

## CHAPTER - 3

### PROGRAMME PROPOSED FOR 2005-2006

COTAAP has been highly successful in evincing overwhelming response from farmers, scientists, and State Department of Agriculture officials to its developmental activities in different cotton growing tracts. However, despite its keen desire, it couldn't expand the area of its operation due to the lack of funds. However, GOI having now offered to provide financial assistance, to begin with, COTAAP desires to undertake another project at Chopda taluka in Jalgaon district of Maharashtra State apart from its on going project at Raichur.

Under Mini Mission II of Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC), GOI proposes to grant financial assistance to EICA-COTAAP for organising Front Line Demonstrations (FLDs) for transfer of modern/improved cotton production and protection technologies including popularising improved cotton varieties / hybrids suited for various agro-climatic conditions in association with State Department of Agriculture and Agriculture Universities/ICAR. Under the guidelines laid by GOI, EICA-COTAAP proposes to undertake the following cotton developmental activities:

**I. Government of India Front Line Demonstrations on IPM Technology at Raichur/Manvi Talukas (Raichur Distt.) in Karnataka and Chopda Taluka (Jalgaon District) in Maharashtra**

25 hectare or smaller area of 10 hectare contiguous plots in the whole of the scheduled villages in each of the above talukas

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covering 50 hectares in both the districts will be organised in the farmers' fields, to popularise the benefits of cost effective protection technology as per the following guidelines:

Full cost of seeds, pesticides, bio-agents, bio-fertilizer and fresh need kernel extract will be met under the project.

Recommended hybrid (Bunny / RCH-2) will be grown in FLDs.

The seeds will be treated with imidacloprid before sowing, if not treated earlier by the seed producing agencies.

### II. COTAAP's Ongoing programmes

(a) Pheromone traps are one of the components of IPM technology. It has been found to be extremely cost effective in raising productivity. This is used exclusively for monitoring and identifying American bollworm.

We may therefore take up installation of pheromone traps with *Heliothis* lure in 50 one-hectare plots (total area of 50 hectare) in the selected villages to form a network of demonstrations for educating the farmers about its benefits.

#### (b) Extension Activities

Extension activities will focus on speedy transfer of the recommended production and post harvest technology for high productivity, production of pure and top grade quality cotton and also creation of quality awareness among all segments concerned.

**The methods to be adopted are: -**

- \* Assisting farmers in procurement of good quality seed
- \* Arranging for credit in kind to small and marginal farmers
- \* Assisting in procurement of biological tools
- \* Assisting in preparation of fresh Neem Kernel Extract
- \* Promoting wormiculture
- \* Assisting in procurement of organic fertilizer
- \* Maintaining individual farmer contact
- \* Arranging and organising group meetings of cotton farmers

**(c) Farmers' training**

Farmers' visit to Research Station and KVK in a variety of ways. Currently, these include providing them meaningful training in KVK to enhance their skills to bring about increase in production and productivity. By doing so, farmers would be helped in forming themselves into small self help groups which would lead to transfer of technology in their farm operations. During the year, it is proposed to train a total of 200 cotton farmers in batches from different villages by organising one day training course for each batch at different intervals. .

**(d) Organising Awareness Programme**

Production of clean cotton has become imperative. Hence, work on anti-contamination measures needs more attention. This will comprise of holding awareness programmes and demonstration of specimens of contaminants.

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Preparation of Technical literature, translating in local language and distribution to the farmers may be undertaken. The Foundation may also bring occasional publication highlighting the work under COTAAP.

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