

# Preface

Cotton plays an important role in the Indian economy as the country's textile industry is predominantly cotton based. India is one of the largest producers as well as exporters of cotton yarn. The Indian textile industry contributes around 5 per cent to country's gross domestic product (GDP), 14 per cent to industrial production and 11 per cent to total exports earnings. The industry is also the second-largest employer in the country after agriculture, providing employment to over 51 million people directly and 68 million people indirectly, including unskilled women. The textile industry is also expected to reach US\$ 223 billion by the year 2021. With the advances in technology and value addition, now it is grown for food, oil and feed purpose. Today the increased trade in grains and competition from synthetic fibers have reduced the relative importance of cotton, but its world consumption continues to grow. Cotton will continue to be a significant commodity in future world trade.

During the last Fifty years or so the field of Cotton research and production technology have reached new horizons especially in the areas of Cotton Improvement and Plant Protection through newer and more efficient technologies. Improvement in Cotton has provided more convincing evidence and definite use of biotechnology in India which has resulted in increasing the production and is next only to China in production. This year's Annual Report is all about capturing the dynamic quality that permeates every facet of cotton growth and development. The cultivation of cotton provides a long-term sustainable source for urban and rural communities, along with a satisfying and rewarding challenge for those who have involved their lives in this plant and its culture. The climate resilient technologies are an in-built mechanism under AICRP on Cotton, thereby leading to sustainability of cotton cultivation, which resulted in the productivity of 524 kg lint/ha kg/ha.

The financial and administrative support extended by ICAR, New Delhi; ICAR-CICR, Nagpur; DOCD, Nagpur and NFSM-Commercial Crops of DAC & FW, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, GOI, New Delhi are gratefully acknowledged. I believe that the success we achieved is through the goodwill and personal contributions made by many members. Leading from the front is **Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra**, Secretary, DARE, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare & Director General, ICAR, New Delhi. I express my deep sense of gratitude to our Hon'ble Director General, ICAR, for his valuable guidance and direction in running the activities of AICRP on cotton.

I place on record my sincere thanks to **Dr A. K. Singh**, Hon'ble Deputy Director General (Crop Science), ICAR, New Delhi for constant encouragement and guidance for the progress of AICRP. **Dr. R. K. Singh**, Assistant Director General (Commercial Crops), ICAR, New Delhi, is always approachable and shows a great sign of patience and has been guiding all through the year, on both financial and technical issues. **Dr. Vijay N Waghmare**, Director, ICAR-CICR, Nagpur and **Dr. P.G. Patil**, Director, ICAR-CIRCOT, Mumbai, have been very helpful and remain as sources of strength and knowledge for efficient running of the AICRP programme, for which I am greatly indebted to them. It is a great pleasure to acknowledge the full cooperation extended by **Dr. S. Manickam**, Principal Investigator (Plant Breeding), **Dr. K Sankaranarayanan**, Principal Investigator (Agronomy), **Dr. (Mrs.) B. Dharajothi**, Principal Investigator (Entomology), **Dr. D. Monga**, Principal Investigator (Pathology), **Dr. P. K. Mandhyan**, Principal Investigator (Fiber Technology), Dr. M. Sabesh (Scientist-Computer Applications) and Dr. (Mrs.) S. Usha Rani (Pr. Scientist, Extension), Dr. Y. P. Singh, Principal Scientist, ICAR, New Delhi in running various technical activities of mammoth project. The Scientists and Staff of ICAR-CICR, Regional Station, Coimbatore deserve a special mention for extending whole-hearted support in the general activities of the Project, without whom it would be very difficult to carry out the assignments. I acknowledge the sincere efforts put in by my team Sh. S. Sathyakumar (Senior Technical Officer), Sh. N. Ramesh (Assistant) and Sh. K. Vedavyas (Stenographer), and all the Administrative staffs of ICAR-CICR, RS, Coimbatore for tirelessly assisting me in the regular correspondence, Administrative and financial matters. I would also like to place on record the timely assistance rendered by **Sh. Goswami** (Senior Administrative Officer), **Sh. Tandulkar** (Sr. Finance & Accounts Officer) and their team at CICR, Nagpur without whom the timely disbursal of funds to participating centres would have been impossible. It is a testimony to the quality, dedication and professionalism of our AICRP scientists that we have seen significant progress on implementing both the new organizational structure and made a significant start on improving knowledge-sharing and increasing multidisciplinary projects.

There is a need to expand beyond national boundaries and promote international collaboration, develop joint research and breeding programmes, promote exchange and develop and strengthen collaboration programmes. The AICRP on Cotton is taking the lead to bring all the stakeholders viz., ICAR, SAUs, Private sector industries and the most important client the FARMERS; with Public-Private Partnership mode to intensify agricultural production sustainably through applying ecosystem approaches.

I take the liberty of placing the true inner efforts in the working of AICRP on Cotton, the spirit of commonness, proactive efforts and above all keeping the interests of clientele, the Cotton Farmers in mind, in this Report. I shall be glad to receive feedback on further improvement of working in ICAR-AICRP on Cotton towards the goal of higher cotton productivity, low cost of cultivation and better sustainability, profitability and smile on the face of Indian Cotton farmers.



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