

Proceedings of the special session on  
**'Combating cotton leaf curl virus disease –CLCuD'**

Two special sessions on 'Combating Cotton Leaf Curl Virus Disease –CLCuD' were organized on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2014 and 8<sup>th</sup> April 2014 during the Annual workshop of the All India Coordinated Cotton Improvement Workshop held at the Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana.

The first open session was chaired by Dr C. D. Mayee with the following panel members

**Expert panel of the first special session**

Dr C. D. Mayee, Chairman

Dr. N. Gopalakrishnan, ADG (Commercial Crops), ICAR

Dr. P. K. Chakrabarty, ADG (Plant Protection), ICAR

Dr. K. R. Kranthi, Director, Central Institute for Cotton Research, Nagpur

Dr. S. S. Siwach, Director of Research, CCSHAU

Dr. A. Barik, Additional Commissioner, Ministry of Agriculture

Dr. A. H. Prakash, Project Coordinator, AICCIP.

The issue of re-emergence of the Cotton Leaf Curl Virus Disease as a major threat for cotton cultivation in North India was discussed intensively in the presence of about 200 cotton scientists from the ICAR, SAUs and about 25 representatives of the seed companies.

Based on the deliberations, a list of recommendations were drafted and discussed in the second special session.

The second special session was held under the chairmanship of Prof S. K. Datta, DDG (CS), ICAR on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2014, with the following panel members to discuss and approve the recommendations in the annual AICCIP workshop comprising of the cotton scientists and representatives of the seed companies.

**Expert panel of the second special session**

Dr S. K. Datta, DDG (CS) Chairman

Dr C. D. Mayee, Former Chairman, ASRB

Dr Ramasamy, MD, Rasi Seeds

**Recommendations**

- There is a need to revisit the epidemiology of the CLCuD (Cotton leaf curl virus disease) and revise the existing procedures that are used in estimating the indices of susceptibility to CLCuD. The protocols for the trials, data recording, monitoring schedules, criteria for categorization as Highly susceptible, Susceptible, Moderately Resistant, tolerant and Resistant shall be finalized by the committee under the Chairmanship of Dr.C.D.Mayee, former Chairman, ASRB, New Delhi.

- Hybrids categorized as 'Highly Susceptible' to CLCuD in the CICR report based on the surveys conducted in 2013, should not be permitted for cultivation during 2014 in leaf curl affected regions (Entire Punjab and Haryana and Sriganganagar and Hanumangarh districts of Rajasthan).
- During 2014-15 Kharif season, all entries of varieties / hybrids should be tested for susceptibility to CLCuD in AICCIP coordinated field trials in 2 locations at Punjab, 2 locations in Haryana and one location in Sriganganagar.
- The NSAI shall coordinate and ensure all the member companies to submit the seeds of 2 -3 hybrids (out of the 250 approved hybrids by GEAC) for testing.
- Additionally, the seed companies may also submit 2-3 newly proposed hybrids to be tested in a separate trial for data requirement of CLCuD reaction that may be considered by the EBAM (Event based approval mechanism -Standing committee of the GEAC).
- All entries shall be coded.
- The field trials will be conducted under uniform production package across the locations with 2 dates of sowing (Normal and Late Sowing).
- An 'AICCIP-Consortium Team' will jointly monitor the coordinated field trials to categorize the entries for their reaction to CLCuD. The team shall have two members from NSAI, one from CICR, one each from the respective SAU of the three states and one each from the State Department of Agriculture.
- The trials will be conducted every year for the results to be considered to restrict the cultivation of susceptible varieties/hybrids from the immediate subsequent year. For example, the results of 2014-15 coordinated field trials will be submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture, GOI, with clear recommendations for restrictions to be imposed on the CLCuD-susceptible varieties/hybrids 'NOT TO BE APPROVED FOR CULTIVATION' in the specific state during 2015 and thereafter.
- State level meetings may be organized by the Ministry of Agriculture to coordinate the recommendations based on the results submitted by the 'AICCIP Consortium Team'.
- Varieties/hybrids not tested under the coordinated trials shall not be permitted to be sold in the state.
- A sum of Rs. 10,000/ per entry per location shall be charged as testing fees for the CLCuD-evaluation of the entries.
- In addition the State Government may be requested for timely release of canal water, so that the cotton sowing in the North Zone should be completed before 20<sup>th</sup> May.

State Government may also encourage farmers to grow only short duration/ early maturing hybrids.

- Plant protection division of MOA should undertake joint surveys of CLCuV incidence in North Zone on regular basis utilizing the expertise of scientists from the SAU and ICAR. Results of the survey and recommendations shall be published as fortnightly reports so that respective State Government can take preventive / appropriate measures.
- The State Department of Agriculture may be advised to educate the farmers to grow the *Desi* cotton species *Gossypium arboreum* varieties of cotton along with international border of North Zone wherever possible to create a CLCuV Buffer Zone as per the recommendations of the 'Anupam Verma Committee report'.

Note: Any changes or modifications in the proceedings should be with the consent of the Hon'ble DDG (CS).