



Special Session: Taking ICRA forward

Dr. Md. Negm, Vice-Chair of ICRA conveyed the greetings of Dr. Michel Fok, Chairman ICRA. He said that The International Cotton Researchers Association (ICRA) was created in 2012 to compensate the lack of a specifically dedicated international cotton research institute or program. ICRA is an independent organization, open to the membership of any individual researcher working substantially on cotton production research in the world. Researchers from the public and private sectors, retired or in service, can become members of ICRA. ICRA is governed by an Executive Committee comprising of 15 members representing different countries such as 4 from Asia, 3 from Africa, 2 from North America, 2 from South America, 1 from Australia, and 2 from international organizations which are ICAC and CIRAD). The primary objectives of ICRA are to promote and strengthen networking among cotton researchers mainly through interactions on the ICRA web-site, deliberations at WCRC (World Cotton Research Conferences), information dissemination, management of a database on cotton research activities, facilitating training and sharing of problems hampering cotton production to find solutions. ICRA has updated its web-site integrating wiki function and also to facilitate uploading of user profiles, publications and forum discussions. ICRA is expecting researchers to share new ideas, methods and innovative findings through the network forums on the ICRA website. The 'Pakistan Central Cotton Committee' will soon host the ICRA secretariat. The largest numbers of researchers are concentrated in the Asian region. They have the greatest potential to make a significant impact on ICRA's activity and visibility. ICRA is expecting the Asian researchers to take up the leadership role to initiate a vibrant interactive scientific forum.

Recently in June 2017, ICRA initiated the ICRA Young Scientist Innovation Medal within the purview of each of the four regional network meetings in Asia, Africa, Mediterranean and Latin America. The first medal was announced for Asia in August 2017.