



Dr. Tara Satyavathi - the New Director of IIMR

Dr. C. Tara Satyavathi, Project Coordinator - Pearl Millet, has taken over the charge as "Director", ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research, Hyderabad on 16 February, 2023 as per the ICAR office order based on ASRB recommendation. Henceforth, all the official communications related to IIMR and AICRPs may please be addressed to Dr. Tara Satyavathi. Her e-mail id is: tarasatyavathi@millets.res.in. and director.millets@icar.gov.in.

The IIMR family and staff of AICRP on Sorghum and Small Millets welcomes our new director Dr. Tara Satyavathi. The sorghum family wishes her all the best in her endeavors and hopes to achieve new heights with renewed vigour and vision.



Monitoring of India's Largest Sorghum Germplasm Characterization at ARS-Washim.

ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research (IIMR) is the Cooperating Centre under the CRP-AB coordinating the India's Largest Germplasm Characterization Programme at Agricultural Research Station, Washim. ICAR-IIMR-Hyderabad continued in Coordination, Technical Guidance and Training to the Human Resources of the programme. Scientists from ICAR-IIMR monitored the experiment during 01-04 February 2023 and directed the Young Professionals and Field Assistants to collect new traits on number of leaves, leaf length and leaf width. Variability in the anther colour viz., grey, orange, red, yellow etc., and leaf midrib colour variability viz., white, colourless, pale green, light green and yellow was observed. The sorghum categories viz, pop sorghum, grain sorghum, dual-purpose, sorghum, forage sorghum and high-biomass sorghum were also observed and data is being collected.

Planning for Sorghum Germplasm Field Day at ARS-Washim

ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research (IIMR) is the Cooperating Centre under the CRP-AB coordinating India's Largest Germplasm Characterization Programme at Agricultural Research Station, Washim. ICAR-IIMR-Hyderabad continued in Coordination, Technical Guidance and Training to the Human Resources of the programme. Scientists from ICAR-IIMR monitored the experiment during 19-20th February 2023 and directed the Young Professionals, Field Assistants and Skilled Assistants to collect all the missing data collection in all the 9 blocks. Discussion was held with Dr GP Singh, Director, ICAR-NBPGR on the progress of data collection and plan for the harvest and post-harvest data collection. Also demonstrated the visitors about the data collection using mobile filed book app. On the eve of forthcoming Sorghum Germplasm Field Day on 13th March 2023, we also discussed with Dr. Sharad R Gadakh, Vice Chancellor, Dr. PDKV-Akola; Dr. VK Kharche, Director of Research, Dr. PDKV. Akola; Dr. GP Singh, Director, ICAR-NBPGR-New Delhi; Dr RB Ghorade, Head-Botany, Dr. PDKV-Akola; Dr. Sushil Pandey, PS, ICAR-NBPGR-New Delhi and Dr. Sunil Gomashe, SS, ICAR-NBPGR-RS-Akola regarding the preparation for organizing Sorghum Field Day on 13 March 2023.

International Trainees visit Millets FPOs promoted by IIMR

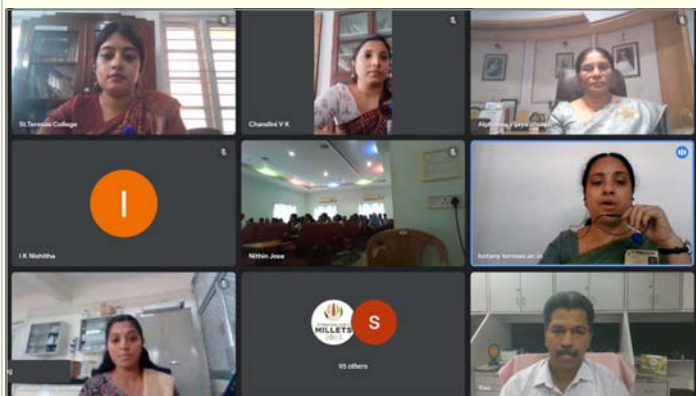
Twenty-seven (27) participants representing 17 countries visited Hulsoor Mahila Kisan Millets Producer Company, Hulsoor, & Gram Vishwas FPOs of Bidar district of Karnataka on 22nd February 2023. The Farmers Producer Organization (FPO) promoted by ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad under the central Sector scheme, implemented through Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC), New Delhi. The exposure visit was organized as a part of the International Training Program on "Issues and Challenges in the Promotion of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs)" which is being organized under the Indian Technical and Economic Coopera-



tion (ITEC) program-an initiative of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India during 13-27 February 2023 at National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad. The international executives represented Niger, Sudan, South Sudan, Uganda, Nepal, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Tanzania, Uzbekistan, Mozambique, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Ghana, Ethiopia, South Africa, and Zambia. During their visit, executives interacted with millets BoDs, farmers, processors, and consumers about millets utilization and promotion. Addressing on this occasion, Dr. K. C. Gummagolmath, Director, MANAGE briefed the importance of ITEC program for establishing mutual concern and cooperation with different countries. Dr. C. Tara Sathyavathi, Director, ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad ushered the activities planned by the institute to celebrate the International Year of Millets 2023. In his welcome address, Dr. Sangappa, Scientist & Project PI of FPOs, mentioned the activities of Millets FPOs in enhancing the income of women farmers and gave an overview of Millets. The millet snacks like Finger Millet *Laddus*, Sorghum *Murukku*, Sorghum *Hurda* were tasted by international executives prepared by Mr. Ashok Sajjan, Mr. Kailash Korishetty, Ms. Ujjawla. Local representatives, administrators, farmers, agricultural officers, and media persons were present during this international exposure visit.

National Seminar on Millets held

A webinar on Millets to commemorate International Year of Millets-2023 was organized by Department of Botany & Centre for Research, St. Teresa's College, Ernakulam in association with the Botany Departments of Teresian College, Mysuru; Vimala College, Thrissur; St. Peter's College, Kolencherry and Newman College, Thodupuzha on



2 February 2023. The seminar was organized for the benefit of faculty and students. Dr. Alphonsa Vijaya Joseph, Principal, welcomed the participants and briefed about the objective of the webinar. Dr. Liza Jacob, HoD, outlined the importance of millets in agriculture and human diet, and need for awareness creation among the students. From IIMR, Dr. K Hariprasanna, Principal Scientist gave invited lecture on Introduction to millets and its R & D prospects including the various research activities on millets taken up by the IIMR along with value-addition, value chain and entrepreneurship development, diversification of processing technologies, branding, recipe development, programmes like N-GRAIN, NEST, Cooking with Millets and Startup ignition by the NutriHub. Dr.

VM Malathi, Scientist delivered invited lecture on Nutritional properties and health benefits of millets underlining how regular consumption of millets will lead to good health. She explained role of each nutrient components, which are present in millets, in imparting health benefits like management of hyperlipidemia and obesity, hypertension, diabetes, radical scavenging, etc. Dr. Chandini VK thanked the resource persons from IIMR for delivering excellent lecture and appreciated the work IIMR is doing for millets promotion. The webinar was coordinated by Ms. Nishitha IK, Ms. Merin Alice George and Dr. Chandini VK from St. Teresa's College.

IIMR participation in Shri Anna Mahotsav, Kannauj.

ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research took part in the three-day farmers mela entitled "Shri Anna Mahotsav" held at Tirva village, Kannauj in Uttar Pradesh during 15-17 February, 2023. This mega event was organized by the Department of Agriculture, Uttar Pradesh State Government. Dr. KV Raghavendra Rao, CTO, IIMR and Sh. HS



Gawali, ACTO participated in this event. Dr. Raghavendra Rao addressed the farmers and explained in brief about the ongoing research activities at IIMR, Hyderabad, basic millet cultivation practices, Health benefits and value added products of various millets. IIMR also organized a millet stall showcasing some of the *eatrite* branded value added products developed at IIMR Nutrihub. About 1500 participants including farmers, students, and entrepreneurs took part in this 3-day event. Shri Baldev Singh Aulakh, Hon'ble State Minister Agriculture, UP, Sh. Subrat Pathak, Member of Parliament, Sh. Kailash Singh Rajput, MLA, Tirwa' constituency in Kannauj district, District Collector also participated in this event and visited IIMR stall. Dr. GC Katiyar, Deputy Director - Agriculture, Kannauj coordinated this event.

Millets stall at Surajkund Mela, Faridabad

ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research, Hyderabad as

a promotion of International Year of Millets 2023, setup a stall and showcased improved production, processing and value added technologies of millets at Surajkund-Mela, Faridabad. The Mela was jointly hosted by Union



Ministries of Tourism, Textiles (Development Commissioner, Handlooms & Handicrafts) External Affairs & Cultural, ICCR and Haryana Tourism during 3-19 February, 2023. More than 5000 persons, besides media officials visited the stall, tasted the millets products and appreciated the products & technologies developed by the institute. Many of them showed keen interest in purchasing the *Eatrite* Products and come up with MoU with IIMR, Hyderabad for startup and business activities. The national newspapers such as Dainik Bhaskar gave good coverage to IIMR, Hyderabad Stall. This stall was organized by Dr. Mahesh Kumar, Assistant Chief Technical Officer (OL) & Shri Amruth Raj Santosh, SSS, IIMR, Hyderabad.

Review of Official Language Implementation at IIMR, Hyderabad

The Official Language Implementation activities of ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research, Hyderabad was reviewed on 15th February, 2023 at NAARM, Hyderabad by Shri Sanjay Bokoliya, Director, GAC & Official Language, Shri Girish Bhat, Director, Crop Science, Shri Ram Dayal Sharma, Deputy Director (OL), Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi. Smt. Ritu Dalal, Senior Administrative Officer & Dr. Mahesh Kumar, Assistant



Chief Technical Officer (OL), ICAR-IIMR briefed them about Official Language Implementation activities conducted at IIMR, Hyderabad. The inspection team appreciated the official language implementation activities done in the institute. Smt. Ritu Dalal & Dr. Mahesh Kumar coordinated the Inspection.

Visit of Harvest Plus team

Dr. Arun Baral, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Harvest-

Plus, Washington DC along with Dr. M Govindaraj, Senior Scientist (Crop Improvement), Mr. Binu Cherian, Country Manager-India, Mr. Ravinder Grover, Asia Operational in-charge, HarvestPlus, ICRISAT Campus, Patancheru, visited IIMR on 22 February, 2023. In particular, they evinced keen interest in production and marketing of biofortified millets other millets health foods. Dr. Arun had a detailed discussion with the Dr. C Tara Satyavathi, Director and other scientists of IIMR namely



Drs. Nepolean, Hariprasanna, CV Ratnavathi, KN Ganapathy, R Venkateswarlu and VM Malathi. Director, IIMR explained the visitors in detail about the issues relating to millet health foods, training components, including the mechanism to evolve contracts with the industries. The HarvestPlus team expressed their keen interest to sign a MoU with IIMR for technical support for production and marketing of millet biofortified health foods.

Address of Hon'ble PM

Post Budget Webinar was held with stakeholders by the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare with the title "Sustainable Agriculture in Mission Approach Through Research and Technology based Holistic intervention (SAMARTH)" on 24 February, 2023. Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Sh. Narendra Modi addressed the participants. Total 6 sessions were held to discuss focused implementation of Budget Announcement 2023.

Lecture on Financial Management

A guest lecture on financial management was delivered by Ms. Kanchu Rajarajeshwari Devi, Senior Manager, Kotak Private Wealth, on 06 February, 2023 at ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad. The lecture included various financial aspects like investment planning, asset diversification, tax savings, wealth creation, retirement planning and also discussed current market trends like equity, mutual funds, bonds, gold bonds etc. All the staff including scientific, administrative and technical staff from IIMR attended the lecture and involved in discussions to get worthy plans to invest. The above event was organized by Drs. Amasiddha, AV Umakanth and KBRS Visarada.

Lectures Delivered

Dr. V Ravi Kumar, TO, IIMR delivered a lecture on "Value Addition through Women - Millet based kitchen and baking products" delivered to the participants at National workshop on "Enhancing Livelihoods and diversification under watersheds under WDC-PMKSY 2.0" organized by NIRDPR, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad during 07-09 February 2023.

Dr. V Ravi Kumar delivered online lecture on the topic "Millets Value Addition - Challenges and Perspective" in the International Online Training Programme on Millets for Global Food Security on 14 February, 2023 organized by African-Asian Rural Development Organization (AARDO) for the participants of more than 30 African-Asian countries.

Dr. Srividhya, S. Scientist, IIMR delivered a guest lecture on "Millets crops: resilience towards climate change" to trainees at MANAGE, Hyderabad, on 10 February, 2023 as part of training program on "Certified Farm Advisor on Millets" conducted by Indian Institute of Millets Research in collaboration with MANAGE, Hyderabad during 2 February - 16 February 2023.

Elangovan, M., delivered a series of lectures as follows "Millets Genetic Resources Management, training programme on "Certified Farm Advisor on Millets" at MANAGE 7th February 2023; "Digitalization of PGR Management at the virtual Training Programme on organized by ICAR-National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR), New Delhi on 08th February 2023; Awareness on "Millets Utilization" during the National Seminar on Popularizing Millets, PG Department of Botany, Government Arts College, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore, 14th February 2023 and Digitalization of Data Collection in Extension Management, Virtual Training in Collaboration with MANAGE on "Market Driven Millets Production, Processing and Value Addition Technologies" 15 February 2023.

Dr. M Elangovan, Principal Scientist, IACAR-IIMR participated and deliver keynote address on "Awareness on utilization of millets" during the National Seminar on Popularizing Millets organized by the PG Department of Botany, Government Arts College-Bharathiar University, Coimbatore on 14th March 2023. He also inaugurated the millets exhibition during the National Seminar and judged the best millet food prepared by the students among 50 millet traditional and modern foods. He also interacted with 5 millet entrepreneurs supported by the ABI, TNAU, Coimbatore.

"Startup Ignition" program

A total of 42 individuals from 7 different states in India, including West Bengal, Haryana, Maharashtra, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, and Karnataka, took part in the "Startup Ignition" program. The program was organized by Nutrihub, ICAR-IIMR on 3 February, 2023, and aimed at providing training and exposure to aspiring entrepreneurs. At the 'Start-up Ignition' program, participants were given the opportunity to explore the existing technology at the Center of Excellence and the primary and secondary processing units. They also had a chance to learn about the startup incubation program at Nutrihub and its Coherts (NGrain and Nest). The participants received hands-on training and practical insights into the world of startups and entrepreneurship. The session on startup incubation was particularly insightful and provided participants with valuable informa-

tion about the process of launching and scaling a successful business. In the end, participants were awarded with a certificate of participation.

"Cooking with Millets"

Recently, 21 individuals from 7 different states in India, including West Bengal, Haryana, Maharashtra, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, and Karnataka, took part in the "Cooking with Millets" program. The program was organized by Nutrihub, ICAR-IIMR on 2 February, 2023, and aimed to educate participants on the health benefits of millets and demonstrate the preparation of various millet-based recipes. At the "Cooking with Millets" program, participants learned about the various delicious millet-based recipes, including muffins, cake, biscuits and other recipes.

Radio Talk

Dr. Jinu Jacob, Scientist, IIMR participated in a radio conversation on the topic of 'introduction to millets and their nutritional benefits' which was aired in Akashvani, Kochi, FM-102.3 at 8.30 AM on 21 February, 2023. It was one of the episodes in a series on 'Adbhutha Cherudhanyangalude Antharashtra Varsham' moderated by Mr. Balanarayanan.

Visitors

Dignitaries from TNAU, Coimbatore

Dr. E. Somasundaram, Director, Directorate of Agribusiness Development, and **Dr. N. Senthil,** Dean, School of Post Graduate Studies and Director, Centre of Plant Molecular Biology, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore visited the Centre of Excellence for Millet Processing and Value-addition, Nutrihub and other processing facilities on 13 February 2023 to understand the research activities, millet processing and value-addition, business incubation, entrepreneurship and training programmes undertaken for the promotion of millets to the consumers. **Dr. J. Stanley,** Senior Scientist explained the activities undertaken in Centre of Excellence, Nutrihub and Common Facility Centre. He also showcased the diverse millet food products and processing technologies that are developed and standardized for commercialization. **Dr. P Rajendrakumar,** Principal Scientist (Biotechnology) coordinated their visit.

Students from Kerala

Thirty agricultural diploma students along with teaching faculty from College of Agriculture, under Kerala Agricultural University (KAU), Vellayani, Thiruvananthapuram visited ICAR-IIMR on 02 February, 2023 as a part of their educational tour. **Dr. Deepika,** scientist, IIMR described about the varieties of millets to the students. She also assisted them in field visit and explained about various research activities taken in the field followed by visit to Nutrihub and briefed about various value added products, FPOs and startup facilities available at IIMR.

A team of 60 students and 4 faculty from College of Agriculture, Ambalavayal, Wayanad, Kerala, visited ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad on 27.01.2023. Students are pursuing

their fourth year of BSc Agriculture and the visit was part of their All India study tour program. They were given exposure to the mandate of our institute, research programs and the health benefits of millet. They were given a short tour of the research fields of IIMR. The visit was coordinated by Dr. Jinu Jacob.

Students from Tamil Nadu

A group of 86 B.Sc., (Agriculture) students along with 4 faculty members from Krishna College of Agriculture and Technology (KIRSAT) Madurai (TNAU) visited ICAR - Indian Institute of Millets Research on 23 February, 2023. The students were briefed about the various types of millets, their nutritional value and health benefits, production aspects and various research activities being carried out at IIMR by Drs. VM Malathi and S Srividhya. The students also visited the millets demonstration plots and briefed about the agronomical aspects of millet cultivation. Later, they visited millets processing and value addition facilities at IIMR. Dr. A. Srinivas briefed about processing and value addition aspects of millets and the business incubation programs at Nutrihub. The programme was Co-ordinated by Drs. S. Srividhya, VM Malathi and A Srinivas.

A Total of 118 students of B.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture along with three staff members from college of Agricultural technology, Theni, Tamil Nadu, visited IIMR, on 10 February, 2023 as part of the All India Tour. Dr. Srividhya, coordinated this visit and explained about the role of millets for food and nutritional security, climate resilience of millet crops, recent development in millets production, and their management technologies which would help the farmers to cultivate millets and bring back millets in their daily food system. The students also visited the Millets demonstration plots and visited Nutri-Hub and learned about the Millets processing and value added technology facilities at IIMR.

About 120 B.Sc. Agri Students from Don Bosco College of Agriculture, Sagayathottam, Tamil Nadu visited IIMR as part of their All India Study Tour programme on 18 February, 2023. Dr. Srividhya, briefed about the nutritional and health benefits, role of millets for climate resilience, and crop production practices of millets, about improved millet cultivars and their cultivation practices to get higher yields and facilitated in field visit of students to demo plots. Dr. Srinivas explained about processing and value addition of Millets, facilities established at IIMR, Nutri-Hub.

A group of 96 B.Sc. Agri Students from TNAU, AC and RI, Kudimiyamalai, Tamil Nadu, visited IIMR on 27 February 2023 as part of their All India Study Tour programme. Dr. Srividhya coordinated and briefed about the institute mandate and role of millets and facilitated in field visit of students to demo plots. The students also visited Nutri-Hub and Ms. Gowtami, briefed about the facilities at COE and Nutri-Hub processing facilities.

Students from Telangana

On 24 February 2023, a group of 15 MSc students of genet-

ics and plant breeding, seed technology and plant physiology from PJTSAU, Hyderabad visited ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research to gain practical exposure to the breeding programs being conducted at the institute. The purpose of the visit was to expose the students to different breeding methods being followed in millets improvement. Dr. Aruna Reddy, Dr Sanjana Reddy and Dr.



Karnam Venkatesh interacted with the students and showed their experiments in the field. Overall, the visit was highly informative and provided the students with practical exposure to the breeding programs being conducted at the ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research. The students gained valuable knowledge about different breeding methods, selection criteria, and breeding objectives. The visit was coordinated by Dr. Karnam Venkatesh.

On February 28, 2023, a total of 53 students from Bharat Institute of Engineering, Ibrahimpatnam and BV Raju Institute of Technology, Narsapur visited the ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research on the occasion of National Science Day 2023. The visit was facilitated by the Samskruti Foundation, which helped to coordinate the trip and ensure a smooth experience for all involved. During the visit, the students were given a glimpse of diversity of millet germplasm conserved in the millets genebank. The students also visited the NUTRIHUB to



see the progress on millets value addition, commercialization and millets entrepreneurship development. They also visited the millets experimental field and got acquainted with the different types of millets in India. Overall, ICAR-IIMR provided expert guidance and insights into the research being conducted at the institute. The college students visit was coordinated by Drs M. Elangowan and K. Venkatesh.

MoU/ MoA made during February 2023

MoUs during February 2023:

The following Memorandum of Agreement / Understandings were also made through ITMU, ICAR-IIMR, signed at ICAR-IIMR during the February 2023. Dr. CV Ratnavathi, Acting Director – IIMR on behalf of IIMR signed the agreements. The details are as follows:



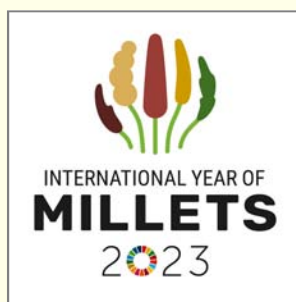
MoU with State Bank of India for strengthening Agripreneurs



MoU with Nandi Seeds for licensing of CSH 24 MF

Online Meetings (M) / Workshops (W)/ Trainings (T) Conferences (C) attended

| S. No. | Name of Employee | Programme details | Type | Organized by | Dates |
|--------|---------------------------|--|------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 1 | P Mukesh | Impactful ICT Applications and Technologies in Agriculture | T | ICAR-NAARM, Hyderabad | 6-10 Feb., 2023 |
| 2 | Ritu Dalal & Mahesh Kumar | Inspection Meeting of ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research by the ICAR higher officials to review the activities of Official Language Implementation. | M | NAARM, Hyderabad | 15 Feb., 2023 |



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