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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 SINO-PAK International Conference on "Innovations in Cotton Breeding & Biotechnology"

MNS-University of Agriculture (MNSUA), Multan in collaboration with Chinese Academy of Agriculture Sciences (CAAS), China, Central Cotton Research Institute (CCRI), Multan; Bahauddin Zakariya University (BZU) Multan and Cotton Research Institute, Multan organized 2nd SINO-PAK International Conference on "Innovations in Cotton Breeding & Biotechnology".

The scientific theme of the conference included Cotton Breeding, Cotton Genomics & Bioinformatics, Sustainable Cotton Production, Cotton Seed Technology & Science for Farmers.

Dr. Zahid Mahmood, Director CCRI Multan chaired the 3rd Technical Session "Abiotic Stress Management in Cotton" held in the Auditorium of CCRI Multan.

The talks were presented by scientists from Iran, Turkey, China and Pakistan. The talks included bio-fertilizers, precision agriculture, in-vitro culture, climate change, quantifying stress tolerance, physiological/ chemical and morphological response of upland cotton, exploring hydroponics for K-uptake, the genetic basis for water-deficit tolerance, and integrated nutrient management.

Dr. Zahid Mahmood, Director CCRI Multan hoped that the collaborative and inter-regional efforts will help in solving not only production problems of the cotton crop but will also help in improving cotton-based economies of the region. He also hoped that mutually benefit projects especially in cotton biotechnology, exchange of cotton germplasm and cotton scientists, as well as the scientific literature, may be initiated among Cotton Research Institutes for boosting cotton production of this region.



Training Program for Field Staff of Department of Pest Warning & Quality Control of Pesticides

The Regional Agricultural Economic Development Center (RAEDC), Vehari organized training program "Induction training for New Entrants Agriculture Officers (PP)" from 07-11-2018 to 22-11-2018 for the Agriculture Officers of Department of Pest Warning & Quality Control of Pesticides Punjab. Dr. Zahid Mahmood, Director CCRI Multan chaired the closing session and delivered the lecture on "Cotton Varieties and their Yield Potential". Certificate distribution ceremony was also held after the session.



Visit of Former Chairman, National Assembly Standing Committee on Food & Agriculture

Makhdoom Syed Ahmed Alam Anwer, former chairman, National Assembly Standing Committee on Food & Agriculture along with Mr. Azhar Mahmood and Mr. Akhtar Ali Bhatti, cotton growers from Vehari visited CCRI Multan on November 14, 2018. Dr. Zahid Mahmood, Director, CCRI Multan briefed about the performance of advanced lines developed at the Institute. The visitors also visited cotton mechanical picker machine and the cotton fields specified for mechanical picking at the Institute.



Quarterly Meeting of PARB Funded Project

A meeting of the Punjab Agricultural Research Board (PARB) funded projects for the "Management of Cotton Whitefly and Pink bollworm" was held at CCRI Multan on 20.11.2018 under the chairmanship of Dr. Zahid Mahmood, Director CCRI Multan. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Jalal Arif, Chairman, Department of Entomology, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad / Project Manager, briefed about the activities carried out during the period for the management of



cotton whitefly and pink bollworm. The collaborating partners from different institutions also attended the meeting and presented the progress of work done so far.



Meeting of the Experts Sub-Committee of the Sindh Seed Corporation

A meeting of the Experts Sub-Committee of the Sindh Seed Corporation was held at the Directorate of Agricultural Research, Tandojam, Sindh on November 11, 2018 under the chairmanship of Mr. Noor Muhammad Baluch, Director General Agriculture (Research), Sindh. Cases of cotton varieties from various public and private sector institutions were presented. Dr. Muhammad Idrees Khan, Head, Plant Breeding & Genetics, CCRI Multan presented cases of Bt.CIM-602 and Bt.CIM-616 from CCRI, Multan. Dr. Zahid Mahmood, Director CCRI Multan presented cases of GH-Baghdadi, GH-Deebal, GH-Mubarak, GH-142, GH-Hammad from CRS, Ghotki.



Training Program for Field Assistants

A delegation of 60 Field Assistants of Agriculture Extension Department, Bahawalpur coordinated by WWF-Pakistan visited CCRI Multan on November 6, 2018, in connection with study trip for better cotton production. Dr. Zahid Mahmood, Director CCRI Multan briefed the delegation about latest technologies for cotton crop production. Later, cotton picking through mechanical cotton picker was also demonstrated to the participants.



Visit of Vice President, PCCC

Dr. Khalid Abdullah, Vice President, PCCC visiting cotton fields of advance lines developed by the Institute. Dr. Zahid Mahmood, Director CCRI Multan briefing about various features of advanced lines tolerant to disease, insect pests and drought with bigger bolls and high yield.



Meeting of the Cotton Biotechnology Group

A quarterly meeting of the "Cotton Biotechnology Group" was held on October 30, 2018, under the chairmanship of Dr. Zahid Mahmood, Director CCRI Multan. Dr. Muhammad Idrees

Khan, Head Plant Breeding briefed about the activities carried out so far in this aspect. The Group has been established to focus on the application of advanced biotechnological tools for addressing problems of insect pests and diseases and other environmental stresses on the cotton crop. The Group has so far performed in streamlining & repair of required equipment, arrangements for the chemicals, established the protocols for different procedures like DNA extraction, GEL electrophoresis, prepared stock solution and working solution, genomic DNA extraction from cotton leaves, Gel electrophoresis for DNA analysis, DNA quantification on the Spectrophotometer, qualitative and quantification testing of cotton sample through ELISA for Cry1AC testing of seed cotton for GMO status.



Mehfil-e-Milad-un-Nabi (SAW)

A Mehfil-e-Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) was held in the newly erected Mosque at CCRI Multan on November 23, 2018. The program started with recitation of the verses from the Holy Quran and Naat Rasool Maqbool (SAW). Scientists, administrative and field staff of the Institute attended the Mehfil to express their deep affection for beloved Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (SAW) and Allah for His countless blessings. Program concluded with an overwhelming recitation of Dua for the prosperity of the country and for the unity of Muslim Ummah.



Retirement

A farewell party was organized on the eve of retirement of Syed Zameer Abbas Shah, Laboratory Technician Assistant, Plant Physiology/Chemistry Section. Mr. Shah joined CCRI Multan on 20.08.1983 and served the Institute dedicatedly and whole-heartedly for more than 35 years. His behavior and conduct with fellow colleagues and seniors remained excellent. Dr. Zahid Mahmood, Director CCRI Multan lauded the services and contributions of Mr. Shah



for the Institute and wished him good for the future. The fellow colleagues presented souvenirs and gifts to him, as well.



FAO Round Table Consultation

Second Roundtable Consultation on Development of Project on “Strengthening of Seed Supply System in Pakistan” was held at FAO Office, NARC Premises, Islamabad on 29th November 2018. Dr. Shakeel Ahmad Khan, Seed Sector Specialist, FAO gave a briefing about the strengthening of the seed sector in Pakistan. The meeting deliberated on the formalization of Foundation Seed Cell, supporting Fruit Plant Certification, Distinctness, Uniformity, Stability (DUS) Testing, and Seed Technology Training. Dr.

Zahid Mahmood, Director CCRI Multan attended the meeting and deliberated upon the need for the establishment of Foundation Seed Cell for the cotton crop and assistance required from the FAO in this regard.



Visit of Mr. Ejaz Sheikh, EMS R&D Solutions, UK

To explore the feasibility of growing naturally-grown colored cotton with its varying color shades, Mr. Ejaz Sheikh, Consultant, EMS R&D Solutions Ltd., England, visited CCRI Multan on 28.11.2018.

Mr. Ejaz Sheikh who is working on a project “Water Pollution Prevention” with an objective of preventing water-borne diseases, preserving fast receding precious resource of drinkable water by using less and preventing contaminated water going back into water bed to pollute the rest, reducing pollution, global warming and carbon footprint, earn Pakistan and community prestigious place in the world. While, exploring the potential for developing naturally-colored cotton for development of 10-12 colors of Organic Colored Cotton (Cost, Time etc) for the guaranteed successful outcome.

Dr. Zahid Mahmood, Director, CCRI Multan offered to participate in such collaborative arrangements for developing naturally-colored cotton with different color shades. Mr. Ilyas Sarwar, Head, Fibre Technology briefed about various quality testing phases for colored cotton production. Mr. Ejaz Sheikh was impressed with the research & development work related to colored cotton and hoped that mutual collaboration will benefit in exploring more colors as well as the market for the colored cotton.





Review of PARB-Funded Projects

Mr. Abdul Rehman, Research Monitoring & Evaluation Officer, Punjab Agricultural Research Board (PARB), Lahore visited CCRI Multan on 28.11.2018 to review the performance of PARB-funded projects. Dr. Zahid Mahmood, Director CCRI Multan apprised about activities carried out for the management of Pink bollworm and cotton whitefly during the season. Dr. Rabia Saeed, Head, Entomology presented the detailed briefing on research and development activities.



Meeting of the Technical Working Group

A meeting of the Technical Working Group was held at Mango Research Institute, Multan on 30.11.2018 under the chairmanship of Ms Benish Fatima, Additional Secretary (Task Force) to discuss issues related to cotton crop 2018 and planning for the next crop season. Dr. Rabia Saeed, Head, Entomology CCRI Multan attended the meeting.



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