

Rice-Wheat Information Sheet

No. 24

News

Change in Email address at FU

Kindly note that we have terminated the RWC@CGNET.COM address with immediate effect. However, all the mails on this account will be forwarded to the other address automatically for a limited period of time. All are advised to stop using the CGNET address at the earliest.

Views

The following is an excerpt from comments by a participant of the training course on Simulation Modelling and Yield Trend Analysis in Rice-Wheat Systems, held at IRRI during Jan 1997.

I got a good exposure to Modelling. I am at present coordinating a project on N Management Using Simulation Modelling at 8 centres of Soil Test Crop Response Correlation Project. The knowledge gained on Modelling may help me in better coordinating of that project work. Three of my colleagues are at present undergoing training in Modelling at Meerut. In future we may propose a common project involving a soil chemist, physicist, micro biologist and fertility scientists. After discussion with my colleagues, we may propose a formal project and contact you to get the needed help.

- Dr. A. Subba Rao of All India Coordinated Research Project for studies on Soil Test Crop Response Correlation, Indian Institute of Soil Sciences, Nabibagh, Berasia Road, Bhopal - 462038

Happenings

Collaboration in Water Management Research

Dr.Sadiq Bhuiyan of the Soil and Water Sciences Division in IRRI writes 'I have received an enthusiastic response from BRRI scientists in response to a few ideas to the irrigation and water management research group at BRRI. They have now put together two research proposals concerning water management in R-W System and sought IRRI collaboration. The proposals were presented in the collaborative research planning meeting between Bangladesh and IRRI held 26-27 February, 1997 at BRRI.

The two proposals are -

- Increasing water use efficiency in rice-wheat system - the main effort will be to minimize water distribution and application losses; and
- Sustainable ground water management in rice-wheat system in Bangladesh - The focus is on problem of water quality degradation including arsenic contamination and coastal salinity.

Regional Steering Committee (RSC) meeting

The Fourth Meeting of the RSC was held at Dhaka Sheraton, Dhaka, Bangladesh during 15-16 March 1997. The Meeting was attended by all the members viz. Drs. Z Karim, M Akbar, JC Gautam and GB Singh - Executive Chairmen of BARC, PARC, NARC, and Deputy Director General, ICAR respectively Dr. K Fischer, Deputy Director General, IRRI represented the IARCs and Dr. J Wiejenberg, Head of Agricultural Section, World Bank Mission Dhaka represented the Donor Support Group. IP Abrol, Facilitator attended as the Member-Secretary of the Committee. In addition, Drs. MA Bakr, RK Gupta, RP Sapkota, NI Hashmi, LW Harrington, C Johansen, PR Hobbs attended the Meeting as invited resource persons. The meeting was inaugurated by M Akbar. IP Abrol presented the Progress Report of the FU pertaining to 1996. M Akbar (Pakistan) handed over the Chair of the Consortium to Z Karim (Bangladesh), who will hold the position till the next meeting. (Proceedings are under preparation and will be circulated shortly)

Planning ahead

Fifth Meeting of RTCC

It is proposed to hold the next meeting of the RTCC in Nepal during 25-26 Jun 97. Further details will follow shortly.

Publications

Sidhu, B.S., Rupela, O.P., Gopalakrishnan, S. and Beri, V.1997. Alternatives to burning rice straw. Paper presented at the Third Agricultural Science Congress Ludhiana 13-15 March, 1997.

In this paper, the authors discuss the quantities of rice residues burnt in Punjab which were assessed at about 12 million tons annually resulting in loss of significant quantities of nutrients. In economic terms Nitrogen losses alone accounted for Indian Rs. 684 million annually. This did not take into account the cost of environmental damage through additions of carbon dioxide, a greenhouse and health costs through a reported increases in the number of cases of respiratory problems in local population during the period of burning rice straw. Authors presented a technique for preparation of value added rice-straw manure (VARM) through composting, incorporating powdered rock phosphate and inoculation with microbial cultures. Authors suggest that VARM preparation could be encouraged as a small enterprise. (For further information please contact Dr. B.S. Sidhu, Department of Soils, Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana, 141 004, Punjab, India.)

Food for thought

If you think education is expensive, try ignorance. - Derek Bok