



## Preface

Cotton production in the country has shown a significant rise during the year 2004-05 touching an all time high of 243 lakh bales from around 90 lakh ha. The cotton productivity of the country has crossed the 400 kg mark and stood at 463 kg lint/ha. This phenomenal increase in production and productivity was made possible through the adoption of improved technologies including the cultivation of transgenic cotton hybrids. The IRM technology developed by the institute has been popularised through large scale demonstrations covering 28 major cotton growing districts in the country. The results are quite encouraging and the use of chemical pesticides has been considerably reduced alongwith other ecological benefits. Two hybrids viz., CSHH 198 (*Intra-hirsutum*) and CISAA 2 (MS based *intra arboreum*) developed by the institute were notified for commercial cultivation in northern cotton zone. The Bt referral lab has played a key role in analysing the samples received from different parts of the country and identifying spurious lots. Encouraging results have been obtained with multi-tier intercropping system under irrigated cotton based production system in the southern zone. Considerable headway was made by the institute in the development of diagnostic kits for the detection of diseases affecting cotton. The research programmes are being fine tuned taking into consideration the emerging requirements in respect of high quality and cost competitiveness. Renovation activities undertaken at the institute have brought about considerable improvement in the research infrastructure.

All these have been made possible due to the untiring efforts of my colleagues and also due to the support from Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi.

I place on record my sense of gratitude for the guidance and leadership provided by hon'ble Dr. Mangala Rai, Secretary DARE & Director General, ICAR and Dr. Gautam Kalloo, Deputy Director General, Crop Sciences, ICAR, New Delhi in developing infrastructural facilities and manpower capabilities of the Institute.

I am presenting the annual report 2004-05 with a sense of fulfilment for public scrutiny.

(B. M. Khadi)  
Director