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Editorial

Proceedings and Recommendations of the 7th Meeting of the Asian Cotton Research and

This issue of *THE ICAC RECORDER* has five articles that include: two articles on transfer of technology (TOT) in Africa authored by teams from Brazil and Uganda; an article on 'constraints in cotton production and possible solutions' written by a team of researchers from Pakistan with specific focus on Asia and two articles that summarize the proceedings and recommendations of the regional (Latin American and Asian) network meetings conducted during August and September 2017 in Maceio, Brazil and Nagpur, India respectively.

The two articles on 'Technology Transfer' are based on the presentations made by eminent lead speakers in the open session of the Technical Seminar' on 'Opportunities and challenges for technology transfer in cotton' at the 76th Plenary Meeting of the ICAC, held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan during 22-27 October, 2017. Mrs. Jolly Sabune and Dr. Lastus Serunjogi describe the Government framework, extension networks and their commendable efforts and experiences in disseminating new technologies for cotton improvement in Uganda. Dr. José Geraldo Di Stefano & Dr. Sebastiao Barbosa share the 'success story' of an elegant participatory extension methodology deployed to transfer Brazilian technologies to Cotton-4 countries in Africa. Both papers describe common objectives of information flow from lab to land; training programmes to improvise skills and knowledge and field demonstrations to show-case new technologies in Africa. Interestingly, the two papers enlist different technologies and present different perspectives and philosophies used in the process of technology transfer. This is what makes the articles unique in their own way.

In the article, "Management of Biotic Stress in Cotton" Dr Abdul Qayyum Rao and his team list out biotic constraints in cotton production and outline strategies to combat them. Dr. Rao is the winner of the ICRA-Asia Young Scientist Innovation Medal 2017.

The last two articles capture the essence of the regional network meetings conducted at Brazil and India in August and September 2017. The 14th ALIDA meeting was held at Maceió, Brazil, on August 28th 2017 on the theme 'New technologies for Boll weevil management'. Thirty-six participants from nine countries (Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Chile, Mexico, Paraguay, Perú and USA) attended the meeting. The 7th ACRDN meeting was held at Nagpur, India during 15-17 September 2017 on the theme 'Production of quality fiber and doubling cotton farmers' income'. The meeting attracted 239 registered participants. Technical experts from India, Bangladesh, Egypt, Australia and USA led the sessions. Twenty-nine technical sessions were held during the three-day deliberations. The sessions included a plenary session, a valedictory session, panel discussions, an open forum for young researchers, two open sessions, two poster sessions and 24 concurrent sessions. Recommendations and action plans have been listed out in the articles that summarize both meetings.

I hope readers will find the articles interesting and useful.