

# Conference Summary Technology Transfer

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- Technology transfer is important in cotton, especially for improving productivity by means of the newly developed “technology in cotton production” system.
- It has great significance, particularly for “smallholder farmers” of Asia and Africa, where the number of farmers is large enough for them to have direct access to new technology.
- The current system of transferring technology through “extension functionaries” is inadequate and there are very few direct links between the technology developers and technology users. Such links are unfeasible because of the small number of technology developers and the large number of technology users. The current methods transferring technology by means of on-farm/off-farm demonstrations, publication, the electronic media, and exhibitions have fulfilled the requirements of only a small section of the farming sector.
- The excellent paper of Dr Peter Ooi on “Realities of Cotton IPM” has given a new dimension to technology transfer, namely, the education of farmers through a participatory approach. Farmer’s-field schools where farmers are trained, educated and encouraged to experiment, have been very successful. It is a sociological approach and farmers can become trainers themselves and act AS technology transfer agents.
- Through IPM technology transfer, effective cotton crop management has become feasible.
- Yet another approach could be Institute-Village Linkage, which would allow technologies such as Bt, IPM, INM, IRM tillage systems, irrigation water management, and rainwater conservation technologies (in rainfed cotton areas) to be demonstrated effectively in farmers’ fields as “technology interventions”. IVLP’s has been successfully operated in India in a project supported by the World Bank.
- Similarly in cotton, where small farmers are involved in production, experience has shown that adoption of technology on a group basis, cooperative management of inputs and collective and simultaneous field operations have been useful in spreading IRM and IPM.

#### **Suggestions for WCRC-4**

- Technology transfer needs greater attention.
- Reports from different countries on their methods of transferring technology need to be included.
- Research on technology transfer is brushed off, because it cuts across crops. With respect to cotton, we should have lead papers by a sociologist and extension specialists.