



## Happenings at NRC for Sorghum

राष्ट्रीय ज्वार अनुसंधान केंद्र के क्रियाकलाप  
हैदराबाद, सोलापुर एवं वरंगल



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### Research Advisory Committee Meeting

The NRCS Research Advisory Committee met on 28-29 February under the Chairmanship of Prof AS Khehra, Former VC, Punjab Agril. University. Other distinguished members present were: Drs. KA Kulkarni (UAS, Dharwad), PD



Tyagi (New Delhi), Dashwant Reddy (OU, Hyderabad), N Seetharama, Director, NRCS, BU Singh, Member Secretary and Non-official members Mrs. Pushpagiri Goswami (New Delhi) and Sh. P. Janardhan Reddy (Ex-MLA- Hyd.). However, Drs. GS Sharma (RAU, Udaipur), RL Yadav (Director, IISR, Lucknow) and SN Shukla (ADG-FFC), ICAR) were unable to attend.

The director appraised the committee on the



reorientation of the projects under five main research areas. The Research Area Leaders (RALs) presented their overviews and objectives of each of the projects. All Scientists participated in the deliberations. The members reviewed the progress made by each scientist and suggested various measures to improve the standards of research and data analysis.

### Sorghum stall at Kisan Mela, Pusa, New Delhi

A sorghum stall was put up in the Kisan Mela organized in the IARI Campus, New Delhi during 27 & 28 February. Hon'ble Union Agriculture Minister Shri Rajnath Singh inaugurated the Mela and Dr. Mangala Rai, DG-ICAR and Secretary DARE addressed the farmers. Farmers in particular were interested in fodder variety SSG 59-3, sweet sorghum variety SSV 84 and dual purpose variety CSV 15. Sorghum products namely beer, jaggery, alcohol, bread, cake, etc., drew special interest from the visitors. Pamphlets and technical bulletins in English and Hindi were distributed to about 10,000 farmers, scientists, agricultural officers, students, etc., who visited our stall, and the latest production technology techniques queries were answered by Dr. B Subbarayudu, Sh. Pramod Kumar and Sh. Vijay Kumar. **Our stall ranked in "excellent category" for display.**

### Visit of Afgani delegation

A team of 15 delegates from Ministry of Agriculture, Government of Afghanistan visited



NRCS as a part of their study on Indian Seed Industry. They were apprised of the various activities and research programmes of this national Centre, Drs. BU Singh and N Kannababu lead the discussion with the help of other senior scientists, which the visitors felt were very appropriate and educative.

### **National-level training course on kharif & rabi sorghum varieties and production technology**

The Centre for Excellence on Training (CET) for Sorghum at NRCS conducted an 8-day national



level training course on "*Kharif and rabi sorghum varieties and production technology*" from 18-25 February. This programme was sponsored by Directorate of Extension, MOA, GOI. Nineteen senior level agricultural officers, from Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and AP attended this programme. A total of 21 lectures were delivered on diverse topics related to sorghum technologies, Intellectual Property Rights and Internet Technologies. Trainees visited all labs and fields at NRCS, CRIDA and ICRISAT as a part of their training programme. They also visited the ARS, Tandur and interacted with the local sorghum farmers. Dr. RK Samanta, Director in-charge, NAARM was the chief guest for the valedictory session

and distributed the certificates . We congratulate Dr. Ch. Sashidhar Reddy and his team for making this training programmes a great success.

### **Rabi sorghum field day at CRS Solapur**

Centre on Rabi Sorghum (NRCS), Solapur Field Day was organized in Maharashtra, on 3 February. The programme was inaugurated by Dr. Ajit Deshpande, Soil Scientist, ZARS, Solapur. About 250 farmers from north and south regions of Solapur district actively participated. They visited the research farm, demonstration plots and museum and disseminated with the information on rabi sorghum production technology, already released and new hybrids and varieties in the pipeline. Presentations were made in Hindi, Marathi and Kannada.

During the question and answer session, most of the queries rallied around grain yield potential and nutritional aspects of sorghum varieties. Farmers showed more interest on by-products of sorghum. Dr. MD Shinde, Sr. Breeder & Officer In-charge, ARS, Mohol (MPKV), Dr. BD Biradar, Sr. Breeder, ARS, Bijapur (UAS) and many scientists from ZARS, Solapur also keenly participated and guided the farmers.

### **Visit of CARI scientist, Port Blair**

Dr. TVRS Sharma, Head, Division of Field Crops, Central Agricultural Research Institute, Port Blair, Andaman & Nikobar Islands, visited NRCS on 11 February to discuss our plan to screen photosensitive sorghums for resistance to both grain mold and leaf diseases. Such sorghums do not flower in mainland and therefore Port Blair which is close to the equator is used .

### **Visit of COLONAC group from Chennai**

Mr. C. Ravindran, Chairman, COLONAC group



of companies visited NRCS on 11 February along with Sh. Gupta and Sh. Mahidhar for a second round discussion on ethanol production from sweet sorghum. COLONAC is proposing to use the closed distilleries on hire basis for the production of ethanol. Drs. Ratnavathi, Dayakar, Biswas and Seetharama participated in the deliberations. NRCS has accepted to provide 1.0 tonne seed of SSV 84 for the coming kharif season. NRCS will also participate in the discussion with Tamil Nadu planning commission and sweet-stalk sorghum for making biofuel

### Certification of breeder seed production

The Breeder Seed Production (BSP) monitoring team consisting of members from APSSCA, NSC, APSSDC, ANGRAU and NRCS approved the BSP plots of 296 A, taken up at Ippalpalve village, Mahaboobnagar district of Andhra



Pradesh, on 17 February which was organized by Dr. N Kannababu, Seed Scientist. Sh. HS Gawali covered the above inspection in digital and conventional formats.

### Technical and supporting staff meeting

Director had a meeting with the technical and supporting staff on 16 February. This was held to ascertain the facts about the working conditions of the staff and their views on important work practices and standards at NRCS. The proceedings are posted in the *intranet*.

### Seminars / Meetings / trainings

**Sh. K Ravindra Babu**, Librarian, participated in "International caliber 2004 on roadmap to new generation of libraries using emerging technologies" jointly organized by INFLIBNET centre, Ahmedabad, IUC of UGC and Jamai-Millia-Islamia, New Delhi from 11 – 13 February at Dr. Zakir Husain Library, JMI, New Delhi.

**Sh. W Srinivasa Bhat**, Assistant Administrative Officer attended the training programme of "Purchase and stores management" at ICRISAT, Patancheru from 16 to 20 February.

**Dr. PK Biswas**, Scientist (SS), participated in a group meeting on "*Multicut forage sorghum coordinated trials*" held at Pantnagar on 24 Feb.

**Drs. N Kannababu** and **Seetharama**, represented NRCS at the Annual Breeder Seed Review Meeting held at NBPGR, New Delhi held under the Chairmanship of Dr. G Kalloo, DDG (CS), ICAR on 26 February. Various issues related to breeder seed production and distribution was discussed in this meet. Drs. CP Singh, Principal Scientist (Seeds), ICAR and Selvaraj, Assistant Commission (Seeds), MOA appreciated this centre for presenting a perfect BSP programme on sorghum.

**Sh. D Balakrishna** and **PG Padmaja**, participated in the meeting on Network projects on "*Molecular mapping in crop plants*" conducted at NBPGR, New Delhi during 27 & 28 February. They presented two project proposals entitled "*Identification of QTLs and molecular marker assisted selection for shoot fly resistance in sorghum*" and "*Information regarding availability of gene constructs for use in transgenic research at NRC for sorghum*".

**Dr. N Seetharama** attended two important meetings at Delhi called by the DG, ICAR. One was on food safety issue on 6 February, and the other was on proposal to strengthen our research farms held on 23 & 24 February. Tour reports are available on the *Intranet* site.

### National Science Day observed

The National Science day was observed on 28 February and all the Scientists and staff members attended it. Due to RAC meet, the institute could not arrange any exhibition or open the institute to general public. An appropriate semi-public function is planned in the near future.

## Lectures delivered

**Dr. KBRS Visarada**, Sr. Scientist, delivered a lecture entitled "Fast-forwarding our future food" on 6 February at the XIII training programme on "Biotechnological approaches to food processing" held at Centre of Advanced Studies, Dept of Foods & Nutrition, ANGRAU, Hyderabad. The lecture covered topics relevant to food, nutrition and trade related issues including benefits of biotechnology, bio-safety issues, and Intellectual Property Rights.

**Dr. VA Tonapi** delivered invited lead paper on "Seed legislation in India: From farmer's perspective" on 11 February at University of Hyderabad in the Seminar entitled "Plant biotechnology-reconfiguring social relations in agriculture".

## Jangamma retires

A Farewell function was held on the lawns of NRCS in view of the superannuation of Smt. I. Jangamma, SSG II on 29 February. A memento from the Staff



Recreation Club was presented to her by the Director. The entire NRCS family recollected her services to the institute and wished her a very happy retired life with her family and friends.

## Family News

**Sh. J.Narasim Rao**, Sr. Technical Assistant celebrated the marriage of his son Mr. Lakshmi Kanth Rao with Ms. Lokaishna on 20 February. Most of the staff members attended the marriage and blessed the couple for happy married life.

**Master Shreyas Gawali** s/o Sh. HS Gawali, Multimedia Officer was awarded Merit Certificate in the Inter-school Drawing Competition (Primary level) conducted by M/s. Camlin Art Division, Mumbai held at Hyderabad.

**Master Kodali Rajesh Babu**, S/o Sh. Kodali Ravindrababu, Librarian, won silver medal in the academic performance during the academic year 2002-03 who is studying in VII class in Brilliant Grammar School, Hyderabad.

## Handouts on sorghum in Hindi

Two handouts entitled "Jowar" which deals with sorghum production technology and "Jowar ke vaikalpik upayog" dealing with alternate uses of sorghum (under NATP RNPS 24) were published in Hindi for better dissemination of information to the farmers belonging to Hindi belt.

## हिन्दी बुलेटिन मुद्रण

हमारे केन्द्र ने किसानों के हित को ध्यान में रखते हुए ज्वार एवं ज्वार के वैकल्पिक उपयोग के दो हिन्दी बुलेटिन तैयार किए गए, जिसके अन्तर्गत ज्वार (खरीफ़, रबी और चारा) एवं ज्वार के वैकल्पिक उपयोग जैसे:- ब्रेड, बिस्केट, केक, एलकोहल, बीअर, गुड एवं सिरप आदि की विस्तार से जानकारी दी गई है और किसान भाईयों व आगुन्तको को भा० कृषि अनु० सं०, पूसा, नई दिल्ली में लगाई गई किसान मेला दिनांक २७-२८ फ़रवरी ०४ में वितरण किए गए।

## Feedback from our readers

**Response on popular articles:** The Commissioner of Agriculture, Govt. of AP has requested for supply of 50 copies of the booklet entitled "Changing scenario on sorghum cultivation in India: a comprehensive economic analysis" written by Dr. B Dayakar Rao et al., under NATP project RNPS-7 which was published and released in December, 2003 which was adhered to.

## Selected new arrivals in our library

1. Patenting of micro-organisms: A report by Patent Facilitating Centre, Science and Technology Bhavan, New Delhi
2. Patents made easy (video cassette) by Patent Facilitating Centre, Science and Technology Bhavan, New Delhi
3. Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer (MCSE) by Alan R Carter.

## Thought for the month

Opportunities are usually disguised as hard work, so most people don't recognise them.

Ann Landers

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