Training Manual

Plant Health Management for Increasing Oilseeds Production

(21-28 September, 2016)






Editors

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M. Santha Lakshmi Prasad
P. S. Srinivas
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ICAR-Indian Institute of Oilseeds Research
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Preface

Most of the modern agriculture techniques aimed at increasing productivity are often, resource intensive in nature. Many a times, these intensive practices employing chemical pesticides and fertilizers are causing imbalance in soil, biodiversity of flora and fauna and environment. Therefore an integrative approach like plant health management is vital to sustain the agro-ecosystems.

Oilseeds constitute a second largest agricultural commodity after cereals in India. In spite of increase in production of vegetable oils, the imports also increased due to increase in consumption levels, creating a huge gap in demand and supply. Many of the oilseeds are cultivated as rainfed crops or under residual soil moisture with limited inputs. This will have greater impact on plant health - plant nutrition, soil health and pests (insect, non-insects pests, diseases and weeds). It is proven through FLDs that considerable yield gap exists between yield of demonstrated fields and actual yield at farmers' fields.

ICAR-IIOR has expertise in developing the plant health technologies in oilseed crops as well as in disseminating those, using ICTs. These technologies need to be reached to farmers for not only maximising the production and productivity of oilseeds but minimise harmful effects on soil and environment. There is a need to train extension officers to in plant health management in oilseeds.

I congratulate Dr. P. Duraimurugan, Course Director and team for bringing out this training manual on "Plant health management for increasing oilseeds production" covering topics on integrated crop nutrition, soil health, efficient weed management and integrated pest and disease management. This helps the officers Agriculture department as a ready reference guide in oilseed production.

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A. Vishnuvardhan Reddy
Director

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