

‘Inculcate awareness among Bt cotton growers’

- [Staff Correspondent](#)



Deputy Director of Agriculture T.N. Ashok speaking at a workshop at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, University of Agricultural Sciences, Raichur, on Monday. —PHOTO: SANTOSH SAGAR

Bheemanna, entomologist at the University of Agricultural Sciences, Raichur, has told seed traders to create awareness among farmers about cultivation methods recommended for Bt cotton.

He was speaking at a workshop on pre-monsoon preparation and the role of seed merchants in handling pink bollworm in Bt cotton, at the Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) here on Monday. The workshop was organised by the Department of Agriculture.

“Cultivation method plays a crucial role in protecting Bt cotton crop from pink bollworm pest attack. Sowing non-Bt refugee seeds supplied with Bt cotton seeds in about five rows around the Bt cotton crop is a must. Spraying appropriate pesticides as soon as discovering pink bollworm pest infection will significantly control the pest menace. The seed traders have a greater role to play in giving these valuable tips to farmers who approach them,” he said. T.N. Ashok, Deputy Director of Agriculture, underlined the time factor in Bt cotton cultivation. “The sowing of Bt cotton should be completed before August. Delayed sowing increases the chances of pink bollworm pest attack. The seed traders should join hands with the Agriculture Department in its efforts to spread awareness among farmers about proper cultivation of Bt cotton. They should mandatorily distribute awareness leaflet to each farmer who comes to purchase Bt cotton seeds,” he said.

R.G. Sandeep, Assistant Director of Agriculture, told the merchants to sell quality Bt cotton seeds at revised rates and mandatorily provide the bills to buyers mentioning all required information in it.

“Legal action will be taken against those who indulge in malpractice such as selling spurious sowings seeds and selling seeds at higher prices,” he said.

Apart from seed sellers from across Raichur taluk, KVK representative Amaresh, and Monsanto representative Shambanna Adimani were present.

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