

CCRI NEWS

Central Cotton Research Institute Multan.



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Refresher Course On Cotton Production Technology

CCRI Multan organized one-day Refresher Course on "Cotton Production Technology" for the agricultural officers from public and private sector. A total of 65 field officers from pesticide & seed companies, NGOs (SANIFA, BCI, SWRDO, SMART) and progressive farmers attended the program.

Lectures on cotton agronomy, soil health improvement, varietal development, Pink bollworm and Whitefly management, Insecticide Resistance Management, Biological Control of Pests, Spray Application Techniques & Safe Use of Insecticides, Cotton Diseases & Their Management, Fibre Properties & Testing, and Information Dissemination Methodologies were delivered.

Pre- and post-training evaluation of participants were also conducted to assess the knowledge level of the participants. Later, prizes were also distributed among winners of the evaluation test. Certificates among all the participants were also distributed.

Dr. Zahid Mahmood, Director CCRI Multan stated that the Institute endeavors to upscale the capacity building of the stakeholders in advancements of cotton production technology. He stated that such training programs will be continued during the cotton season for effective management of the cotton crop. He also appreciated the enthusiastic participation of the field staff and hoped that everybody will make efforts for enhancing the cotton production in the country.



Certificate Distribution



Training Session



Field Visit



Online Training Program for Agriculture Officers from KP and Balochistan

CCRI Multan organized an online training program for the agriculture research and extension officials from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan provinces on April 16, 2020. The arrangement was made due to the prevailing COVID-19 pandemic in the country. The online meeting was enthusiastically attended by 40 researchers from the two provinces.

Dr. Zahid Mahmood, Director CCRI Multan briefed about the need for holding the training program. He presented the overall cotton research and development program carried out by the Institute. Later, lectures on cotton agronomy, varietal development and recommendations for suitable varieties as per climatic and agroecological zones, plant nutrition and soil health improvement, and insect pests management. The lecturers were delivered by senior cotton researchers Dr. Rabia Saeed; Dr. Muhammad Naveed Afzal; Dr. Muhammad Idrees; and Dr. Fiaz Ahmad.

While concluding the session, Dr. Zahid Mahmood, Director CCRI Multan thanked all the participants for attending this training program and hoped that the country will soon get rid of this disease, Insha Allah. He urged the participants to remain vigilant and actively participate in the cotton development programs in their respective provinces. CCRI Multan will continue providing support by the provision of quality seed and extensive training programs for the farmers as well as the agriculture researchers of the provinces.



Provision of cotton seeds at farmers' doorstep

Central Cotton Research Institute (CCRI) has urged the farmers to get recommended seeds of cotton at their doorsteps. Dr. Zahid Mehmood, Director CCRI Multan stated that the farmers could contact CCRI Multan for getting cotton seed. CCRI would offer the seeds facility at doorsteps of the farmer. The farmers made call and text their address and demand of variety at 0300-6373428 or 061-9201128 for obtaining seeds. CCRI Multan extended this facility to provide seeds to farmers due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The farmers will have to submit their complete address and the seeds would be given on the government's recommended price. The farmers appreciated this activity for the facilitation of farmers.

Seed Packs for Distribution



Inauguration of Cotton Sowing

The sowing of cotton experiments for the crop season 2020 being inaugurated at the Institute.

Dr. Zahid Mahmood, Director CCRI Multan along with the senior researchers and field staff inaugurated by planting of cotton seed. They also prayed for the betterment of cotton crop, well-being of farmers and the country at large.



Capacity Building Program for Scientific Staff

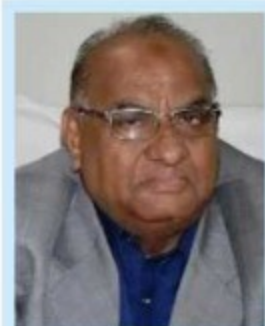
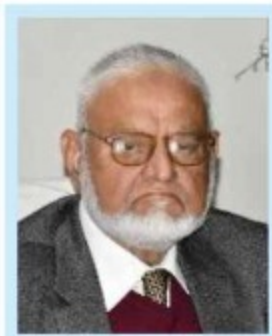
A meeting was held under the chairmanship of Dr. Zahid Mahmood, Director CCRI Multan to review the plan of research experiments to be conducted during the crop season 2020-21.

Mr. Habib ur Rehman, Senior Agriculturalists also attended the meeting and gave input for refinement of experiments and scientific presentation skills.



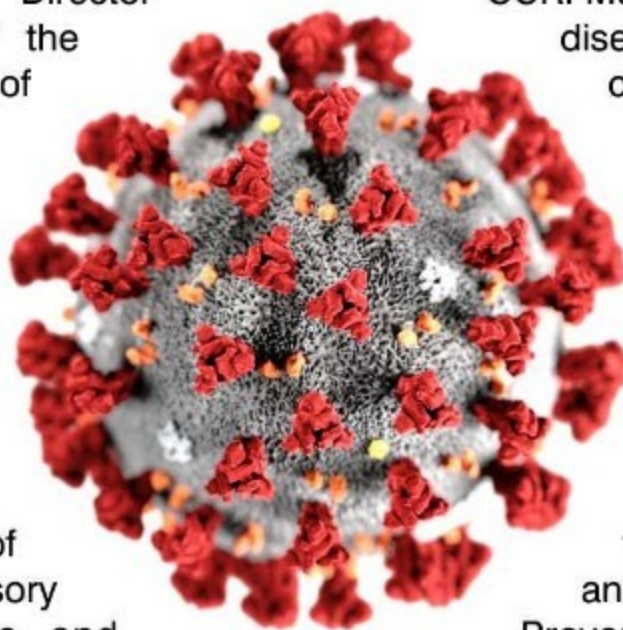
Meeting of Senior Scientists Devising Proposals for Celebrating Golden Jubilee

A meeting was held to devise proposals for holding of events during Golden Jubilee Celebrations of CCRI Multan. The events proposed to be held during month of September/October. The meeting was attended by the former scientists of CCRI Multan (Mr. Muhammad Arshad, Mr. Muhammad Tanveer Javaid; Mr. Abdul Latif Sheikh, Mr. Muhammad Afzal, Ch. Muhammad Ali, Mian Muhammad Anwar, Ch. Noor Illahi); Mr. Habib ur Rehman, BayerCrop Sciences Multan and Heads of Sections of the Institute. The senior scientists conveyed best wishes for the progress of the Institute and also suggested various proposals for organizing this event in a befitting manner.



COVID-19 Awareness Program & Preventive Measures

Corona virus (COVID-19) an infectious disease being spread all over the world including its rising trend in Pakistan. Accordingly, following the guidelines from the government, the Institute took emergent measures by organizing an awareness seminar "COVID-19 & Preventive Measures" for the staff of CCRI Multan. Dr. Zahid Mahmood, Director the prevalence & spread of the He also highlighted importance of measures during office hours. Federal Public Health briefed about the COVID-19 limit the spread of this Similar awareness program female labourers / farm Nabiha Noor briefed about damages and prevention farm workers. Similar carried for the family members of Following the government advisory seminar "COVID-19 Disease and Institute on 17.03.2020; the following be followed strictly by all the officials during working hours till further orders:



CCRI Multan gave detailed briefing about disease and precautionary measures. cleanliness and other safety Dr. Athar Nadeem, Virologist, Department, Canada also and preventive measures to disease. was also arranged for the workers of the Institute. Dr. the Crona Virus, spread, measures among the female awareness program was also the employees.

and recommendations of awareness "Prevention Measures" held at the precautionary measures are hereby advised to

Precautionary Measures

- Follow no-touch greeting to avoid germs expansion. Prefer 'hand waving' over 'handshake'.
- Wash your hand regularly with plenty of soap/liquid soap, alcohol-based sanitizer and water. Don't touch your eyes, mouth or nose with unclean hands.
- Keep distance of at least 1 meter from anyone coughing or sneezing. Don't sneeze or cough into your hands. Use a tissue and throw it away immediately, or sneeze in the inner side of your elbow.
- Gathering of more than 4 persons at the Institute is strictly prohibited. No casual meetings will be held for next three weeks. Meetings on only emergent cases could be arranged.
- Avoid unnecessary or frequent visits of outer persons at the Institute.
- Don't travel or visit crowded places and wear a mask if you're sick.
- If you have a fever, cough, or difficulty in breathing, seek medical assistance.
- Employees are exempted to mark attendance through Biometric till further orders. However, all employees are required to mark their attendance in the Attendance Registrar of relevant section.

In addition, masks and sanitizers were also distributed among staff and field workers. Moreover, Corona Disinfectant Walk-Through Gate was also installed at the Institute for shower spraying of Chlorine.

Awareness Seminar for Scientists / Staff



Awareness Seminar for Women Field Workers



Farmers Advisory Committee (FAC) Meeting

The first meeting of the Farmers Advisory Committee (FAC) was held at CCRI Multan on April 30, 2020 under the chairmanship of Dr. Zahid Mahmood, Director CCRI Multan. While, devising recommendations for the period 1st May to 15th May, 2020 for cotton crop management, he said that cotton growers should analyze the land before planting cotton and ensure the use of recommended fertilizers as per the analysis report and farmers should not apply phosphorus and other fertilizers while preparing the land but for better efficiency. Fertilizers should be used after weeding.

In addition, farmers should apply recommended pesticides to cotton seeds to prevent the onset of sucking insects and do not grow cotton near alternative pest crops such as okra, egg plant etc. In addition, instead of burning crop residues, especially wheat stubble, farmers should mix it well in the soil with the help of rotavator and disc harrow and add half a sack of urea per acre to water it to speed up the decomposition process. The land should be ready for cultivation soon. Before planting cotton, level the soil with the help of laser land leveler. This process will also save 25% of water and increase the efficiency of fertilizers. Keep the distance between plants 9-12 inches and the number of plants per acre at 17.5 to 23 thousands. Before planting, water the fields and plant seeds 1 to 2 inches above the water level. Use a suitable herbicide spray to control herbs within 24 hours after planting.

The Committee Members of the FAC attended the meeting for devising recommendations.



Publication of Pakistan Cottongrower

The Pakistan Cottongrower's first issue of 2020 (January-March) was published during the period. The journal is being distributed among policymakers, stakeholders, educationists and farmers. The current issue contains papers about cotton planting, varietal selection, land preparation, weeds management, cotton biotechnological advancements, and awareness campaign about COVID-19 launched by the Institute. The editorial describes briefly about measures for boosting cotton productivity in the realm of prevailing pandemic in the country.

