

Specific Recommendations made during the National Symposium at Guntur 2015

- Most of the *Bt* cotton hybrids developed are in long fibre range, while few or none are in medium, medium long or short fibre length types. Work will have to be initiated to remove this anomaly in development of *Bt* cotton.
- Consistent improvement in fibre quality parameters keeping in view the industry requirement is needed. Fibre quality parameters that need improvement are higher tenacity, less short fibre content and improvement in fibre elongation.
- Concept of community refugia suggested to tackle problem of insect resistance. Need to work on boll specific promoters so as to maintain toxin protein expression at least till 150 days.
- New novel toxin proteins for resources other than *Bacillus thuringiensis* need to be explored to serve as alternate to *Bt*.
- Molecular markers are required to be used profusely for speeding up speeding work for tolerance to stress.
- Revision and recasting of concept and strategies of *Bt* cotton refugia : it may include the following components.
 - a) Promotion of non cotton refugia
 - b) Concerted efforts for early replacement of BG I version of *Bt* cotton by BG II *Bt* cotton.
 - c) Growing of different versions of *Bt* genes so as to delay resistance.
- Each private seed company should restrict release of *Bt* cotton hybrids to 2-3 with acceptable field performance and also mention the pedigree of their released *Bt* hybrid.
- Improving the level of resistance to biotic and abiotic stresses.
- Enhanced water use efficiency, nutrient use efficiency and profits by the adoption of multitier cropping.
- Need for good quality water for pre sowing irrigation for maintaining the required plant stand and enhancing the yield of cotton.
- Strictly avoid synthetic pyrethroids, acephate or insecticide mixtures
- Avoid excessive use of nitrogenous fertilizers *i.e.* urea
- Use yellow sticky traps.
- Use diflufenican, Buprofezin, Pyriproxyfen, spiromesifen for whitefly management
- Use of host plant resistant varieties or hybrids
- Step up the minimum support price
- Intensive to farmers growing *Gossypium arboreum*
- Setting up and strengthening of value addition facilities.
- Promote long linted spinnable varieties amenable to surgical purpose.
- Ensure timely availability of short duration, compact, non shedding, genotypes of *G. arboreum* and timely sowing
- Promote cultivation of *G. arboreum* in High Density Planting system (HDPS)
- Promote the use of authentic neem formulations during early part of season.
- Set up Demonstration Plot in each district of misuse of insecticides to rational insecticide use.
- Subsidise authentic neem formulations
- Do not promote the use of monocrotophos
- Clean cultivation leads to fields whitefly free.
- List out insecticides that are permitted for use in cotton
- Promote the concept of conservation biological control
- Use of plain soap water when population are just about to build up.