

NOVEMBER 2019

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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Annual Review of Cotton Experiments

The performance of research trials conducted by each Section during the cotton season 2019 was being reviewed. Dr. Zahid Mahmood, Director CCRI Multan along with all the scientific and technical staff visited experimental blocks, greenhouse, laboratory work. The respective Sectional Head briefed about the results of studies conducted. The research and development activities focused on climate resilient varieties, CLCuV disease management, efficient fertilizer use, seed health improvement, insect pest management (Pink bollworm, Whitefly, Mealybug etc), insecticide resistance management, high density trials, and technology dissemination programs.

Agronomy Section



Plant Breeding & Genetics Section



Cytogenetics Section



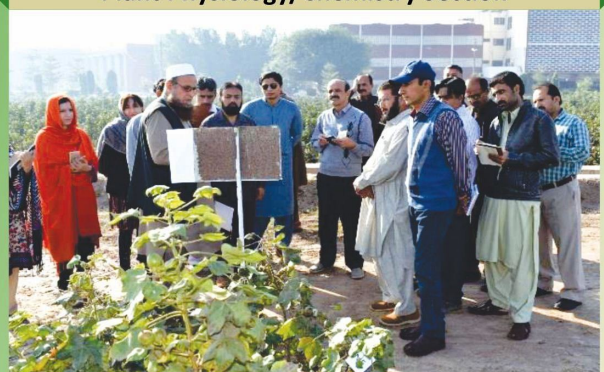
Entomology



Plant Pathology Section

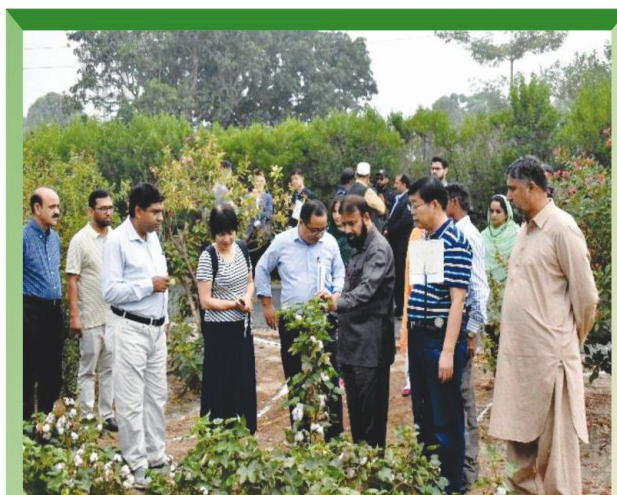


Plant Physiology/Chemistry Section



Pak-China Cotton Cooperation (PCCC) Program

A 9-member high level officials including agriculturalists led by Mr. Wen Wanhe, Group Leader, CMEC International, China visited CCRI Multan on November 2, 2019. Dr. Khalid Abdullah, Vice President, PCCC also accompanied the delegation. The delegation visited in connection with exploring cooperation among Pakistan and China for the development of the agriculture sector especially cooperation in cotton research and development. The Ministry of National Food Security & Research has also made a proposal for the establishment of the Center of Excellence on Cotton Research at Central Cotton Research Centre (CCRI), Multan, in collaboration with the Chinese agro scientists and researchers as it has a stronghold on agriculture research. Dr. Zahid Mahmood, Director CCRI Multan briefed the delegation about cotton research and development activities carried out by the Institute. Later the participants also visited labs and fields.



Cotton Review Committee Meeting

While observing the downfall in cotton production during the crop season 2019, the Federal Government constituted “Cotton Review Committee” under the chairmanship of Prof. Dr. Asif Ali, Vice Chancellor, MNSUA, Multan. The Committee was constituted to evaluate the lower production for the year 2019-20 and make recommendations for the coming years. The first meeting was held at MNSUA Multan on Nov 14, 2019. Cotton researchers from Punjab and Sindh; academicians, representative from Federal Plant Protection Department and progressive grower attended the meeting. The second session of meeting was held with stakeholders as well. Dr Khalid Abdullah, Cotton Commissioner briefed about cotton production scenario in the country. He presented data on decreasing cotton acreage, flare up of Pink bollworm, and marketing issues confronting cotton production. Prof Dr Asif Ali, Vice Chancellor MNSUA Multan stressed for devising solid recommendations for improving cotton productivity and their strict implementation by all stakeholders. He also stressed for technology development and its proper dissemination to the farmers. The house recommended announcement of cotton support price, inclusion of cotton in the Prime Minister Agriculture Emergency Program, approval of advanced cotton varieties and acquisition of advanced technology at the earliest, provision of PB Ropes, and offseason management of Pink bollworm.



Workshop on “Cotton & Climate Change”

CCRI Multan in collaboration with Pakistan Meteorological Department organization one-day awareness program about “Cotton Production under Changing Climatic Conditions” on November 18, 2019. Mr. Muhammad Ajmal Shad, Director, Regional Meteorological Center Lahore talked about “Pakistan Meteorological Scenario and Crop Cultivation” while Dr. Shakeel Ahmad, Chairman Agronomy Department, Bahauddin Zakariya University delivered talk on “Adaption to Climate Change”. Dr. Rabia Saeed, Head Entomology CCRI Multan delivered talk about “Impact of Climate on Insect Pest of Cotton”. Prof. Dr. Jalal Arif, Dean, Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, University of Agriculture Faisalabad; Mian Ahsan ul Haq Laleka, Mr. Khurshid Ahmad Kanjo, Seed Association of Pakistan, agriculture extension officials and farmers attended the program. Dr. Zahid Mahmood, Director CCRI Multan briefed about challenges for cotton production. He described that during the current decade, cotton production has severely been affected due to rising temperatures and onslaught of heavy and prolonged rains. Collaborative efforts required for proper dissemination of weather advisories and rain forecast at district level so that decisions for pest control and crop irrigation could well be taken. The participants of the program also visited the cotton fields of CCRI Multan and appreciated the performance of varietal development.



Visit of Agriculture Extension Officers, Sindh

A twenty-member delegation of Agriculture Officers from Agriculture Extension Department Sindh visited CCRI Multan. Dr. Zahid Mahmood, Director CCRI Multan briefed the delegation about cotton research and development activities carried out by the Institute.



Better Cotton Initiative Program by the PCCC

A consultative meeting of the project “Better Cotton Initiative for Sustainable Cotton Production in Pakistan” was held on 15.11.2019 at PCCC Headquarters Multan. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Khalid Abdullah, VP, PCCC/ Cotton Commissioner, Ministry of National Food Security & Research. Dr. Shafiq Ahmad, Coordinator BCI Pakistan; Dr. Zahid Mahmood, Project Manager; Dr. Fiaz Ahmad, Provincial Coordinator (Punjab) and Mr. Abdul Wahab Soomro, Provincial Coordinator (Sindh), Mr. Hidayatullah Bhutto, Director CCRI Sakrand and Dr. Muhammad Naveed Afzal, Head Agronomy, Mr. Sajid Mahmood, Head Technology Transfer CCRI Multan



also attended. Dr. Zahid Mahmood, Director CCRI Multan / Project Manager (BCI Project) stated BCI project has been initiated with an allocation of Rs. 300 million. This project will be executed in 5 districts; 3 in Sindh (Shaheed Benazir Abad, Noshero Feroz, Dadu) and 2 in Punjab (Multan, DG Khan). Under the project, 30,000 farmers will be targeted during 1st year, the number increasing to 60,000 and 80,000 in 2nd and 3rd years. Dr. Khalid Abdullah, Vice President, PCCC stated that Pakistan was moving forward to producing Better Cotton Initiative (BCI) certified cotton in bulk and a million hectares of land would be brought under BCI production technology in 2020 to meet demand of famous international brands. He also stated that the internationally famous brands that produce products using cotton as raw material intends to buy only BCI cotton after 2025. He further stated that that BCI is an international body that certifies BCI cotton worldwide after a three-tier checking i.e., cotton produced through environment-friendly technology, socially compliant that no child labour was involved and that women workers were paid in full and carry economic benefits for farmers. He further disclosed that Pakistan was the first country to produce BCI certified cotton five years ago and was maintaining momentum to move forward. He said that many NGOs and Punjab government were also working on BCI plan and targeted to bring one million hectares area under BCI certified cotton in 2020. He added that the mentioned project launched by the Ministry of National Food Security & Research would cover a part of the one-million-hectare target in five districts.

Visit of NIM Delegation

The officers of 26th Senior Management Course, National Institute of Management, Lahore visited CCRI Multan in connection with Inland Study Tour Program. Dr. Zahid Mahmood, Director CCRI Multan briefed about activities of the Institute to the visiting officers.



RETIREMENT

A farewell party arranged for Mr. Muhammad Hanif, Beldar, Farm Management who retired on 21.10.2019. Dr. Khalid Abdullah, Vice President, PCCC and Dr. Zahid Mahmood, Director CCRI Multan awarding souvenirs upon his retirement.



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