



IIMR

# Millet's Newsletter

236 Issue June 2023



भारत-अनुप-भारतीय श्री अन्न अनुसंधान संस्थान  
ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research

Hyderabad □ Solapur □ Warangal



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

## Technical excursion of Agricultural Ministers of G20 nations

As part of the 3-day G20 meeting of Agricultural Ministers at Hyderabad, a technical excursion of Agricultural Ministers of G20 countries was held at ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research, Hyderabad on 17 June, 2023.

A traditional welcome was given to G20 Agricultural Ministers and delegates by folk dancers of millet growing states of Maharashtra, Rajasthan, and Madhya Pradesh was done initially. Su shri Shobha Karandlaje, Honorable Minister of State of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare - welcomed all the G20 Agricultural Ministers with a traditional Stole and Mala.



The excursion included visit to demonstration plots of all the nine millet crops and were briefed on the various growth stages of millets by Dr. C Tara Satyavathi, Director, ICAR-IIMR. Planting of millet crops was taken up by agricultural ministers. The Ministers also visited the primary and secondary millet processing facilities, bakery unit, flaking unit, packing units, Centre of Excellence Nutrihub, TBI-where they tasted traditional millet recipes, millet version of popular recipes G20 nations.

An exhibition showcasing the strength of ICAR - Indian Institute of Millets Research as Global Centre of Excellence on R&D on Millets, millet entrepreneurs and millet science was inaugurated by Honorable Minister Su Shri Shobha Karandlaje along with the G20 Agricultural Ministers. The millet entrepreneurs displayed their diverse food products. Two books entitled "International Millet Recipes" and "Milletology" were released by all the Honourable Agricultural Ministers of G20 nations. A film on history of millets and a film on importance of millets showcasing climate resilience, nutritional superiority, and role of IIMR in research, value addition, entrepreneurship development and





promotion of millets were screened.

This mega event was graced by Agricultural Ministers of G20 nations, invited friendly nations, Heads of International Organizations, Dr. Himanshu Pathak, Secretary, DARE and Director General of ICAR; Sh. Manoj Ahuja, Secretary, DA&FW; Dr. Pramod Kumar Meherda, Additional Secretary (Farmers Welfare); DK Yadava, ADG [Seeds), ICAR; Ms. Shubha Thakur, Joint Secretary DA&FW (Crops), Sri. M Raghunandan Rao, IAS, APC and Secretary (Agriculture Cooperation Dept.) Government of Telangana and Directors of ICAR institutes located at Hyderabad.

## DG - ICAR unfurls 100-ft-high national flag

Dr. Himanshu Pathak, Secretary-DARE and Director General, ICAR unfurled the 100 feet Giant National Flag at the campus of Indian Institute of Millets Research, Hyderabad in the presence of Dr. DK Yadava, ADG (Seeds)-ICAR, other directors of ICAR institutes located at Hyderabad and Dr. C. Tara Satyavathi, Director, ICAR-IIMR Hyderabad on 17 June, 2023. It was organized on the occasion of G20 Nation's Agriculture minister's technical excursion to the ICAR-IIMR-Hyderabad as part of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Agricultural Ministers Meet of G20 Nations.



## Selfie point inaugurated

A selfie point "I LOVE MILLETS" was launched in the campus of ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research, Hyderabad by Dr. Himanshu Pathak, Secretary-DARE and Director General, ICAR on 17 June, 2023 in the pres-



ence of Dr. DK Yadava, ADG (Seeds)-ICAR and Dr. C. Tara Satyavathi, Director, IIMR-Hyderabad. Scientists

and staff of IIMR participated in the launch of millet promotion campaign through "I Love Millets" selfie point.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> QRT meeting

The second meeting of the QRT 2019-23 was held at ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research (IIMR), Hyderabad during 31 May-1 June, 2023 under the Chairmanship of Dr. SL Mehta, Former Vice-Chancellor Maharana Pratap Agricultural University and Technology, Udaipur, and attended by all the other QRT members namely Dr. K. Ganesamurthy, Former Director, Centre for Plant Breeding and Genetics, TNAU, Coimbatore; Dr. O.P. Govila, For-



mer Project Coordinator, AICRP on Pearl Millet; Dr. Prabhakar, Former Project Coordinator, AICRP on Small Millets, Bengaluru; Dr. NK Bajpal, Director Extension, BUAT, Banda; and Dr. M Elangovan, Principal Scientist, ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad.

At the outset, Dr. C Tara Satyavathi, Director, ICAR-IIMR and other Scientists of ICAR-IIMR welcomed the QRT team. The discipline-wise presentation viz., sweet sorghum, finger millet improvement, proso millet improvement, kodo millet improvement, little millet improvement, Physiology, Biochemistry, Seed Science Research, MAS/Biotechnology, Agronomy, Agricultural Entomology, Plant Pathology, Seed Production-BSP / MSP / Seed hub, Extension Research, FLD, TSP and NEH, Value addition and Entrepreneurship development, Economics of production, marketing and utilization of sorghum, millet FPOs and Seed hub and IPR Management were presented by the respective scientists. The QRT members appreciated the progress made by the respective disciplines. During the second meeting, the QRT team also visited various facilities and infrastructure of the ICAR-IIMR viz., visit to millets Genebank, Shoot fly screening lab, Biochemistry lab, Biotechnology and MAS lab, CoE, Nutrihub and food processing labs. The QRT team also interacted with the Administrative, Finance and Technical staff separately.

## Millets Genetic Stocks Recommended for Registration

ICAR-National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR) organized 50<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Plant Germplasm Registration Committee virtually under the Chairmanship of Dr. Tilak Raj Sharma, DDG (Crop Science), ICAR on 12 June, 2023. Twelve out of 14 millets genetic stocks proposed by IIMR-Hyderabad were considered by the PGRC and recommended for registration. The recommended millets genetic stocks include 6 Finger millet for the traits of earliness, blast resistance, banded leaf blight

resistance, non-lodging, more number of fingers and long fingers; and 6 Sorghum for the traits of longer leaf, brown midrib, green and dry fodder productivity, hurda, early flowering and maturing, high iron and zinc. Dr. C. Tara Satyavathi, Director, ICAR-IIMR-Hyderabad clarified the Chairman on the trait importance of the proposed millets genetic stocks during the discussion. Drs. M Elangovan and B. Amasiddha along with other developers of the genetic stocks from ICAR-IIMR and AICRP on Sorghum and Small millets participated in the meeting.

## International Yoga Day 2023 celebrated

The ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research, Hyderabad celebrated 9<sup>th</sup> “International Yoga Day” on 21 June, 2023. On this occasion Prof M. Singa Rao, Yoga expert and Professor of Soil Physics (Retd.), PJTSAU, Hyderabad was invited as a special guest. The theme of this year’s Yoga day celebration was “Yoga for Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam”. Dr. C.V. Ratnavathi, Director In-Charge, IIMR welcomed Dr. Rao and said that regular Yoga practice leads to the creation of healthier, more powerful and happy family, society and nation. Dr Singha Rao explained the staff on the benefits of yogasanas along with the demonstration. He enlightened as to how yoga also en-



hances teamwork and communication power in day to day office work. Staff of IIMR including RAs, SRFs and contractual persons enthusiastically participated in this event. This event was coordinated by Mr. O.V. Ramana, CTO.

## World Environment Day-2023 celebrated

The “World Environment Day” encourages awareness and action for the protection of the environment, celebrated on 5<sup>th</sup> June of every year. This year the theme focuses on solutions to plastic pollutions under the campaign ‘Beat the Plastic Pollution’. In this view ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research, Hyderabad celebrated the “World Environment Day” by cleaning the campus and planting trees in the premises of office campus. The scientific and technical staff was involved and the event was coordinated by Drs. Amasiddha, Sangappa and Mr. Bhagavantham.

## Sh. Shaik Rukman, New FAO of IIMR

**Sh. Rukman Shaik**, has taken over charge as the new Finance and Accounts Officer on 01 June, 2023 at ICAR-

Indian Institute of Millets Research, Hyderabad. Sh. Rukman, earlier worked as Assistant Finance & Accounts Officer at ICAR-Agricultural Technology Application Research Institute (ATARI), Hebbal, Bangalore appointed as FAO at IIMR-Hyderabad on promotion as per Council’s OO No.Admin.17-2/2016-Estt.I dated:22.5.2023. His e-mail id is: fao@millets.res.in. *The IIMR Family welcomes him to the millets fraternity.*



## Superannuation

Dr. CV Ratnavathi, Principal Scientist, Biochemistry superannuated from the Council’s service on 30 June, 2023. Dr. Ratnavathi joined the ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research in 1989. Earlier, she served at ICAR-Central Tobacco Research Institute, Rajahmundry. At IIMR, she also extended her services as Acting Director from 1 June, 2022 to 15 February 2023. On her superan-



uation, the Staff Recreation Club conducted the felicitation to Dr. C.V. Ratnavathi. Dr. C. Tara Satyavathi, Director, IIMR was the chairperson for this event. The IIMR staff recollected great services she rendered for the institute.

## Meeting of Official Language Implementation Committee

The 65<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Official Language Implementation Committee (OLIC) of the Indian Institute of Millets (Sri Anna) Research, Hyderabad was organized on June 27, 2023. The meeting began with a formal welcome address by Dr. C. Tara Satyavathi, Chairperson of OLIC. The other members Dr. Jinu Jacob, OIC, Hindi Cell, Dr. Madhusudana, OIC, PME Cell; Dr. Venkatesh Bhat, OIC, Technical & Media Cell; Dr. Sooganna, OIC, Library, Smt. Ritu Dalal, SAO, Sh. Shaik Rukman, FAO and Dr. Mahesh Kumar, ACTO (OL) Member Secretary, were present during the discussion. During the meeting various issues presented by the Member Secretary were discussed and decided that all concerned should ensure that every letter sent outside should be accompanied with





covering letter in Hindi. It was decided to organize a practical workshop on Hindi typing on computers.

### Guest of Honour

**Dr. C. Tara Satyavathi**, Director, ICAR-IIMR attended the “International Conference on Advances in Agriculture Technology and Allied Sciences (ICAATAS 2023)” organized by “Society of Agricultural Research and Social Development”, New Delhi and Loyola Academy, Secunderabad, Telangana as “Guest of Honour” on 19 June, 2023 and shared the information on millets research and IYOM -2023 activities taking place at Indian Institute of Millets Research with faculty and students.

**Dr. C. Tara Satyavathi**, Director, ICAR-IIMR attended the Inaugural Ceremony of the FTCCI Industrial Innovation & Technology Expo (IITEX) on 28 June 2023 at HITEX, Hyderabad as a “Guest of Honor” and addressed the members of the Federation and Exhibitors.

**Dr M. Elangovan**, Principal Scientist, participated as a panelist and delivered lecture on “Existing situation of minor millets diversity in the Mainstreaming Minor Millets into Food System” at Food System Dialogue organized by the Directorate of Research, Maharana Pratap University of Agriculture and Technology, Udaipur on 7 June, 2023 in collaboration with Bhoomika and Vaagdhara.

**Dr. Mahesh Kumar**, Assistant Chief Technical Officer (Official Language), IIMR, Hyderabad was invited as a Resource Person by Directorate of Marketing and Inspection, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India, Hyderabad to give lectures on “Official Language implementation & its reporting” on 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2023 in a one day Hindi Workshop. He also provided hands-on training to the DMI staff.

**Dr. Swarna Ronanki**, Scientist delivered a poster presentation on the topic ‘Optimizing genotype x agronomic management interaction to enhance rabi sorghum productivity using APSIM’ at the Global Sorghum Conference held at Montpellier, France during June 5 to 9, 2023. She also delivered a guest lecture on the topic “Millets cultivation-A climate smart approach for sustainable food production” in 2-day National seminar on “Prevention of Lifestyle disorders through Ayurvedic Interventions by incorporating Millets” organized by CARI, Kolkata in collab-

oration with Anthropological Survey of India, Kolkata on 27 June, 2023.

### Visitors

#### *Visit of Joint Secretary, DACF&W*

Ms. Shubha Thakur, Joint Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare visited IIMR on 7 June, 2023 to oversee the arrangements being made in the light of forthcoming G20 meet.

#### *Farmers from Sivagangai, Tamil Nadu*

Twenty farmers of Sivagangai district of Tamil Nadu visited ICAR-IIMR on 26 June, 2023 under the inter-State Exposure visit of ATMA. They were briefed about the millets cultivation, availability of varietal technologies, germplasm conservation and conservation, millet value addition and millets processing machineries. Drs. M Elangovan and Mrs. Hemashankari coordinated their visit.

#### *FOCARS Trainees with PGR Discipline visited Millets Genebank*

Four scientists of 112<sup>th</sup> FOCARS visited Millets Genebank for their project work on Plant Genetic Resources Management on 27 June 2023. They were updated about the ongoing activities under millet genetic resources management in particular and advance development in PGR Management in general. Emphasis was given more on paperless data collection, database management and utilization of genetic resources using molecular tool ap-



proach. They also visited the Millets Genebank to know how the collection, characterization, conservation, documentation and registration activities are being done for millets genetic resources.

### FPO News

#### *MIS training program for Karnataka FPOs*

Small Farmers Agri Business Consortium conducted a



training program for Karnataka FPOs promoted by ICAR-IIMR on 9 June, 2023, regarding online submission of management cost (FPO & CBBOs) & equity release documents. Dr. Sangappa, Scientist & PI FPO Projects has coordinated the training program.

### ***ICAR-IIMR participated in review meeting of FPOs.***

FPO Project staff from ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad attended the review meeting of Karnataka FPOs on 12 June, 2023. Dr. M.V. Venkatesh, IAS Commissioner, WDD Karnataka chaired the meeting along with NPMA team. During this meeting all Karnataka FPOs progress was presented by WDD officials and discussed the future action plans of FPOs.

### ***Awareness session on FPOs at MANAGE.***

On 12 June, 2023, project staff of FPO Nest, ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad participated and delivered a lecture on FPO establishment, working process, progress, product marketing strategies and the challenges faced by FPOs in value added production, marketing and on boarding to e-commerce platforms like ONDC and GEM in the training program on "Value chain-based Agricultural Extension by FPOs and Agri startups organized by MANAGE, Hyderabad.

### ***Training session on ONDC for CBBOs.***

FPO Nest team from ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad attended webinar training session on ONDC on 16<sup>th</sup> June, 2023. During the session, product processing, HSN and GST issues were explained by ONDC experts' team.

### ***Training Programme on Inclusive and Sustainable Value Chain Development for CBOs***

Dr. Sangappa, Scientist from ICAR-IIMR delivered a lecture on "Millet based value chain development" at the training program on Inclusive and sustainable value chain development for CBOs at NIRDPR, Hyderabad on 20 June, 2023.

### ***Millet Awareness program for the farmers***

Hulsoor Mahila Kisan Millets FPCL and ICAR-IIMR FPO Nest team jointly conducted FPO awareness programme at Halahalli village on 19<sup>th</sup> June, 2023. Dr. Sangappa, Scientist, ICAR-IIMR, & PI FPO project coordinated the program.

### ***Monitoring visit to Gramvishwas FPO***

ICAR-IIMR FPO project team visited and monitored the activities of Gramvishwas Farmers Producer Company Limited promoted by ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad on 20 June 2023.

### ***ISEE National Seminar 2023***

Dr. Sangappa, Scientist ICAR-IIMR participated and presented a paper in National Conference Organized by ISEE, MANAGE, GKVK Bangalore on Evolving Extension Science towards Secondary Agriculture for Sustainable Development during 22-24 June, 2023 and shared the



experiences of ICAR-IIMR promoted FPOs and perception of millets farmers towards millet model.

### ***Soil test demonstration at FPO***

ICAR-IIMR in collaboration with ICAR-Indian Institute of Rice Research, Hyderabad conducted a training cum demonstration session on Rapid Soil Test at Chittaguppa Taluka promoted by Farmer Producer Company on 22 June, 2023. Dr. Brajesh and Dr. Bandeppa, Scientists from ICAR-IIRR shared their expertise and insights on the importance of soil testing in increasing crop productivity. FPO Nest team from ICAR-IIMR had coordinated the program.

### ***Visit of Farmers***

ATMA under Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms Scheme arranged an exposure visit for 20 farmers of Sivagangai village to ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad on 26 June, 2023. During the visit, Dr. Sangappa, scientist briefed about importance of millets, production technologies, FPOs and their role in millet promotion, nutritional and health benefits of millets, recent development in business opportunities with millets to the participants.

### ***Review meeting of FPOs supported by NABARD, Hyderabad***

NABARD TSRO, Hyderabad arranged a review meeting for the FPOs of Mahabubnagar, Telangana state to review the progress of FPOs on 26 June 2023. ICAR-IIMR FPO Project team, CEOs and BODs of FPOs promoted by ICAR-IIMR attended the meeting. The meeting was chaired by P. Usha Rani General Manager, NABARD, TSRO, Hyderabad and DDM, Mahabubnagar.

### ***Ph D admission at Oklahoma University, USA***

**Ms. Manne Sri Sandhya** working as Senior Research Fellow in the project "Formation and promotion of FPOs" in ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research, Hyderabad was granted Ph.D. admission to a prestigious Oklahoma State University in the United States. FPO Project team and staff of ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad wishes her all the best.



### ***Startup Ignition training program***

Start-up Ignition training program on "Entrepreneurship



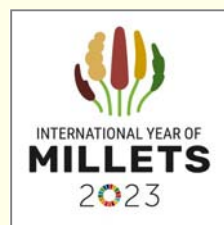
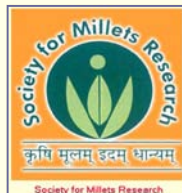
opportunities in millets sector" was organized on 23 June, 2023 at ICAR-IIMR Hyderabad. A total of 45 members participated in the training programme from eight different states of India. Participants were taken to the tour of Centre of Excellence, Primary and Secondary processing facilities at Nutrihub. Lectures were delivered on Overview of millets post-harvest technologies, Incubation and promoting innovation at Nutrihub, IIMR. An interaction session with the participants was done by



Dr. J Stanley, Senior Scientist. This training programmes was coordinated by Dr. V. Ravi Kumar, Technical Officer, ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad.

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

S. No.	Name of Employee	Programme details	Category	Dates
1	C Tara Satyavathi, T Nepolean & Swarna Ronanki	Participated in the Global Sorghum Conference: "Sorghum in the 21st century: Resiliency and sustainability in the face of climate change" at Montpellier, France.	Conference	5-7 June, 2023
2	C Tara Satyavathi	Sensitization Workshop on Blended Learning Platform	Virtual Workshop	9 June, 2023
3	C Tara Satyavathi	50th meeting of PGRC	Virtual meeting	12 June, 2023
4	C Tara Satyavathi	Meeting of 'Advisory Committee' for India-Africa International Millets Conference conducted by Additional Secretary (RR), DA&FW -New Delhi	Virtual meeting	12 June, 2023
5	C Tara Satyavathi	Meeting on Provisional agenda for the International Panel "Unlocking the Power of Diversity: The Role of Sorghum & Millets Genetic Resources in Sustainable Agriculture.	Virtual meeting	14 June, 2023
6	C Tara Satyavathi	National Project Steering Committee (NPSC) Meeting of UN Environment Implemented GEF project, organized by Alliance of Biodiversity International and CIAT.	Meeting	21 June, 2023
7	C Sangappa	National Conference on Evolving Extension Science towards Secondary Agriculture for Sustainable Development , organized by ISEE, MANAGE, GKV Bangalore.	Conference	22-24 June, 2023



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