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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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2nd Cotton Crop Management Group Meeting

The 2nd meeting of the Cotton Crop Management Group (CCMG) was held at CCRI Multan on June 10, 2019, under the chairmanship of Malik Nauman Ahmad Langrial, Minister for Agriculture, Punjab. Cotton researchers, agriculture research, extension and plant protection officials, academicians, representatives of private pesticide associations, Irrigation, Pakistan Meteorological Department and progressive cotton growers attended the meeting. The meeting deliberated upon the management of cotton crop during the current year.



The departments presented data about canal water supply situation, availability of pesticides, weather forecast during the season. The house was also informed that cotton crop has been sown at 5.052 million acres which is 95.31% of the target and 8.93% more than the last year in Punjab up to 08.06.2019. Malik Nauman Ahmad Langrial, Minister for Agriculture assured that all out efforts will be made for the provision of essential inputs for the cotton crop at affordable prices. Moreover, the department will also remain vigilant for monitoring the quality and prices of inputs. He also stated that ginneries have assured to pay Rs.200 per maund as a premium price for production of clean cotton. He also directed the departments to educate farmers for weed eradication and Pink bollworm management. Moreover, the management strategy must also be disseminated through social media as well as print & electronic for the guidance of cotton farmers.

Cotton Crop Revival Committee Meeting

The 1st meeting of the Cotton Crop Revival Committee” was held at CCRI Multan under the chairmanship of Ali Arshad, Additional Secretary (Task Force). The Committee was constituted during the CCMG meeting held on 10.06.2019, while observing the continuous decline in cotton production in the Punjab province. The objective of the Committee is to chalk out short term plan/strategies for the effective management of cotton crop 2019-20 and devise long term strategy for revival of cotton crop in the Punjab province.



The participants deliberated upon short and long term strategies for the improvement in cotton productivity. The strategies included timely provision of quality pesticides, fertilizers and weedicides at affordable prices, management of Pink bollworm and Whitefly; provision of pheromone traps / PB Ropes and extensive training programs for the cotton farmers. Moreover, desilting of canals and irrigation water availability, crop zoning, proper spraying techniques, and clean picking also included the strategies. Improvement in cotton research programs for development of cotton varieties with high yielding, insect pests & disease resistance, and input-efficient were also recommended.

Visit of Agricultural Experts from SANIFA

Agriculture Experts from SANIFA Agri Services Ltd., Lahore visited CCRI Multan. The group was led by Mr. Moazzam Ahmed Sheikh, CEO SANIFA; Dr. Albert Galeos Santos, Breeding Consultant; Dr. Judith Kay Brown, Expert on CLCuV Monitoring Process in Pakistan and Mr. Muhammad Arshad, Consultant ICARDA. Dr. Judith Brown stated that she is going to establish a laboratory in Pakistan and will train scientists in managing cotton leaf curl virus (CLCuV) disease utilizing molecular tools

and all other sources available. She further stated that the tools already developed during 1990s need to be validated as well. Therefore, there is need to integrated the efforts made by the scientists for managing CLCuV. Dr. Albert Galeos Santos, Breeding Consultant of SANIFA stated that the organization is working for the provision of good quality seed with optimum germination and purity, improving fibre quality and yield improvement. He also appreciated the cooperation of CCRI Multan in their breeding program. Dr. Zahid Mahmood, Director CCRI Multan stated that the economy of farmers needed to be improved by lowering cost of production, increasing productivity as well as proper payment of the produce. The current cotton crop, he stated, faces the problem of seed quality and Pink bollworm. He also invited Dr Brown for initiation of collaborative program in managing CLCuV.



Annual Review Meeting ICARDA Project

Cotton Project Review & Planning Meeting 2019 was held at ICARDA Office, NARC Islamabad on June 13, 2019. Ms. Jessica Mudjitaba-Fernandez Dr. Brian Scheffler, Dr. Jodi Scheffler (USDA-ARS) and Dr. Abdul Majid reviewed the progress. Representatives from various cotton research institutions from CCRI Multan, NIBGE, Faisalabad; CRS, Multan, Vehari & Faisalabad presented the progress of work done.



The meeting deliberated upon review of previous year activities i.e., screening of exotic materials, breeding for CLCuV resistance/tolerance, and testing of materials (developed through US cotton germplasm) in the National Coordinated Varietal Trail (NCVT). Moreover, the modalities for preserving the cotton germplasm were also discussed. The meeting also discussed activities during carried out during the next year i.e., different sowing of filial generation, testing of CIM-303 & CIM-775 in NCVT, maintaining of photoperiod sensitive and CLCuV resistant US Germplasm for flower induction.

Insect Growth Chamber

Inauguration of an Insect Growth Chamber in the Entomology Section at CCRI, Multan provided under the Agriculture Linkage Program (ALP) project sponsored by Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC). The Insect Growth Chamber will contribute to the research activities of Entomology Section, CCRI, Multan. It will help in insect rearing for the study of Insect Toxicology and other Biological Studies.



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