

1936 Farmers participatory approach for popularizing new diploid cotton varieties and strengthening the seed chain

Dr. Shreekanth S. Patil , UAS Dharwad, Dharwad, India

Dr. Rajesh. S. Patil , UAS Dharwad, Dharwad, India

Dr. Basavaraj. M. Khadi , Central Institute for Cotton Research, Nagpur, India

Diploid cotton (*Gossypium herbaceum* L.)cultivation is a remunerative option for farmers of low rainfall tracts of Central and Southern India. However lack of availability of pure seeds is a major bottleneck reducing the productivity. In a period spread over six years (2000 to 2006) a massive exercise of promoting new herbaceum genotypes developed at Raichur, was taken up in the rainfed districts of North Karnataka. Apart from the salt tolerant genotype RAHS-14 other new genotypes like RAHS-129, 131,132, etc., were evaluated against existing varieties like Jayadhar and DB-3-12 in the farmers fields. A total of 851 demonstrations spread over 4466 acres were taken up to prove the superiority of these new genotypes. The superiority in seed cotton yield ranged from 10 to 20 per cent over the checks. The farmers were encouraged to choose the genotype suiting their village needs. Emphasis was laid upon making these villages self-sufficient with respect to their seed needs of these new genotypes. This effort has helped set up a proper seed chain and increased remuneration from diploid cotton cultivation.