

December 2019

CENTRAL COTTON RESEARCH INSTITUTE, MULTAN



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

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

www.ccri.gov.pk

www.facebook.com/CCRIM.PK

Punjab Seed Council Meeting

53rd meeting of Punjab Seed Council convened under the chairmanship of Malik Nauman Ahmed Langrial, Agricultural Minister Punjab for approval of 25 varieties of different crops. Dr Zahid Mahmood, Director CCRI Multan and Dr Muhammad Idress Khan, Head, Plant Breeding, CCRI Multan participated the meeting and presented the cases of two cotton varieties i.e. Bt.CIM-343 and Bt.CIM-663.



Area Mapping of BCI Project

A meeting was held at CCRI Multan for "Area Mapping of BCI Project Activities of CCRI Multan along with WWF Pakistan existing Project area". CCRI Multan would register 15000 farmers in Multan and Dera Ghazi Khan districts in the first year of the project. The BCI project initiated with an aim to prepare and train farmers to produce cotton of the best quality that is utilized by the leading world brands. The target was set at the second meeting of BCI project that also discussed and finalized mapping of cotton areas and identified areas to be covered by different BCI partners and research bodies in the two south Punjab districts selected in Punjab. Dr.

Zahid Mahmood, Director CCRI Multan chaired the meeting. The meeting decided that the cotton areas located on eastern side of Multan-Bahawalpur road would be covered by CCRI Multan while the western side would be covered by World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Shujabad, another BCI partner. WWF Shujabad experts were already working on cotton areas on the eastern side and it was decided that they would hand over the project units and farmers' record to CCRI Multan. Dr. Zahid Mahmood stated that the BCI project would improve quality of cotton as per international BCI standards, improve financial standing of farmers and would contribute greatly to improving the national economy. Dr. Fiaz Ahmad, BCI Coordinator (Punjab), Mr. Asad Imran,



WWF Pakistan, Mr. Asif Mahmood, BCI Programme Coordinator, Hafiz Muhammad Bakhsh, Project Manager WWF Pakistan, Mr. Abdur Rasheed Bhutto, WWF Programme Coordinator, Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan, Manager WWF, Mr. Muhammad Abu Bakar, WWF Pakistan official and Dr. Naveed Afzal, Sajid Mahmood, CCRI Multan attended the meeting.

Visit of Agriculture Experts from Sindh

A delegation of agriculture experts from Sindh visited CCRI Multan. The delegation comprises Mr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro, Agriculture Specialist SIAPEP, Hyderabad Sindh; Dr. Abdul Sattar Buriro, Coordinator Exposure Visits, Farmers' Field School, Consultant – PS/AC, Ch. Bilal Ahmad, Chairman, Seed Association of Pakistan, Mr. Bilal Israel, Mr. Muhammad Adeel Afzal and Mr. Muhammad Waqas Afzal, cotton farmers attended the meeting. The delegation also visited cotton fields. Dr. Zahid Mahmood, Director CCRI Multan briefed about the activities of the Institute in cotton varietal development.



Farmers Advisory Committee (FAC) Meeting

PCCC's Farmers Advisory Committee (FAC) held its 14th meeting at CCRI Sakrand on 03.12.2019. Dr. Zahid Mahmood, Director CCRI Multan, and Mr. Hidayatullah Bhutto, Director CCRI Sakrand jointly chaired the meeting. Scientists from both the Institutes and progressive farmers from Sindh attended the meeting. The meeting deliberated upon cotton production problems faced by the farmers in both provinces and appropriate measures for improvement were also discussed.



The Farmers Advisory Committee (FAC) advised farmers to immediately remove cotton sticks from their fields and make it ready for wheat sowing pleading that November was the best sowing time to get better wheat yield. The observations were made in the 14th FAC meeting jointly chaired by Dr Zahid Mahmood, Director CCRI Multan and Hidayatullah Bhutto, Director CCRI Sakrand. Farmers can also apply Rotovator to mix cotton sticks in soil to improve fertility and get the soil analyzed before sowing wheat for need-based application of fertilizers. Mixing cotton sticks in soil through Rotovator could improve presence of organic material and this could also be achieved by applying dung fertilizers in empty fields. The FAC also issued an advisory for cotton farmers applicable till Dec 15. The silver fibre crop was passing through its last stage of harvest. The experts said that in areas where cotton crop was still standing, farmers should pick cotton flower only after dew is dried. In case the harvested cotton gets wet somehow then it should be dried first before storage. If farmers need cotton sticks as fuel wood then they should install pheromone traps in the heaps of cotton sticks to kill pink bollworm. Cotton sticks be rested against a

wall and their position be changed after every few days to expose pink bollworm before sunlight to kill it. Farmers should leave animals in their empty field vacated by cotton to let them eat remains of the crop like bolls and leaf. Cotton farmers were also advised to get their stored cotton ginned from cotton factories and seed so obtained be exposed before the sunlight to get it dry. The seed should be stored at a secure and airy facility. Help from some technically skilled person be sought to prepare seed for sowing for the next cotton season. Germination strength of cotton seed should at least be 40-60 per cent for sowing. Heads of different wings of the CCRI Multan and the CCRI Sakrand attended the meeting.

Visit of Researchers from CRI Khanpur

A delegation of cotton scientists from the Cotton Research Institute, Khan Pur visited CCRI Multan. The delegation comprises Mr. Muhammad Yasin, Cotton Botanist; Mr. Taj Muhammad, Assistant Agronomist, Dr. Abdul Khaliq, and Mr. Abdul Raof, ARO. The delegation visited cotton fields and meteorological observatory at the Institute. Dr. Zahid Mahmood, Director CCRI Multan briefed the performance of advanced cotton varieties to the visiting scientists.



Cotton Revival Committee Meeting



Meeting of the Cotton Revival Committee held at Mango Research Station Multan on 07.12.2019 under the chairmanship of Mr. Jahangir Khan Tareen and Mr. Noman Ahmad Langrial, Agriculture Minister Punjab. Dr. Zahid Mahmood, Director CCRI Multan suggested for announcing of cotton

support price to encourage and motivate the farmers for growing cotton. He stated that cotton farmers have suffered a lot due to rising input costs and lower market prices over the past few years. The Committee also recommended to initiate campaign for offseason management of Pink bollworm and Whitefly so as to suppress their population on cotton crop. Dr. Zahid Mahmood, Director CCRI Multan informed th at the Institute has developed Boll Picker Machine for picking the leftover bolls. This will help in eradicating Pink bollworm as well.

Cotton Review Committee

Second meeting of the Cotton Review Committee was held under the chairmanship of Prof. Dr. Asif Ali, Vice Chancellor, MNSUA Multan. The Committee formulated recommendations for implementation at federal, provincial government level, research institute and cotton stakeholders.



Visit of Director General Agriculture Extension Punjab

Dr. Muhammad Anjum Ali, Director General Agriculture (Ext.) Punjab along with his team visited cotton fields of CCRI Multan. Dr. Zahid Mahmood, Director CCRI Multan briefed about the performance of advanced cotton varieties. Dr. Anjum Ali appreciated the research work conducted by the Institute in evolution of cotton varieties. He also hoped that with the collaborative efforts and farmers training programs, the cotton productivity can be enhanced.



Happy New Year



Central Cotton Research Institute, Old Shuja Abad Road, Multan

Phone: 92-61-9201128, Fax: 92-61-9200342,

Web: www.ccri.gov.pk Email: ccri.multan@yahoo.com