended the Annual Review of Experiments conducted by various sections. Dr. Zahid Mahmood, Director CCRI Multan briefed about the progress of cotton varietal development program carried out by the Institute. Mr. Muhammad Tanveer Javaid appreciated the efforts of Dr. Zahid Mahmood in strengthening the breeding program for evolution of high yielding cotton varieties. Mr. Tanveer further stated that the upcoming lines exhibiting excellent field performance will boost confidence among farmers for the CIM varieties. The Sectional Head briefed about the progress of experiments conducted during the season. The Annual Review being started at 06.30 am and ended at around 10.00 am. All the scientific staff of the Institute attended the program.



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