

Central Institute for Cotton Research, Nagpur

Third Weekly Advisory for Cotton Cultivation 17th-22nd June 2013

"The advisory is based on inputs received from the State Agricultural Universities of the respective states"

Weed management: Wherever grassy weeds have emerged prior to sowing, glyphosate may be used as directed spray to kill the weeds and sowing may be taken up a few hours later. Pendimethalin may be used as a pre-emergence weedicide prior to sowing or within a week after sowing, to reduce the problem of weeds during the season.

NORTH INDIA

General recommendations for North Zone:

Sowing of Desi as well as American cotton has already been completed. Temperature was comparatively less than last week. The maximum temperature was 44.4 °C. Prevailing dry weather and hot conditions are causing the burning of seedlings more in desi cotton. Irrigation can be applied if the seedlings are month old. Farmers were advised to keep higher seed rates at the time of sowing for maintaining optimum plant population. Though population of thrips have been noticed in cotton, it was below economic threshold level. Farmers have been advised to monitor the crop regularly.

Punjab

Cotton sowing is complete in the State of Punjab. Farmers are advised to apply first irrigation to more than four weeks cotton crop, Thinning of the extra plants is to be done. Apply first installment of nitrogen fertilizer as per recommendation. Maximum temperature of 44.1°C, minimum of 28.1°C has been recorded at weather observatory of PAU, Regional Station, Bathinda.

Haryana

In Haryana, most of the sowing of cotton crop has been completed in the State. Farmers are advised as follows: (1) Complete sowing up to 10th June and it should be done in evening hours (2) Increase seed rate by 25 per cent (3) Gap filling should be done with the same variety/hybrid (4) Thinning may be done if required (5) Water spray be done in evening hours to protect germinating seedlings from heat burning (6) Synchronized and timely sowing of short duration varieties/Bt hybrids (7) Removal of weeds in and around fields (8) Balanced use of fertilizers (9) Mild attack of thrips and white fly has been noticed on seedlings but no need to spray.

Rajasthan

At Banswara, the farmers are advised to deep plough the vacant fields and go for sowing of cotton crop in furrows in irrigated area. At Sriganaganagar, maximum temperature of 46^o C with pest incidence of painted bug was noticed.

Uttar Pradesh

Crop is in vegetative stage. Farmers are advised to remove the weeds in the cotton fields and apply life saving irrigation after 25 to 30 days of sowing.

CENTRAL INDIA

Gujarat

Maximum and minimum temperature during the last week was 38.0°C and 30.0°C respectively. Bright sunshine conditions prevailed varying from 4.4 to 9.8 hours/day. Relative humidity varied between 76 to 89 per cent. Wind speed ranged from 1.8 to 10.4 Km/hr during the last week, and at the same time cloudy weather was observed. However, there was no rainfall.

Madhya Pradesh

Weather in Malwa and Nimar has received 47.5 mm precipitation during this week. Max. Temp varied between 33.0°C to 38.5°C while Min. Temp. was around 22°C to 27°C in the region. Humidity ranged between 71-82 per cent. Sowing of cotton is in progress where irrigation facilities are available in the pockets of Nimar and adjoining Malwa region. Farmers depending on rainfed system are waiting for premonsoon rainfall. Showers are received in some pockets of Malwa and Nimar during this week. They are advised to prepare the field properly. If 3-4 inches rains received in this rainfed area, the farmers will start sowing. Crop already transplanted in the field may suffer sucking pest attack.

Maharashtra

Early maturing B hybrids that are resistant to sucking pests may be preferred and should be sown immediately within the week for best results. Farmers opting for Bt hybrids should purchase those hybrids which are performing better in their area and non-Bt refuge plants should be grown on borders around Bt fields. Farmers should purchase the cotton seed and fertilizer for sowing in advance. Cleaning of stubble and harrowing should be done. Fertilizer for irrigated Bt 120:60:60 and non Bt 100:50:50 NPK kg/ha N should be split in three times (40 kg at sowing, 40kg at 30DAS and 40kg at 60 days after sowing. P and K should be applied as basal. Irrigation should be given at 5 to 7 days interval for ridge sowing and under drip every day 1.5 to 2 litres water per day may be given.

Odisha

As good amount of rainfall is expected, farmers may go for land preparation with MB plough. Procure the inputs like cotton seeds, herbicides and fertilizers from reliable sources. Apply FYM @ 5t/ha during final land preparation. Collect soil samples and get it tested for its pH and nutrient availability. The places that received rainfall is suitable for immediate land preparation. It is time to purchase of agricultural inputs i.e. seed, fertiliser etc in order to avoid delay sowing.

SOUTH INDIA

Andhra Pradesh

Deep summer ploughing is under progress. Summer showers helped in preparatory cultivation in some parts of Andhra Pradesh. Farmers are advised to apply FYM @ 4 t/acre (10 cart loads) besides the recommended fertilizers. In general, sowings will be taken up during 2nd fortnight of June in Telangana & Rayalaseema districts while from 2nd fortnight of July to 1st fortnight of August in coastal Andhra Pradesh. For acid delinting, seed should be treated with 80-100 ml H₂ SO₄ per kg of seed for 2-3 minutes followed by lime solution and thorough washing with water 2-3 times to make the seed acid free. Seed treatment with appropriate insecticide(s); Imidacloprid 70 WS @ 5.0 g or Thiomethoxam 70 WS @ 4.0 g or Imidacloprid 48 FS @ 9.0 ml or Carbosulfan 25 DS @ 40.0 g/kg of seed followed by, treatment with *Pseudomonas fluorescens* @ 10.0 g or *Trichoderma viridae* @ 8.0 g or *T. hargianum* @ 8.0 g or Carbendazim 50 WP @ 2.0 g or Mancozeb 75 WP @ 3.0 g or Captan 50 WP 3.0 g or Thiram 75 WP @ 3.0 g/kg of seed.

Tamil Nadu

In the summer irrigated zones of Tamil Nadu (Parts of Tirunelveli, Virudhunagar, Ramanathapuram and Madurai District), the cotton crop is in boll development stage. The weather prevailed during the reporting period was moderately dry and mild wind was noticed for few days. Nipping may be recommended for 75- 80 DAS on 15th node for varieties and 85- 90 DAS on 20th node for hybrids to arrest the terminal growth. Need based plant protection measures may be followed where boll worm incidence appeared in some areas.

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