



IIMR

Millet

Newsletter

244 Issue – February 2024



Hyderabad • Solapur • Warangal • Gudamalani



ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad. 500 030.

IIMR Foundation Day celebrated

The ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research, Hyderabad celebrated its “9th Foundation Day” on 9 February, 2024. Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan, Hon'ble Governor of Telangana, and the Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry was the Chief Guest. Dr. SL Mehta, Former DDG (Edu.), ICAR, Former VC, MPUAT, Udaipur and Dr. Jacqueline d'Arros Hughes, DG, ICRISAT were the Guest of Honors. Directors from various ICAR Institutes located at Hyderabad, former Director of IIMR Dr. N Seetharama and former Director (Acting) Dr. CV Ratnavathi graced the occasion.



At the outset, in her welcome address, Dr. C Tara Satyavathi, Director, ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad emphasized on the Institute's role in the past and future. She also briefed the activities taken-up during International Year of Millets in 2023 and roadmap of the forthcoming Global Centre of Excellence on Millets.

In her address, the Chief Guest, Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan, Hon'ble Governor of Telangana highlighted the importance of Millets as health foods in daily life and Government of India's support for the Millets promotion. She felicitated Dr. SL Mehta for his support to millets research at IIMR as Chairman of QRT and member of RAC. The dignitaries distributed the awards and mementos to the best FPOs supported by IIMR, millet seed production farmers, Millet entrepreneurs and certificates of appreciation and mementos to the best staff of IIMR; Prior to this programme, the Governor also visited all the millet processing units, Centre of Excellence on Millets, Startup and incubation facilities at Nutrihub of IIMR.



Dr. Jacqueline d'Arros Hughes in her address discussed about the way forward to strengthen the collaboration between the ICAR-IIMR and ICRISAT for maximizing the revenue of the millions of Millets farmers with minimum input. Dr. SL Mehta, Former DDG (Edu.), ICAR, Former VC, MPUAT, Udaipur specified a brief address on millets research in India.

To mark the occasion, three books entitled “Shree Anna Activities by ICAR-IIMR during the International Year of Millets -2023”, “Millet Improvement in India” and “Registered Genetic Stock of Millets in India” were released. Later, research fellows, students and staff of IIMR presented some Cultural events.

Research Facility Training for Research Scholars

One training program entitled "Research Facility Training for Research Scholars" was conducted at ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research, Hyderabad on 1 February, 2024 under Scientific Social Responsibility activity of the SERB-DST project. The aim of this program was to mentor and enhance the skills and knowledge of research personnel in the



field of millet research. A total of 41 participants including Ph. D. scholars, post graduates and graduates from Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Karnataka states participated. They interacted with IIMR scientists belongs to Seed Science and Technology, Biochemistry, Biotechnology, Millet processing and value addition to know about new infrastructure facilities and recent research techniques developed at IIMR. Dr. C. Tara Satyavathi, Director, IIMR delivered inaugural address and underlined the significance of millet research. At the outset, Dr. N Kannababu, Principal Scientist and Principal Investigator of the project, briefed about the training program, which was designed to promote continuous learning on new research advancements, and excellence in millets.

Dr. N Kannababu spoke on seed science and technologies including quality assessment to seed storage facilities. Dr. Sangappa and project staff conducted a field visit to demonstrate the millet production technologies, modern farming techniques, improved millet varieties, and best cultivation practices. Drs. R Venkateswarlu and VA Malathi explained various biochemical tests, sample preparation methods, and instrumentation. Dr. Jinu Jacob elaborated on transgenic varieties of millets resistant to biotic and abiotic stress, emphasizing the use of advanced technology in biological research. Dr. A. Srinivas enlightened participants on activities of Nutrihub including start-up ignition programmes and entrepreneurial opportunities. The training program was coordinated by Drs. N Kannababu and Sangappa.

Visit of Hon'ble Agriculture Minister of Kerala

Shri P. Prasad, Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture, Government of Kerala visited the ICAR -Indian Institute of Millets Research, Hyderabad on 3 February, 2024. Dr. Tara Satyavathi, Director, IIMR apprised him about the ongoing R&D activities at IIMR including health benefits of consuming millets to overcome lifestyle diseases. The dignitary was shown all millet processing facilities including CoE and Nutri Hub at IIMR by Dr B Dayakar Rao. The minister emphasized about the need for more work on promotion of millets based value-added products in urban and peri-urban areas with better marketing linkages through formation of FPOs, SHGs, and other agencies. He also suggested the deployment



of processing machinery right in the villages where millets produced are processed through farm gate processing programme to ensure better returns to farmers.

National Science Day Celebration-2024

ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research, Hyderabad, celebrated National Science Day on 28 February, 2024, by conducting an awareness programme at Springfield High School, Rajendranagar. The theme of this year's



Science Day was 'Indigenous technologies for viksit bharat'. The scientists from ICAR-IIMR spoke to around 50 students from VII and VIII standard on the importance of the science day. As millets are one of the most valuable indigenous technologies in our country, the scientists talked about the importance of millets, types of millets, and their health benefits. They encouraged students and teachers to include millets in their daily diet. Millet specimens were displayed and explained. Students were curious throughout the lecture, and they interacted enthusiastically. They were given millet snacks to taste. The programme was organised by Drs. Jinu Jacob and Deepika C.

IIMR @ Regional Agricultural Fair, Varanasi

ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research, Hyderabad took part in the Regional Agricultural Fair, Varanasi on 3-4 February, 2024. Dr. Rajendra R. Chapke, Principal Scientist delivered lecture on "Improved Millets Production and Processing Technologies" in Hindi for farmers and officials of UP and adjacent states. He also presented in detail about implementable millets production and processing technologies and a success

story of rice-fallow sorghum. It was followed by interaction session with the farmers and other participants where they got answers to their queries.

Millet Stall: ICAR-IIMR organized a millet exhibition stall and showcased technologies developed by the institute Regional Agricultural Fair, Varanasi. Sh. Surya Pratap



Shahi Ji, Hon'ble Agriculture Minister, Government of Uttar Pradesh along with Dr. Mangala Rai, Ex-DG, ICAR, Dr. PL Gautam, DDG (Ag. Extension), ICAR and Dr. Behara, Director, ICAR-IIVR, Varanasi and other dignitaries visited IIMR's millets stall. The exhibition stall of IIMR received the Best Stall Award and certificate in the Regional Fair with certificate.

IIMR@ Regional Agricultural Fair 2024 for Eastern Region, Ranchi

ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research, Hyderabad participated in the Regional Agricultural Fair 2024 for Eastern Region was organized by ICAR-National Institute of Secondary Agriculture, Ranchi during 3-5 February, 2024 at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Diankel, Topra Block, Khunti, Jharkhand. Shri Arjun Munda, Honorable Union Minister of Agriculture and Welfare, Government of India inaugurated the fair on 03 February, 2024. Dr. Sangappa, Scientist and Dr. Mahesh Kumar, Assistant



Chief Technical Officer (Official Language) represented the IIMR-Hyderabad. The fair concluded on 05 February, 2024 in the gracious presence of Shri CP Radhakrishnan, Honorable Governor of Jharkhand.

ICAR-IIMR also set up a Shree Anna (Millets) exhibition stall to create awareness about Millets among the tribal farmers during the fair. The technologies developed for the cultivation and processing of Millets as well as the



live samples and value-added products of Millets were displayed. Shri Arjun Munda, Shri CP Radhakrishnan, Dr. Himanshu Pathak, Secretary, DARE & DG, ICAR, Dr. SC Dubey, VC, BAU, Ranchi and other dignitaries visited the Millets stall.

On this occasion, Millets Stall of IIMR, Hyderabad received a certificate of appreciation during the closing ceremony for its excellent arrangement and management of stall. On behalf of the Indian Institute of Millets Research, Hyderabad, Dr. Sangappa and Dr. Mahesh Kumar received the certificate from Shri CP Radhakrishnan, Honorable Governor of Jharkhand.

Meeting of Official Language Implementation Committee

The 68th meeting of the Official Language Implementation Committee (OLIC) of the Indian Institute of Millets Research, Hyderabad was organized on 15 February, 2024. The meeting began with a formal welcome address by Dr. (Smt) C. Tara Satyavathi, Chairperson of OLIC. The other members Dr. B Venkatesh Bhat, OIC, PME Cell and Technical & Media Cell, Dr. A Kalaisekar, OIC, Information Technology, Dr. Soogana, OIC, Library, Smt. Ritu Dalal, SAO, Shri Shaik Rukman, FAO and Member Secretary, Dr. Mahesh Kumar, ACTO (OL) were present during the discussion. During the meeting various issue related to Official Language implementation presented by the member secretary were discussed. The meeting concluded with vote of thanks by Dr. Mahesh Kumar.

Honours received

Dr A V Umakanth, Principal Scientist and PI (Sweet Sorghum) was felicitated by Shri Aamir Khan, noted Bollywood Actor and Founder Director, Paani Foundation during the "Farmer Cup Award Ceremony 2023" at Pune



on 29 February 2024 for his untiring efforts on popularisation of sweet sorghum for biofuel production in India. Paani foundation is under MoU with ICAR-IIMR for promoting sweet sorghum for ethanol production in the dry lands of Maharashtra.

Visitors

Trainees

The trainees of “Winter School on Application of Weather Information for Climate Resilient Farming” from ICAR-CRIDA visited genebank on 2 February 2024 and observed millets genetic diversity being conserved at ICAR-IIMR. Dr. K Venkatesh interacted with the trainees and explained the conservation, characterization and distribution activities being carried out at ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad. They were briefed about the different types and diversity of millet local landraces, the importance of conservation and utilization of farmers/local varieties in millet improvement. They were also explained the nutritional and health benefits of millets and urged them to diversify their food plates with millets to combat the lifestyle diseases.

Officers from Uttar Pradesh

Seven key officials from Uttar Pradesh State seed certification agency visited ICAR-IIMR Gene Bank on 8



February 2024. Dr. K Venkatesh interacted with the officials and showed the millets genetic diversity being conserved at IIMR gene bank. The officials appreciated the activities carried out under germplasm management

at ICAR-IIMR.

Farmers from Tamil Nadu

A group of 60 farmers from Tamil Nadu visited ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad on 5 and 6 February 2024 as a part of their exposure visit. The scientists at ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad, shared their extensive millet research and practical knowledge with the farmers. In addition to learning about millet cultivation techniques, the farmers were also introduced to innovative processing methods and the latest technologies available in millet farming.

Farmers from Dindori, MP

Thirty-one farmers from Dindori, MP visited ICAR-IIMR on 07 February, 2024 under the leadership of Shri



Durgesh Sahu, RAEO, Smt. Aarti Chaurasiya, RAEO & Shri HS Athya, SADO, Dept. of Agriculture, MP. They were briefed about the IIMR, Millets cultivation technologies, Nutrihub and primary & secondary processing of Millets. This visit facilitated and coordinated by Dr. Mahesh Kumar, Assistant Chief Technical Officer (OL).

Farmers from Maharashtra

Fourteen farmers from Thane and Palghar, Maharashtra visited IIMR, Hyderabad on 08 February, 2024 under the



leadership of Shri Laxman Nakul Sarogade, Agriculture Officer, State Agriculture Department Maharashtra. They were briefed about the IIMR, Millets cultivation, Nutrihub and primary & secondary processing of Millets. This visit facilitated and coordinated by Dr. Mahesh Kumar.

Students

Final year B.Sc., students from the College of Agriculture, Kalaburgi embarked on a National Educational Tour to ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad on 10 February 2024. Throughout the visit, students had the opportunity to explore various aspects of millet farming. This visit was coordinated by FPO-NEST team of ICAR-IIMR.

Farmers from Tamil Nadu

Farmers from Salem and Tirunelveli, Villupuram districts of Tamil Nadu visited ICAR-IIMR on 21 February, 2024. The aim of the visit was to impart millet knowledge among farmers and cultivation of millets in dry areas. The farmers had the opportunity to actively participate in on-field activities for gaining practical insights into millet cultivation from seed sowing to harvesting. This visit was coordinated by FPO-Nest team of ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad.

Farmers from Uttar Pradesh

Thirty-five farmers of Rashtriya Asahaya Sevashram Parishad, Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh under the leadership



of Shri Bachchan Chaudhary, Technical Assistant, Department of Agriculture visited ICAR-IIMR on 22 February, 2024 for the exposure visit on millets. They were briefed about the millets cultivation, availability of varietal technologies, millet value addition and processing machineries. Dr. Mahesh Kumar, ACTO coordinated the visit.

Students from UAS, Dharwad

Sixty-two students from University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad, Karnataka visited ICAR-IIMR on 27



February, 2024 under the leadership of Dr. Prema Patil.

They were briefed about the IIMR research activities, types of millets, Nutrihub and primary & secondary processing of Millets. This visit facilitated and coordinated by Dr. Mahesh Kumar, ACTO.

Farmers from Madhya Pradesh

A group of 35 farmers from Dindori district of Madhya Pradesh visited ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad on 23 February 2024. The farmers were taken to millet fields where package of practices of major and minor millets along with their health benefits were explained to the participants. Dr. Sangappa, Dr. Mahesh and FPO Nest team coordinated this visit.

Agriculture Officers from Madhya Pradesh

Shri ND Gupta & Shri K Dehria, Deputy Directors (Agriculture) from Anjppur and Umaria, Madhya Pradesh



visited ICAR-IIMR on 27 February, 2024 to know about Millets cultivation technology & Its value addition. They were briefed about the millets cultivation, Nutrihub facilities, primary & secondary processing and millet value addition. Dr Mahesh Kumar, ACTO coordinated the visit.

Students from KL University, Hyderabad

Thirty-seven students from KL University, Hyderabad



visited ICAR-IIMR on 28 February, 2024 under the leadership of Dr. G Shivakanth. They were briefed about the IIMR, Millets cultivation, Nutrihub and primary and secondary processing of Millets and health benefits of Millets. This visit was facilitated and coordinated by Dr. Mahesh Kumar, ACTO.

Veterinary students from Karnataka

A group of 85 veterinary students from Bijapur, Karnataka visited ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad as a part of educational tour on 27 February 2024. They were explained about the importance of millets, role of millets in mitigating the changing climate, cultivation practices of millets and latest millet processing technologies. Demonstration on the working procedure of millet primary processing machinery were also shown to the students. FPO Nest team coordinated this visit.

Engineering students from Hyderabad

About 30 engineering students from Gokaraju Rangaraju Institute of Engineering and Technology, Hyderabad visited ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad on 28 February, 2024 as part of exposure entrepreneurial opportunities. The students were exposed to millet fields and explained the millet cultivation practices. They also visited the processing units. FPO nest team had coordinated this visit.

FPO News

Online collaborative Training

ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad and MANAGE, Hyderabad jointly organized a series of virtual workshops with a special focus on market-driven millet production, processing, and value addition from 5 to 12 February, 2024. The participants were officers from agriculture line departments, NGOs, FPOs, farmers, students, and extension professionals. The series of webinars helped participants to acquire in-depth knowledge about millet-related processes and get expertise in the field and helped to establish contacts with various stakeholders, fostering collaboration and synergies within the millet value chain. Dr. Sangappa was the course coordinator.

Credit Linkage to FPOs from NABKISAN

ICAR-IIMR promoted FPO, Visakha Millets FPCL,



Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh received credit linkage of Rs. 15 lakhs from NABKISAN on 5 February, 2024 at Vijayawada. This credit linkage helps FPOs to extend their millet secondary processing unit facilities and target the markets with better unique branding.

Distribution of free millet sample kits

FPO-NEST team of ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad promoted millets by distributing free millet sample kits and millet-based literature to state Agri officers and CFA participants of Tamil Nadu and Punjab for creating awareness about the benefits of millets, nutritional value and management practices in millet cultivation on 1 February 2024. The team also organized interactive sessions and workshops with the progressive farmers. Dr. Sangappa, Scientist, ICAR-IIMR, Coordinated the event.

Training programme to women farmers on preparation of millet value added products.

On 7/02/2024, Thandava Valley FPO from Payakaraopeta Block, Anakapalli district conducted a training



programme to women farmers at Kotturu village on preparation of millet value added products. Dr. Divya from KVK Yelamanchili attended as a resource person and shared her expertise with the attendees and demonstrated the process of making millet value added products and emphasizing the importance of proper hygiene standards for quality control. The women farmers were enthusiastic about learning new techniques and expressed their eagerness to implement them in their own kitchens and run small-scale businesses. Dr. Rafi D. Research Associate IIMR Coordinated this event.

IIMR at Regional Basava Utsav Exhibition

Dr. Sangappa, Scientist from ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad participated and coordinated Millet FPO Exhibition stall at Regional Kayaka Basava Utsava on 10 February 2024. As a part of the program, Dr. Sangappa delivered a session on the role of FPOs in establishing the millet value chain.

Jai Jawan Kisan Millet Outlet

In order to connect farmers and jawan for promoting nutritional security a "Jai Jawan Kisan Farm 2 Kitchen" initiative was inaugurated on 14 February, 2024, by Dr. P. Chandra Sekhara, Director General, MANAGE,

Dr. Sangappa and FPO-NEST team of ICAR-IIMR. This programme aimed to forge a symbiotic bond between Pri-



mary Processing Units, Millet Value Addition, Millet Value Chain, and Government Initiatives to Aid FPOs promotion. The webinar attracted participants from diverse backgrounds including agriculture officers, graduate and postgraduate students, professors, scientists from various departments, farmers, FPOs, and NGOs for enhancing their understanding towards millets. Dr. Sangappa, scientist from ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad, coordinated the webinar with the help of FPO-NEST team.

Exporter, Buyer and Seller meet 2024

FPO NEST team of ICAR-IIMR participated in the Exporter, Buyer, and Seller Meet-2024 organized by the Horti-



culture Department of Horticulture, Koppal, and KAPPEC, Bangalore, held at Koppal on 27th February 2024. During the event, spot agreements were made between buyers and FPOs for facilitating immediate transactions and fostering beneficial partnerships between producers and buyers.

NABARD DDM visit to Telangana FPOs

Shri Shanmukha Chary NABARD DDM (Mahbubnagar) & Dr. Rafi (FPO-NEST - ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad) monitored Balanagar, Devarakadra, Palamuru, Dundubi FPCL - FPOs in Mahbubnagar district promoted by ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad supported by NABARD during 28 to 29 February 2024.

Memoranda of Understanding

Date of Agreement	Second Party/ Licensee	Purpose of MoA/ MoU	Signed by Second party	In the presence of
09 Feb.,2024	Krishi Vikas Sahakari Samiti, Rajasthan	Licensing of CSH 24MF	Mr. Heeralal Sharma	Drs. Venkatesh Bhat & J. Stanley
13 Feb.,2024	BAIF Development Research Foundation, Pune	To foster collaborative R&D initiatives.	Dr. Shiva Rudrappa	Dr. Sangappa & Amasiddha
19 Feb.,2024	ATS Gene Tech Pvt Ltd	Licensing of 4K SNP Panel	Mr. Srinivas Udumudy, CEO	Drs. T. Nepolean and J. Stanley
23 Feb.,2024	CSIR-Indian Institute of Petroleum, Dehradun	Collaborative Research	Dr. Atul Ranjan	Drs. AV Umakanth and J. Stanley



MoU with CSIR-Indian Institute of Petroleum Dehradun



Mou with BAIF Development Research Foundation Pune

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

S. No.	Name of Employee	Programme details	Type	Organized by	Dates
1	V Ravikumar	10 days training programme on "Big Data Analysis for Weather based Crop Management".	T	CRIDA, Hyderabad	29 Jan - 7 Feb, 2024.
2	C Tara Satyavathi	International Conference 'Sanmantrana' on Innovations and Technological Interventions for Sustainability : Emerging Challenges and delivered Keynote address.	C	Shri Vaishnav Vidyapeeth Vishwavidyalaya, Indore	02 Feb., 2024
3	C Tara Satyavathi	Chief Guest at the Valedictory Event of Certified Millets Advisor Program-Module –II.	M	MANAGE, Hyderabad	05 Feb., 2024
4	C Tara Satyavathi	Regional Workshop on "Training Need Assessment of Clientele States"	M	Extension Education Institute, Hyderabad.	05 Feb., 2024
5	C Tara Satyavathi	Virtual meeting on International joint research project on millet between India and Japan from FY 2024.	M	ICAR, New Delhi	07 Feb., 2024
6	C Tara Satyavathi	Delivered virtual Keynote address on Millets for Climate Resilience and Nutritional Security: A Sustainable Approach during the International Conference on "Reviving Ancient Grains: Millets on the Global stage	C	University of Horticultural Sciences, Bagalkot, ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kolar.	08 Feb., 2024
7	C Tara Satyavathi	One - Day Workshop on "Diversification of Diet: Importance of Inclusion of Millets in the Diet Menu of ICDS, Mid-Day Meal Scheme and Urban Canteens - A Study of Select Metro Cities of Telangana and Karnataka and Panelist during the Panel discussion on "Challenges and perspectives on Food and Nutrition Security in India"	W	University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad	16 Feb., 2024
8	C Tara Satyavathi	7 th International Conference on Plant Conference on Plant Genetics and Genomics" on the theme "GM Crops and Genome Editing – Promoting Agrobiodiversity use for sustainable agricultural development" and delivered Keynote address on "Genetic Improvement in millets" also Chaired a Session on: Genetic improvement of millets for nutrition and climate resilience.	C	Glostem Pvt. Ltd., Chandigarh.	17 Feb., 2024
9	C Tara Satyavathi	Inauguration of National Seminar on "Smart Technologies for Sustainable Agriculture and Environment"	M	ICAR- CRIDA, Hyderabad.	22 Feb., 2024
10	C Tara Satyavathi	Directors and Vice-Chancellors conference	C	ICAR, New Delhi	26-27 Feb., 2024



Compilation & Editing
Dr. KV Raghavendra Rao & Dr. B Venkatesh Bhat

Photos, Design & Lay-out
HS Gawali

Publisher & Chief Editor
Director

ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research

Global Centre of Excellence on Millets

ICAR- Indian Institute of Millets Research (IIMR)

All India Research project on Pearl Millet / Sorghum / Small Millets

Centre on Rabi Sorghum (IIMR), NH 9
Bypass, Shelgi, Solapur - 413 006 (Mah.)
Tel: 0217-2373456 Telefax: 0217-2373456
E mail: solapur@millets.res.in

Sorghum Off-Season Nursery, Warangal
Indian Institute of Millets Research, RARS,
(PJTSAU) Mulugu Road, Warangal.

Regional Research Station on Pearl Millet
Gudamalani, Barmer, Rajasthan
E mail: barmer@millets.res.in