

# COTTON

Desi Cotton Varieties (*G. arboreum*.L) : Aravinda, Srinandi (NDLA-2463), Yaganti (NDLA-2933)

American Cotton Varieties (*G. hirsutum* L.): Kanchana (LPS 141), LK-861, L-389, L- 603, L-604, Narasimha (NA-1325), Sivanandi (NDLH-1755), NDLH-1938, MCUS VT, LRA-5166 and LRK-516.

Intra-specific Cotton Hybrids : LAHH-1, LAHH-4, LAHH-5, Lam Cotton Hybrid-7, NDLHH-390, NDLHH-240 and Orugallu Krishna (WGHH-2), NHH-44, JKHy 1, Savitha, H-6, H-8 and H-10

Egyptian Cotton Varieties /  
(DCH-32) Inter-specific Cotton Hybrids  
New Variety : Suvin / Jayalakshmi

Bt. Cotton Hybrids  
hybrids being : Officially identified private Bt cotton  
cultivated and found suitable for the last 3-4 years.

Soils : Deep black Cotton and Red fertile soils with irrigated or assured rainfall conditions.

## Land Preparation

For rainfed cotton, deep ploughing once in 3 years with mould board plough or disc harrow facilitates deep infiltration of water and charging of soil profile with large quantities of water. The land has to be ploughed 2 to 3 times and work with harrow to bring the soil to good tilth. Seeds can be dibbled by maintaining spacing in between plants after running a marker in one or two direction(s). For irrigated crop, ridges and furrows are to be formed at recommended spacings after deep ploughing.

## Seed Rate

American Cotton Varieties (*G. hirsutum*.L) : 2 kg / acre Desi Cotton Varieties (*G. arboreum*.L and *G. herbaceum*.L) : 4-5 kg / acre

Intra-/Inter-specific Cotton Hybrids : 0.75-1 kg / acre

## Seed Treatment :

For acid delinting, seed should be treated with 80-100 ml H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> per kg of seed for 2-3 minutes followed by lime solution and thorough washing with water 2-3 times to make the seed acid free. Seed treatment with appropriate insecticide(s);

imidacloprid 70 WS @ 5 g / kg or thiometoxam 70 WS @ 4 g / kg or imidacloprid 48 FS@ 9ml/kg or carbosulfan 25 DS @ 40 g/kg of seed. followed by, treatment with *Pseudomonas fluorescens* @ 10 g / kg or *Trichoderma viride* or *T. harzianum* @ 10 g / kg or carbendazim 50 WP @ 2 g / kg or mancozeb 75 WP @ 3 g / kg or captan 50 WP 3 g / kg or thiram 75 WP @ 3 g / kg.

#### **Spacing**

Desi Cotton Varieties (cm)	:	60 x 30
American Cotton Varieties (cm)	:	90 x 60 or
105 x 60 Conventional Hybrids (cm)	:	90 x 60 or
120 x 60		
Bt. Cotton Hybrids (cm)	:	90 x 45 or 90 x 60 or 120 x 45 or 120 x 60

#### **Sowing with Cut-off dates**

Red soils	:	June – 1 <sup>st</sup> Fortnight of July
Black soils	:	July – 1 <sup>st</sup> Fortnight of August

#### **Inter Cropping in Cotton**

Inter cropping with mungbean / urdbean / soybean / cluster bean in 1:2 or 1:3 ratio, and pigeonpea 4:1 or 6:1 or 8:1 ratio.

#### **Gap filling and Thinning:**

Gap filling should be done preferably within 10 DAS. Thinning should be done within three weeks after sowing retaining two plants per hill in case of varieties, one plant per hill in case of hybrids.

#### **Manures and Fertilizers:**

Apply FYM @ 4 t / acre (10 cart loads) besides the recommended fertilizers.

#### **For Desi Cotton Varieties:**

8 N + 8 P2O5 kg/acre. Entire P as basal. N is in two splits at 30 DAS and 60 DAS by pocketing method.

#### **For American Cotton Varieties:**

36 N + 18 P2O5 + 18 K2O kg/acre. Entire P as basal, N and K in three splits 30, 60 and 90 DAS by pocketing method.

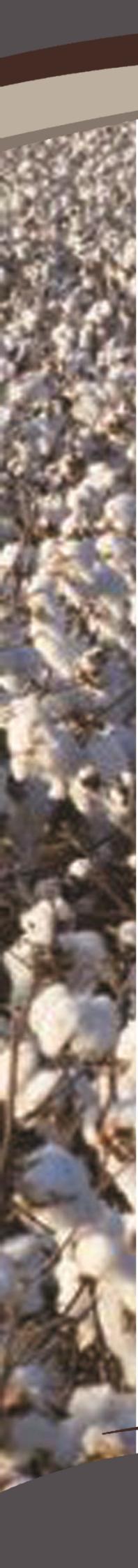
#### **For Conventinol Cotton Hybrids:**

48 N + 24 P2O5, 24 K2O kg/acre. Entire P as basal, N and K in three splits 30, 60, 90 DAS by pocketing method.

#### **For Bt Cotton Hybrids:**

25% excess N over recommended N should be applied. The recommended N and K should be given in 3-4 splits at 20 days interval starting from 20 DAS. Foliar application of 2% urea/ 2% DAP/ 2% KNO3 at flowering and boll development stages.

For correcting magnesium, boron and zinc deficiencies, foliar application of



MgSO<sub>4</sub> @ 1% twice at 45 and 75 DAS; Boron @ 0.15% twice at 60 and 90 DAS; and ZnSO<sub>4</sub> @ 0.2% twice at 4-5 days interval at 45 DAS is recommended. For correcting iron deficiency due to heavy moisture stress in early crop growth stage, foliar application of 0.5% FeSO<sub>4</sub> along with citric acid should be done twice at weekly interval.

### Weed Management:

The first 60 days after sowing is very critical for weed competition. For effective weed control spray pendimethalin @ 1.5 to 2.0 l/acre immediately or within 48 hours of sowing. Inter cultivation with tyned harrow and blade harrow 2-4 times upto 90 DAS. For control of the grasses and broad leaved weeds post emergence spray of quizalofopethyl @ 400 ml/acre (2 ml/l) and pyrithiobac sodium @ 250 ml / acre (1.25 ml/l) is recommended at 25-30 DAS. Post emergence directed spray of parquat @ 5.0 ml/l of water or glyphosate 10 ml + 10 g of urea or ammonium sulphate/l of water is recommended for control of the weeds in the cotton crop, where inter-cultivation or manual weeding is not possible due to unfavourable weather conditions.

**Irrigation:** Generally cotton crop requires 2-4 irrigations depending upon the soil type. Square formation, flowering and boll development stages are critical for moisture stress. For moisture conservation and effective weed control furrows for every row or alternate rows should be opened during the last inter cultivation operation.

### Pest Management in Cotton

#### Management of Sucking Pests in cotton:

- Grow sucking pest tolerant / resistant varieties or hybrids.
- Seed treatment with imidacloprid 70 WS 5.0 g /kg or thiamethoxam 70 WS 4.0 g / kg or imidacloprid 48 FS @ 9.0 ml/kg or carbosulfan 25 DS @ 40.0 g/kg of seed, gives early protection against sucking pests.
- Growing of intercrops like mungbean or urdbean or soybean or cluster bean in 1:2 or 1:3 ratio will facilitate the buildup of native natural enemy populations and in turn keep sucking pests under check
- Growing of cowpea as bund crop is advantageous to encourage predatory insects like coccinellids, syrphids and chrysopids
- Maize or sorghum or pearl millet grown as barrier crops on the border prevents spread of insect pests from neighbouring fields.
- Stem application at 30 & 45 DAS with monocrotophos (1:4) and at 60 DAS with imidacloprid (1:20) for protecting the crop from early season sucking pests is highly effective.
- Setting up of yellow sticky traps @ 10 per acre for monitoring whitefly incidence.
- Economic Threshold Level (ETL) for sucking pests on cotton is presented hereunder :

Name of the Pest	ETL
Jassids	Two adults or nymphs per leaf or appearance of second grade injury (yellowing in the margins of the leaves)
Thrips	10 adults per leaf

Aphids	15% affected plants
Whiteflies	6-8 adults per leaf
Mealy bugs	5% affected plants
Mites	i. er cm-1

### ETL based application of insecticides

Leafhoppers / aphids / thrips - Monocrotophos 36 SL @ 1.6 ml/l or

Acephate 75 SP @ 1.5g/l or

Imidacloprid 17.8 SL @  
0.4 ml/l or

Acetamiprid 20 SP @ 0.2 g/l or - Thiamethoxam 25 WG @ 0.2 g/l or

Fipronil 5 SC @ 2.0 ml/l

Diafenthiuron 50 WP @ 1.25 g/l

Flonicamid 50 WG @ 0.3 g/l

Whitefly

- Triazophos 40 EC @ 2.0 ml/l or  
Profenophos 50 EC @ 2.0 ml/l or  
Acetamiprid 20 SP @ 0.2 g/l or  
Diafenthiuron 50% WP @ 1.25 g/l  
or NSKE @ 5% (extract from 10.0  
kg of Neem Powder/acre)

Red mite

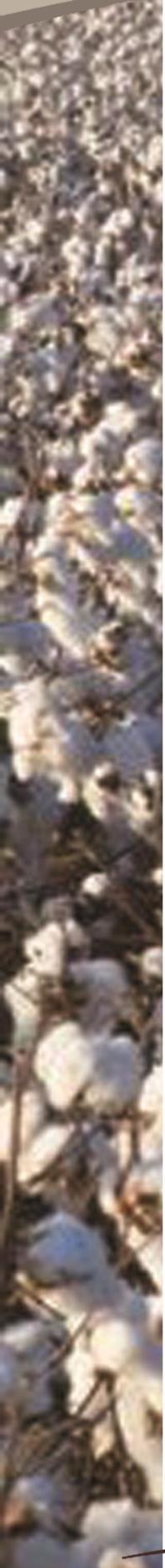
- Wettable sulphur 80 WP @  
3.0 g/l or Dicofol 18.5 SC  
@ 5.0 ml/l

### Insecticide Resistance Management Strategies to manage cotton pests in Bt-cotton Early Sucking Pest Window 1: 0-60 DAS: No foliar spray upto 60 DAS.

- Cultivation of sucking pest tolerant varieties / hybrids
- Use dual gene cotton hybrids such as Bollgard II (Cry I Ac + Cry 2 Ab)
- Raising densely planted border rows of maize / sorghum / pearl millet / pigeon pea
- Mechanical control of *Parthenium* and *Abutilon* weeds to avoid build up of initial mealy bug inoculum.
- Stem application of monocrotophos at 30 and 45, and imidacloprid at 60 DAS.
- Neem oil sprays @ 1.0 l/acre + detergent powder @ 1.0 g or sandovit @ 0.5 ml or Teepol 0.5 ml/lt. for the control of whitefly.

### Window 2: 60-90 DAS : Initial boll worm infestation. Mostly eggs and young larvae: Biological and bio-pesticide window.

- Hand picking of *Helicoverpa* and *Spodoptera* larvae, and egg masses of *Spodoptera*.
- One spray of novaluron @ 1.0 ml/lt or lufenuron @ 1.25ml/lt for the control of *Spodoptera* on need basis only.
- Installation of yellow sticky traps @ 10 / acre for monitoring of the whitefly.
- Application of 5% NSKE for bollworm and whitefly infestation.
- No spray against minor lepidopteran pests.
- Follow Integrated Nutrient Management practices including foliar spray of



nutrients to reduce leaf reddening.

- Neonicotinoids like imidacloprid or acetamiprid or thiomethaxam for the control of sucking pests.
- Spinosad or emamectin benzoate only on non-Bt cotton.

#### **Window 3: 90-120 DAS: Peak Boll worm infestation.**

- One application of chlorpyriphos or quinalphos or thiodicarb or spinosad on conventional or Bt-cotton plants showing flared up squares.  
Poison bait (10 kg rice bran +2.0 kg jaggery + chlorpyriphos 500-700 ml or thiodicarb 250-300 g) for the control of grown up larvae of *spodoptera*.

#### **Window 4: >120 DAS : Boll worms & Mealy bugs.**

- In case of minimum infestation of mealy bug, uprooting and destroying of infested plants.
- surrounding weeds especially, *Parthenium* are sprayed with chlorpyriphos and destroyed.
- In severe mealy bug infestation drenching the affected stems with malathion @ 2.0 ml/l or buprofezin @ 2.0 ml/l or acephate @ 2.0 g/l along with sticky agents.
- Insecticides like chlorpyriphos, quinalphos, profenophos, carbaryl are used in case of severe economic damage due to mealy bug.
- Need based use of insecticides: Spraying of persistent insecticides like thiodicarb 75 WP @ 1.5 g/l or quinalphos 25 EC @ 2.5 ml/l or chlorpyriphos 20 EC @ 2.5 ml/l at 15 days interval.
- Hand picking of surviving bollworm larvae from Bt-cotton fields and destruction of residual pupae by deep ploughing immediately after harvest.

#### **Integrated Pest Management in Cotton:**

- Avoid monocropping of cotton.
- Application of chemical fertilizer as supplement to organic or biological fertilizers as per the recommended doses.
- Growing intercrops/strip crops/barrier crops with greengram, blackgram, soybean cowpea, clusterbean, groundnut, foxtail millet and coriander were found better intercrops in increasing the effectiveness of natural enemies like coccinellids, syrphids, chrysopids, spiders, *Trichogrammids*, *Apantelids* etc. Growing fodder sorghum or maize as barrier crops and castor as ovipositional trap crop with in the cotton was also found to be more advantageous to manage the pests of cotton.
- Seed treatment with recommended insecticides and fungicides.
- Stem application of Monocrotophos at 30 and 45, and imidacloprid at 60 DAS.
- Monitoring pests by using light, sticky and pheromone traps. The adults monitoring should be supported by egg and larval monitoring following sequential sampling technique at frequent intervals in case of boll worms.
- Bird perches should be arranged @ 10 per acre for encouraging bird predation on bollworm larvae.
- The buildup of broad spectrum predators viz., spiders, coccinellids and chrysopids should be synchronised in other cultural operations. Release of *Trichogramma* egg parasite @ 50,000/ha and *Chrysopa* egg larval predator @

10000/ha, should be done as soon as the first brood of bollworms are noticed.

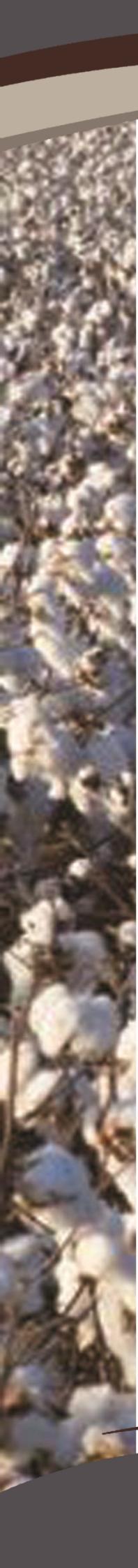
- Topping of cotton plants when maximum egg laying of *Helicoverpa armigera* is noticed (October-November months).
- Application of HNPV @ 500 LE/ha or neem seed kernel extract (5%) in synchrony with early larvae of *Helicoverpa*. Neem oil formulation to manage initial whitefly.
- ETLs for Bollworms

Name of the Pest	ETL
American bollworm ( <i>H. armigera</i> ) and Spotted Boll worm ( <i>E. vitella</i> )	Five per cent damaged fruiting bodies or one larva per plant or total three damaged square per plant taken from 20 plants selected at random for counting.
Pink bollworm ( <i>P. gossypiella</i> )	Eight moths per trap per day for three consecutive days or 10 % infested flowers or bolls with live larvae.
Tobacco caterpillar ( <i>S. litura</i> )	One egg mass or skeletinized leaf / ten plants

- Poison bait (10 kg of rice bran + 2 kg jaggery + 500-750 ml of chlorpyriphos or 250- 300 g of thiodicarb) for the control of grown up larvae of *Spodoptera*.
- Resorting to chemical insecticides for the control of leafhoppers spray monocrotophos 36 SL @ 1.6 ml/l or acephate 75 SP @ 1.5 g/l or fipronil 5% SC @ 2.0 ml/l or imidacloprid 17.8 SL @ 0.4 ml/l or acetamiprid 20 SP @ 0.2 g/l or thiamethoxam 25 WG @ 0.2 g/l or flonicamid 50 WG @ 0.3 g/l. For the management of whitefly spray triazophos 40 EC @ 2.0 ml/l or profenophos 50 EC @ 2.0 ml/l or diafenthiuron 50 WP @ 1.25 g/l or neem seed kernel extract @ 5% or neem oil @ 5.0 ml/l; for the control of *Helicoverpa armigera* spray quinalphos 25 EC @ 2.5 ml/l or chlorpyriphos 20 EC @ 3.0 ml/l or acephate 75 SP @ 1.5 g/l or indoxacarb 14.5 SC @ 1.0 ml/l or thiodicarb 75 WP @ 1.5 g/l or spinosad 45 SC @ 0.3 ml/l or flubendiamide 48 SC @ 0.3 ml/l or chlorantraniliprole 18.5 SC @ 0.3 ml/l. For managing red spider mites, application of wettable sulphur 80 WP @ 3.0 g/l or dicofol 18.5 SC @ 5.0 ml/l. Similarly if mealy bugs spread in patches to alarming level spray acephate 75 SP @ 2.0 g/l or profenophos 50 EC @ 3.0 ml/l mixing with sandovit or teepol.
- Removal of cotton stubbles after last picking without opting for ratoon crop or prolonging the crop growth with irrigations and fertilizer applications. This is essential to break the cycles of problem pests in the system as a whole

### **Mealy bug management in Cotton**

- Adopt crop rotation
- Removal and burning of alternate weed hosts like *Parthenium*, *Abutilon* etc.in the vicinity of cotton crop
- Control mealy bug population on the alternate crop hosts during and off season
- Stem application of monocrotophos diluted with water in 1:4 ratio during vegetative and early reproductive stage of the cotton crop at 30, 45 and 60 DAS



as a prophylactic measure.

- Monitoring the initial infestation of mealy bug, particularly on border plants and shaded areas for timely control measures.
- Need based spraying of insecticides, triazophos 40 EC @ 3.0 ml/l or profenophos 50 EC @ 3.0 ml/l or acephate 75 WP 2.0 g/l mixed with stickers like triton or sandovit or teapot etc @ 1ml/l of spray fluid
- Spot application of insecticides is desirable when the infestation is confined to isolated pockets in the field.
- Removal and destruction by burning of heavily infested dried / dead cotton plants may be taken up to arrest further spread of the pest incidence.
- Removal and burning of left over cotton stubbles after harvesting.

### **Management strategies for pink bollworm: ETL for Pink bollworm:**

- Eight moths per pheromone trap per day for three consecutive days.
- One rosette flower/ 10 flowers (10 % infested flowers).
- One live larvae / 10 bolls (10 % infested bolls).

### **Sampling technique:**

- Scout cotton crop for PBW incidence and determine ETL through
- Examination of 50 flowers across the whole field randomly for rosette flowers
- Collect 20 bolls/acre randomly, not more than one boll per plant and cut open them for damage and larval presence at 10 days interval.

## **Integrated Management of Pink bollworm in Bt Cotton:**

### **Off Season Practices:**

- Certain off-season cultural practices which aim to maintain a host-free period play a key role in minimizing carry-over of pink bollworm to the succeeding season
- Gin Sanitation: Destroy damaged seed trash by burying them in pits or through burning. Install four pheromone traps around the pile of waste lint from the gins to trap the emerging male moths
- Field sanitation. Pink bollworm larvae remain hidden in dried or improperly opened bolls. So, destroy leftover cotton stalks with dried/unopened green bolls by burying them in pits or through burning.
- Allow cattle, sheep and goats to graze upon immature green bolls and attacked bolls after final picking to prevent carry-over of the pest to the next season.
- Prompt removal and destruction of cotton stubbles to prevent carryover of pest to next season without stacking in the fields.
- Spread awareness on the importance of destroying pink bollworm damaged cotton seeds after ginning. These seeds could contain diapausing pink bollworm larvae hidden within the half-eaten seed.
- Destroy trashed and stained cotton with damaged seeds whether lying in the farmer's house or in the Gins. This is a rich and concentrated source of resting pink bollworm larvae.
- Avoid ratooning and summer cotton.
- Restrict the movement of cotton seed from other areas/states

- Crop rotation to break the life cycle of the pest

#### **Pre Season Practices:**

- This is the key period to create awareness amongst growers on the good agricultural practices which need to follow.
- Deep summer ploughingshould be done to destroy the dipausing larvae of pink bollworm in soil and plant debris.
- Non-*Bt* refuge has to be planted along with Bollgard II cotton as this delays development of resistance in bollworms to *Bt* crops and is important for the sustenance of benefits from *Bt* cotton technology.
- Grow early maturing varieties so that the cotton bolls mature before the heavy population of pink bollworm builds up.
- Avoid staggered sowing in an area and take up timely sowings.

#### **In season (June-January) Practices:**

- Monitoring for pest build up with pheromone traps @ 10 nos/ha. and random destructive sampling of green bolls.
  - Mass trapping and mating disruption technique on wide area through integrated approach
  - Destroy rosette flowers and remove the dropped squares, dried flowers and pre-matured bolls to suppress pest population periodically at the initial stage.
  - Adopt efficient and timely agronomic practices such as use of organic manures and recommended doses of 'N' fertilizers only.
  - Release of Trichogramma @ 60,000/acre at the time of peak flowering stage to facilitate the egg parasitism
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- Need based use of insecticides: Spraying of persistent insecticides like thiodicarb 75 WP @ 1.5 g/l or profenophos @ 2 ml/l or quinalphos 25 EC @ 2.5 ml/l or chlorpyriphos 20 EC @ 2.5 ml/l at 15 days interval.
  - If the crop is at final stage, spray synthetic pyrethroids such as cypermethrin 10 EC @ 1.25 ml/l or lambda cyhalothrin 5 EC @ 1.0 ml/l (caution- Use of synthetic pyrethroids will increase the incidence of sucking pests).
  - Timely crop termination without extending the crop through irrigation and fertilizers as late formed bolls may severely attract pink boll worm incidence.

#### **Management of Cotton Diseases:**

**Bacterial blight:** Angular leaf spots develop and spread through veins causing vein blight. Under severe conditions disease spreads to branches causing black arm. Dark green spots develop on bolls which turn black and bolls rot.

Control: Seed treatment with *Pseudomonas fluorescens* @ 10 g/kg seed; spraying copper oxy chloride 3.0 g/l + streptocycline 100 mg/l starting from 50 days after sowing, 2-3 times, at fortnightly intervals.

**Alternaria leaf spot:** Brown spots with concentric rings develop on leaves, join together and dry; defoliation occurs. Lesions on stem extend and break.

**Helminthosporium leaf spot:** Light brown spots with ashy centres and red margins

**Cercospora leaf spot:** Dark brown circular spots with white centres and purple margins develop on leaves.

Control: For the control of leaf spots seed treatment with *P. fluorescens* @ 10 g or carbendazim 2g or thiram 3g or vitavax 2 g/kg of seed; spraying copper oxy chloride 3 g/l or mancozeb 3 g/l or propiconazole 1ml/l or captan + hexaconazole 1g/l starting from 50 DAS, 2- 3 times, at fortnightly intervals.

**Grey mildew:** Angular, white, powdery spots develop on leaves, spread and defoliation occurs. Control: Spraying water soluble sulphur 3 g/l or carbendazim 1 g/l, 2-3 times, at 10-15 days interval.

**Rust:** Yellowish brown to reddish brown pustules develop on both sides of the leaves.

Control: Spraying water soluble sulphur 3.0 g/l or tridemorph 1.0 ml/l or propiconazole 1.0 ml/l, starting from 75 DAS, 2-3 times, at fortnightly intervals.

**Boll Rots:** Dark spots or lesions develop on bolls.

Control: Spray copper oxy chloride 3.0 g/l + streptocycline 100 mg/l or carbendazim 1.0 g/l, 2- 3 times at 7-10 days interval.

**Root rot:** Sudden death of young plants in patches, roots become sticky and bark shreds in grown up plants.

**Fusarium wilt:** Damping off symptoms at seedling stage, lower leaves wilt early and drop. Brown streaks are visible in split open branches or stems, sometimes with black spores.

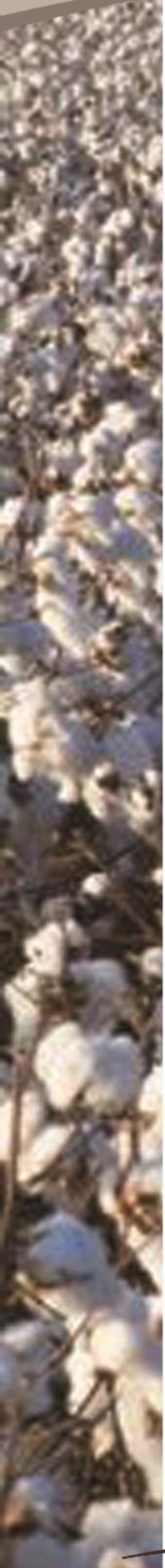
**Verticillium wilt:** Interveinal chorosis and dark lesions develop on leaves with appearance of tiger stripes, brown discolouration is visible in split open stems, branches and also inside the bark, plants die in the centre of infected patch.

Control: Seed treatment with *Trichoderma viride* @ 10.0 g or *P. fluorescens* @ 10.0 g or carbendazim 2.0 g or thiram 3.0 g or vitavax 2.0 g/kg of seed; soil application of *T. viride* or

*P. fluorescens* @ 1.0 kg/acre developed in 90.0 kg FYM or vermicompost along with 10.0 kg of neem cake; balanced Nitrogen application and correcting micronutrient deficiencies; soil drenching at the base of infected plants with copper oxy chloride 3.0 g/l or carbendazim 1.0 g/l or benomyl 1.0 g/l.

**Harvesting :**

- Kapas from fully opened bolls should be collected during cooler times of the day.
  - Kapas picked should be free from debris like dried leaves, dried bracts etc.
  - Kapas from the first and last pickings should not be mixed with middle pickings, which are of better quality.
  - Kapas damaged by bollworms should be picked separately.
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- The cleaned kapas is to be graded and stored in heaps or in gunny boras in dry



and well ventilated godowns.

#### **Post-harvest Technology:**

- It is essential that proper care is taken at various stages of handling and processing to ensure that the quality of cotton is not adversely affected so as to realize maximum price.
- Watering the kapas before weighment should be avoided.
- Admixtures of different varieties should be avoided. The admixture of the inferior type lowers the quality of the superior type, due to differences in the fibre quality traits.
- Only one variety of cotton should be heaped and packed to maintain the purity and quality of the cotton.
- For supply of high quality of cotton, proper packing should be done to protect from contamination and dampness.
- Improper drying due to lack of proper yard at village level generally results in the discoloration of the fibres.
- Even at the market level, the conventional packing of kapas in bales gives rise to problems such as requirement of large space and possible fire hazards. Storing in open yards at the market should be avoided.
- The seeds from insect attacked and immature bolls being more fragile get crushed during ginning resulting in staining of lint by the oil oozing out of the cut-seeds. This oil acts as a medium for growth of the micro-organisms which will destroy the lint. So, the insect infested kapas should be separated.
- Difficulties in handling of kapas due to its bulky nature – adequate storage space is to be provided both at the farmer's level as well as at the market.