

SEED UPDATE

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Area under Bt cotton cultivation up 39%: study

TIMES NEWS NETWORK [WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2007 07:40:53 PM]

HYDERABAD: The total area planted in the country under Bt cotton has gone up from 6.2% in 2004-05 to 39% in 2006-07. According to a study conducted by IMRB International, of the 91.32-lakh hectares under cotton cultivation in India, about 35.61 lakh hectares is under certified Bt cotton cultivation.

The overall cotton production in the country has also increased from 19.2 million bales in 2005-06 to 21 million bales in 2006-07. The study also reveals that Bt cotton seeds were able to provide better return on investment to farmers compared to other hybrids.

"While the area under certified Bt cotton cultivation has gone up significantly, the increase in the total area under cotton cultivation is marginal at about 5%. Approved Bt cotton also enjoys a lion's share in the overall hybrid seeds market in the country. Of the 150 lakh packets of hybrid seeds sold last year certified Bt seeds account for about 35 lakh packets," said Dr Paresh Verma, spokesperson of All India Crop Biotech Association.

Addressing a press meet on Wednesday, Vivek Khattar, associate vice-president & research services director (Business and Industrial Research Division) of IMRB said, the study was conducted in 23 districts across five cotton growing states of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. "The study shows that in Andhra Pradesh, the profit as a percentage of investment for farmers using certified Bt cotton seeds was about 57% against 44% recorded by farmers using non Bt hybrid seeds," he said.

In Maharashtra, the profit percentage was 73% for Bt cotton as against 62% for non-Bt hybrids. Gujarat farmers got the highest profit at 80% compared to 78% for non-Bt. In Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, Bt cotton brought in 49% profit as against 42% by non-Bt hybrids. "The average yield of cotton in India has also shown an upward trend of 503 kg per hectare in 2006-07 against 470 kg per hectare in 2004-05," said Mr Khattar.

The study also revealed that the yield pattern and crop failure depended on the irrigation facilities and agriculture practices followed by farmers. "Most of the farmers faced financial distress due to the non-availability of crop loans on times. As banks fail to provide them the required financial assistance, they had to approach the moneylenders and this aggravated their condition," he said.

Talking about the seed prices, he said, it accounted for only 10% of the input cost. "It is the labour cost that accounts for a major portion of the input cost and banks do not offer loan facility for that. Bank loans are available only for procuring seeds, fertilizers and pesticides," he

Dear sir,

Ugadi Shubhakankshalu ! We wish that this new year will bring all the prosperity to you.

With the advent of the season your good self might be on the heels to catch up with the market demands. In this issue of Gubba Seed Update, apart from articles on Seed Industry we also have a quiz on seeds. This would tinker your grey cells for a while

We are also pleased to mention that we are introducing Stock details online. You can very soon see all your stock details at Gubba on the click of a button. Moreover, it is secured with username and password, and only your authorised person can only see that.

With the onset of monsoons in a couple of months, we at Gubba, wish you a bumper season ahead.




Gubba Kiran

Kiran@gubbagroup.com

Vidarbha village gives up cotton farming

Farmers of Kolzari village in Yavatmal district of Vidarbha have decided to give up cotton cultivation in the New Year. More than 70 families of the village took a resolution-"no price, no crop"- at a meeting. Even as Kolzari villagers decided to give up cotton farming, the suicide spree continued in the region with five more farmers dying taking the toll to 1,065 in 2006, according to Vidarbha Jan Andolan Samiti. "Cotton is the root cause of our distress and economic crisis," said Prakash.

Raju Rathod, sarpanch of Ambezari, a neighbouring village, said they will follow suit and more from the district may boycott cotton farming. Source: Agriculture Today



“ఆంధ్రలో బీటీ పత్తి వేసిన రైతుల్లో కొందరు ఆత్మహత్యలకు పాల్పడుతున్నారు. సుమారు 3వేల మంది చనిపోయారు. కానీ గుజరాత్ లో ఇదే పత్తిని సాగు చేసిన రైతులు సంవత్సరాంతానికి కొత్త మారుతీ కారుతో ఇంటికి వస్తున్నారు. కారణం నీటి యాజమాన్యమే...”
 -గుజరాత్ ముఖ్యమంత్రి నరేంద్ర మోడీ

Warangal Bt cotton leads to de-skilling - RITU GUPTA

TIMES NEWS NETWORK [TUESDAY, JANUARY 30, 2007 12:00:00 AM]

NEW DELHI: Bt cotton may not be a silver lining for farmers in the Warangal district of Andhra Pradesh who are using the GM crop as a solution to virulent pest attacks.

A multi-year ethnography by Glenn Davis Stone from Washington University shows that Warangal Bt cotton farming has led to 'agricultural deskilling'. The Bt seed fads do not have an environmental basis, and farmers generally lack recognition of what is actually being planted. This is a contrast to the highly strategic seed selection processes in areas where technological change is learned and gradual.

In Gujarat, the loss of corporate control over the Bt technology has led to an increased involvement of farmers in local breeding, and an apparent increase in knowledge-based innovation.

The findings of Stone imply more woes for the district that is a key cotton growing area of the country. Farmers here commit suicide every year due to repeated crop failures owing to virulent pest attack. The crop failure increases the cost of cultivation and leads to high debts. Reports compiled by farmers' wing of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) show that during a single month in 2006 about 279 farmers had committed suicide.

In fact, the 'deskilling problem' precedes the use of Bt cotton, Stone points out. Its root causes are reliance on hybrid seed, which must be repurchased every year, and a chaotic seed market in which products come and go at a furious pace and farmers often cannot tell what they are using.

Farmers' desire for novelty exacerbates the turnover of seeds in the market, Stone argues, and seed firms frequently take seeds that have fallen out of favour, rename them, and resell with new

Heat's getting on to rice

Prabha Jagannathan NEW DELHI

Global warming is not just changing the climate drastically the world over, but actively threatening to lower the production of India's (and Asia's) key staple by at least 7% (over pre-determined levels) by 2020 and to a maximum of 60% by the end of this century. In fact, the scientific world views the threat of increasingly high temperatures to rice - now the principal crop for India's food security with 44.6 million ha area and 89 mtonne in production - as a mammoth problem. Temperature is a major determinant of crop development and growth. Studies show that rice yields would dip by 10% for every one degree Celsius increase in minimum temperature during the growing season. Climatologists expect global mean

air temperatures to go up by 1.4-5.8% Celsius by the end of this century depending on changes in greenhouse gas concentrations. In the worst case scenario, that could mean at least a 60% reduction in yield per ha by the end of this century.

At the current rate of population growth, rice production in India has to be enhanced to about 122 million tonne by 2020 to meet demand. Ninety per cent of the world's rice is produced and consumed in tropical Asia, and this one factor alone is likely to force agri-research into rice varieties that are highly temperature tolerant, through cultivar screening and identifying higher tolerance.

Extensive scientific studies presented at the International Rice Research Conference in October 2006 have contended that the results of climate change impact assessment show general rice yields being seriously adversely affected not just in north-west India the food bowl, but countrywide.

Prabha.
 jagan_nathan@timesgroup.com

“ALWAYS PLEASING TO VISIT A WELL MANAGED COLD ROOM, AND PARTICULARLY IMPRESS ME TO SEE HOW WELL THE NEEDS OF DIFFERENT PRODUCTS ARE HANDLED WITH THE ONE FACILITY. I LOOK FORWARD TO OUR CONTINUED ASSOCIATION.”
 Mr. Rod Jamieson, Monsanto, Thailand

DBT contemplates changes to GM crop field trial regulations

Faced with the problem of maintaining the country's image as an exporter of GM-free rice, the department of biotechnology (DBT) is now contemplating changes in its guidelines for regulation of field trials for genetically modified (GM) crops. DBT secretary, MK Bhan, DBT advisor KK Tripathi and advisor in the science and technology ministry, SR Rao have suggested that no field trials of GM rice should be allowed in Basmati rice producing states Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Punjab.

Source: Agriculture

Today

Seeds get their registry

The government on Tuesday began registration of seeds developed by farmers, which would help them benefit financially by getting an exclusive right over the variety for

commercial production. "The registration under the Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act is a historic and path-breaking development in Indian agriculture: union food and agriculture minister Sharad Pawar said while launching the registration. India has to circumscribe

Source: The Economic Times Wednesday, 21 February 2007



In the picture is seen **Mr. Gubba Prashant** presenting on **“An Overview on Seed Preservation”**. Mr.Gubba Prashant was invited by National Seeds Corporation(NSC) to educate the Seed Industry about Seed Preservation. National Seeds Corporation organised a training programme on **“Seed Processing and Storage”** at IGMRI, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad. The training program was conducted especially for the Seed Industry. Also seen in the picture is Mr. Kodali Nageshwar Rao who also gave a presentation on “ Seed

Quiz your seed IQ

QUESTION

Hybrid varieties are generally superior to open-pollinated types because:

- A. They produce higher yields
- B. They mature earlier and more uniformly
- C. They resist more diseases
- D. All of the above [Click to Review](#)

ANSWER

Hybrid varieties are generally superior to open-pollinated types because:

- A. True
- B. True
- C. True

QUESTION

2. Ideal growing conditions are required for the production of high quality seed. Off-season production should be avoided.

ANSWER

2. Ideal growing conditions are required for the production of high quality seed. Off-season production should be avoided.

QUESTION

3. How does the breeder select which line is the female line?

- A. The line with most attractive fruits
- B. The line that produces most seeds
- C. The line with shorter vines

ANSWER

3. How does the breeder select which line is the female line?

- A. Wrong
- B. The line that produces most seeds
- C. Wrong

QUESTION

5.To prevent self-pollination, which of these flower parts must be removed before it sheds its pollen?

- A. Style
- B. Stamens
- C. Ovary

ANSWER

5. To prevent self-pollination, which of these flower parts must be removed before it sheds its pollen?

- A. Style -- Wrong
- B. Stamens -- Correct! Review
- C. Ovary -- Wrong
- D. Both A and C -- Absolutely wrong!

QUESTION

6. Why are female lines staked and pruned?

- A. Easier to pollinate flowers
- B. Less rotting of fruits
- C. Both A and B
- D. Trick question. Only male lines are staked.

ANSWER

6. Why are female lines staked and pruned?

- A. True
- B. True
- C. Both A and B -- best answer

QUESTION

7. When is the best time to harvest pollen for making crosses?

- A. Early morning
- B. Early afternoon
- C. Late afternoon before sunset

ANSWER

7. When is the best time to harvest pollen for making crosses?

- A. Early morning -- before pollen is shed
- Too late, pollen has already been released
- Too late, pollen has already been released

QUESTION

8. What technique is used to identify fruits containing hybrid seeds?

- A. Fruits are tagged
- B. Flower sepals are dipped
- C. Fruits are sprayed with dye

ANSWER

8. What technique is used to identify fruits containing hybrid seeds?

- A. Wrong
- B. Correct!
- C. Wrong
- D. Wrong

QUESTION

9. Which of these statements is false:

- A. Hybrid seed production is labor intensive
- B. Non-crossed flowers & fruits are removed
- C. Flowers are pollinated approximately 2 days after emasculation
- D. Fruits from both male and female lines contain hybrid seed

ANSWER

9. Which of these statements is false:

- Wrong, it's true
- Wrong, it's true
- Wrong, it's true
- Correct, it's false. Only flowers from female lines are crossed to

QUESTION

10. Fruits should be collected in sturdy metallic containers to avoid bruising.

- A. True
- B. False

ANSWER

10. Fruits should be collected in sturdy metallic containers to avoid bruising.

- A. Wrong
- B. Don't use metallic containers.

QUESTION

11. After extraction, why are tomato seeds fermented?

- A. Removes seed-borne diseases
- B. Kills seed-boring insects
- C. Removes gel that surrounds seeds
- D. Removes seed dormancy

ANSWER

11. After extraction, why are tomato seeds fermented?

- A. Wrong
- B. Wrong
- C. Correct!
- D. Wrong

QUESTION

12. Which of these strategies is used for long-term storage of seeds?

- A. Warm, dry, well-ventilated conditions
- B. Fungicidal seed coating
- C. Cold Storage with Temperature and Humidity Control
- D. Cold Storage

ANSWER

12. Which of these strategies is used for long-term storage of seeds?

- A. Wrong, warm temps are harmful
- B. Wrong, apply coatings before sowing
- C. Correct!



please do mail us on support@gubbagroup.com with your recommendations and concerns to serve you better.


Gubba
GUBBA COLD STORAGE LTD.
GUBBA AGRO FRESH (P) LTD.

Office : 3-6-305/43/1, Avantinagar, Basheerbagh, Hyderabad-500 029. **Ph :** 66787626, 66848626 **Fax:** 040-66133626
Plant : GCS 109 to 111, GAF 101 & 103, IDA Medchal, R.R. Dist. **Ph:** 08418222161, 08418260383
Web: www.gubbagroup.com **Email:** support@gubbagroup.com