

All India Coordinated Research Project on Sugarcane ICAR-Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research, Lucknow

Organizing Annual Group Meeting of AICRP on Sugarcane:

The AICRP on Sugarcane organised its Annual Group Meeting at the University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad (Karnataka) during October 14-16, 2019 to review the research progress and formulate the technical programme for 2020-21. The opening session was attended by the scientists working on sugarcane at different centers located at five sugarcane growing



zones in India. The inaugural function was presided over by Dr M B Chetti, Vice Chancellor, UAS, Dharwad and Dr R K Singh, ADG (CC), ICAR, New Delhi as Chief Guest. Dr P L Patil, Director of Research, UAS, Dharwad welcomed the delegates and participants. Dr A D Pathak, Director and PC (S), ICAR-IISR, Lucknow presented the Project Coordinator's Report and highlighted the varietal/technological impact on enhancing sugarcane productivity and thereby sugar production at the national level. Dr Bakshi Ram, Director, ICAR-SBI, Coimbatore in his introductory remarks urged that the inclusion of sugarcane seed production under Rastriya Krishi Vikas Yojna (RKVY) may be taken up by the government to empower sugarcane growers financially. Shri P V Shirgaokar, Chairman, 'The Ugar Sugar Works Ltd'. Belagavi, in his inaugural address stressed upon development of sugarcane varieties for abiotic stress conditions. Dr R K Singh addressed the house as Chief Guest. Dr M B Chetti, V.C. UAS, Dharwad in his presidential address called upon the scientists to come out with short duration sugarcane varieties so that water could be saved.



Thereafter, a joint session of all the participants was convened under the Chairmanship of Dr R K Singh, ADG (CC). Principal Investigators of all the four disciplines presented the activities and salient achievements. During technical sessions, the progress was reviewed critically and technical programme for 2020-21 was framed.

Main outcome of the Group Meet were as follows:

- Four sugarcane varieties under midlate maturity group *viz.* CoS 12232 (*Sahaj-3*) & Co13035 (Karan-14) for North West Zone, CoC 13339 for East Coast Zone, and Co 12009 (*Sankalp*) for Peninsular Zone were identified for release and notification by Varietal Identification Committee headed by Dr R K Singh, ADG (CC), ICAR, New Delhi.
- Fifty three new entries from 17 centers were included for multilocation testing under AICRP (Sugarcane).
- Two agro-technologies *viz.* drip irrigation and carbon sequestration through sugarcane based cropping system have been developed and recommended for commercial application by sugarcane growers.
 - In order to popularise the drip irrigation in the Punjab state, the State Government has made provision of giving subsidy upto five *lakhs* to the farmers.
 - Uttar Pradesh Government has made substantial amount of fund provision to accelerate the sugarcane based cropping systems meant for enhancing carbon sequestration.
- Two technologies under crop protection have been developed and recommended for their commercial use to minimise the yield losses.
 - Low incidence of insect-pests with higher sugarcane yield and B:C ratio was recorded in IPM plot against farmers practice. Therefore, IPM Module based technology is recommended to the sugarcane farmers.
 - Epidemic cycles of *Pyrilla perpusilla* are the serious problem in the sugarcane growing areas. Therefore, mass multiplication technology of *Fulgoraesia (Epiricania) melanoleuca* is recommended for the biological laboratories in the different research institutions.
- A web based AICRP Reporter has been developed for online data submission. It was presented for application and use by the researchers. It will be useful for quick and accurate data processing and report preparation. ADG (CC) appreciated the efforts made by the scientist and advised for strict use from the next crop season. The data of 2019-20 of crop improvement will be submitted online.
- Three publications, *viz.* Project Coordinator's Report, AICRP at a glance and a technical bulletin on sugarcane production were released.