



CIAH

NEWSLETTER

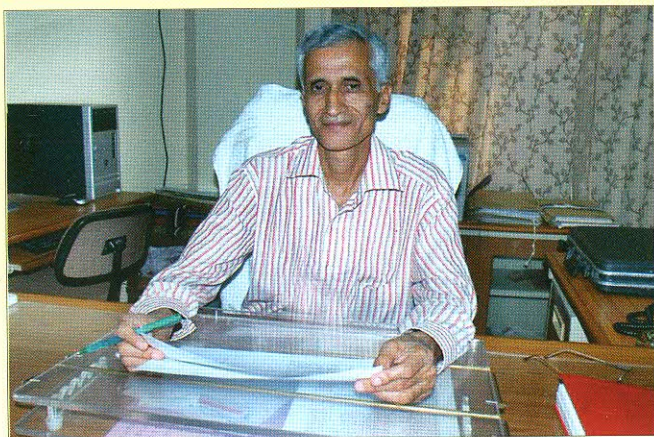


ICAR-Central Institute for Arid Horticulture Beechwal, Bikaner-334 006, Rajasthan

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FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



I am feeling immense pleasure by bringing out this six monthly Newsletter of ICAR-Central Institute for Arid Horticulture, Bikaner, Rajasthan. Primarily, this Institute is dealing with R & D issues of horticultural growth and development in hot arid and semi-arid regions of the country. The Institute identifies the researchable issues and strategies for the growth and development of arid horticulture. Keeping this fact in view, the major emphasis is given on genetic improvement for high yielding and quality production, drought-frost tolerance and disease-pest resistance in horticultural crops. To achieve these goals, various plant breeding tools and techniques, biotechnological methods, physiological approaches, plant health management techniques are being developed. Of course, the scope of value addition in the field of arid horticulture is very wide and there is urgent need of the same for up-liftment of the rural poor of the hot arid regions. Hence, the Institute is taking care and trying to standardize technologies for proper handling, maturity standards, processing, value addition and post harvest management of arid horticultural crops. The Institute is being provided technological help/interventions to the farmers of hot arid/semi-arid regions of the country to earn their life in better way. The major efforts made by the Institute during last six months in above sense are being narrated in this *Newsletter* in brief.

(S. K. Sharma)
Director

RESEARCH SPECTRUM

1. At Bikaner

Performance evaluation of advance lines of longmelon :

During rainy season of 2014, the available advance lines of longmelon were evaluated for growth and yield attributes. Among the evaluated lines, AHLM-2 was early to produce 50% female flowering (40-45 days after sowing) on lower nodes. The fruits at marketable stage were tender, non-bitter, light green, 25-30 cm long and 1.8-2.2 cm in diameter weighing 60-80 g per fruit. The plants of this genotype were vigorous and profusely branched. (Dr. B.R. Choudhary)

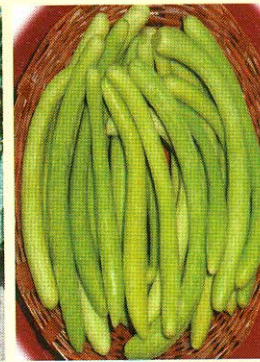
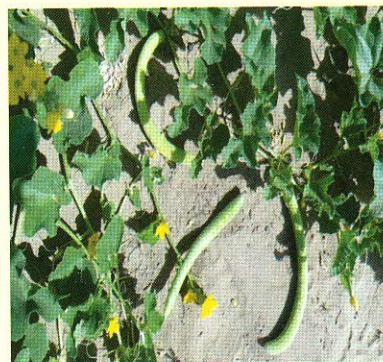


Fig.: View of longmelon (AHLM-2)

Development of DUS test guidelines of watermelon and muskmelon:

Developed the DUS test guidelines of muskmelon and watermelon under the project 'Validation of DUS test guidelines for cucurbits i.e. watermelon and muskmelon' funded by PPV&FRA, New Delhi and submitted to the funding agency (Dr. B.R. Choudhary).

Date Palm Tissue Culture: The micro shoots developed in Halawy and Khalas cultivar were experimented for development of root formation in MS media containing NAA and BA at different concentrations with several additives of activated charcoal, agar, thiamine, glycine, etc. Quality root formation in terms of number of roots and size of roots were recorded with media composition containing high concentration of NAA devoid of activated charcoal whereas MS media containing charcoal produced thinner roots. (Dhurendra Singh and P.N. Sivalingam)

