



Happenings at NRC for Sorghum, and AICSIP news

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Research Advisory Committee meeting

The sixth Research Advisory Committee (RAC) meeting



RAC in session at NRCS

was held under the Chairmanship of Dr IV Subba Rao, Former Vice Chancellor, ANGRAU, Hyderabad at NRCS



RAC team reviewing field work at NRCS

during 10-11 March, 2006. Other distinguished members

present were: Drs. BN Narkhede (Retd. Sorghum Breeder, MPKV, Rahuri), S Lingappa (Director of Research, UAS, Dharwad), RVR Bhat (Ex-Director, NIN, Hyderabad), Sh. Govind Pawar (Farmers representative, Umerga, Maharashtra), Dr. N Seetharama, Director NRCS and Dr. C Aruna Reddy, Member-secretary. The Director presented an overview of the progress made at NRCS during 2005-06, and projected short-term plan for sorghum R&D which was fully supported by relevant documents submitted to the committee. The research area leaders presented the progress of research of the projects under each research area during 2005-06. All scientists participated in the deliberations. The Chairman appreciated the overall efforts being put in building the pedigree database at NRCS. The members were quite impressed with the increased number of publications at NRCS, They further suggested to further improve the quality of publications considering the impact factor of journals as published by NRCS.

Review and planning meeting of AICSIP

Review and a planning meeting of All-India Coordinated Sorghum Improvement Project was held on 5th March 2006 at NRCS. Scientists from AICSIP programme, private companies and ICRISAT participated in this one-day meeting. Director NRCS emphasized on the need for proper planning, and the meticulous conduct of field experiments and timely reporting. He also raised issues of immediate concern to all of the AICSIP scientists. The



Review and planning meeting of AICSIP Centres in progress

group discussed further aspects on the criteria to be considered for advancing the entries in trials including enhanced levels of resistance to shoot fly, stems borer and grain moulds in the test entries; plant ideotypes for different sorghum growing zones; district-wise recommendations on sorghum cultivation in the country. The group also discussed the proposed ICAR-ICRISAT collaborative projects identifying 2 important areas-one on screening germplasm and elite breeding stocks for tolerance to stress factors and development of hybrid parents with resistances, a second on use of agriculturally important microorganisms in growth promotion and disease suppression.

Meeting of multi-cut forage sorghum group

A two-day group meeting of multi-cut forage sorghum workers was arranged by NRCS in the conference room of Directorate of Maize Research, IARI Campus, New Delhi on 6th and 7th March, 2006. The progress in the multi-cut forage programme was reviewed under the chairmanship of Dr RPS Grewal, Principal Investigator of forage sorghum, and the plan of work for the coming year was developed. In multi-cut forage breeding trials, in most cases, the entries performed either on par with or poorer than checks, especially with regard to key traits such as dry fodder yield, and per-day digestible dry matter yield. The group took decisions on selection of entries for promotion to next trial or notification and preferred management practices. It was decided to send seeds for sowing of multi-cut trials for this year by the first week of April, 06. There were interactive sessions with the Sorghum QRT team. The AICSIP centres at Hisar (CCSHAU) and Pantnagar (GBPUA&T) presented their research progress during the last five years. Voluntary centres at Ludhiana (PAU) and New Delhi (IARI) also made their presentations to the QRT team headed by Dr. SN Puri, VC, Central Agricultural University, Manipur.

Training-cum-workshop on "Biodiversity, PVP and IPR Protection in India"

A four-day training-cum-learning workshop on "Biodiversity, PVP and IPR protection in India", was held at NRCS from 1 - 4 March 2006. This programme was conducted to create awareness on IPR issues and PVP acts, and for the benefit of seed and agro-industry personnel and scientists from centres of All India Coordinated Research Project on Sorghum, and to stimulate interaction between public and private sector scientists. A total of 30 delegates representing cross



Dr. SL kaul, Incharge Director, delivering the inaugural address

section of the major private and public sector seed companies, department of agriculture and agricultural universities participated in the meeting. The seminar was based on lectures by experts in the field who deliberated on changing context of IPR, patent/ trade-mark/ copyright acts, WTO and AoA on agrarian development and seed sector reforms in India, role of the State in policy-making, regulatory issues, research institutions and private sector R&D in the changing context. This programme also covered the implications of privatization of R&D on international trade, social relations, dynamics of interrelations between peasantry and the

market, Implications of Indian legislative mechanisms (biodiversity, seed policy, seed laws, farmers rights and plant variety protection), risk and safety issues, geographical indicators, traditional agricultural knowledge of peasantry and rural communities, international and civil society organizations' response to Indian legislations and IPR mechanisms. The recommendations that emerged during sessions are posted at NRCS website: www.nrcsorghum.res.in. Dr. Murty Anishetty, Former consultant to FAO inaugurated the programme & Dr. EA Siddiq, Former DDG (CS) delivered the valedictory address and distributed the certificates to the participants. This programme was coordinated by Drs. Vilas A Tonapi and M Elangovan.

On-farm assessment of sweet sorghum at Chittoor

Dr. B Dayakar Rao and Sh. D. Gopala Krishna visited Sagar Sugars and Allied products Ltd., Nelavoy, Chittoor (AP) during 24 -25 March 2006. They assessed the current scenario on feasibility and scope of sweet sorghum as biofuel in the region. Various groups of people including policy makers, technocrats, extension workers and farmers were interviewed to elicit



Dr. Dayakar in conversation with officials from Sagar sugars on growing sweet sorghum as a biofuel

information. It was felt that sweet sorghum has good potential to offer as a supplement to sugarcane crop and for biofuel production. However, the commercial technology is still in its infancy. Complete commercialization needs package and practice of cultivation, procurement, processing technology, marketing, and policy matters. NRCS is currently extending only technical know-how on cultivation practices to the farmers. Many farmers opined that sweet sorghum cultivation is more remunerative, if harvesting-cum-detrashing machinery is put into operation.

Dr. Bhagwat joins NRCS



Dr. Vitthal R. Bhagwat, Sr. Scientist (Agri. Entomology), Central Institute of Post Harvest Engineering and Technology (CIPHET), Ludhiana, Punjab joined NRC sorghum on 6 March 2006. His e-mail address is bhagwat@nrcsorghum.res.in.

Netherlands Govt. awards fellowship for NRCS scientists



Dr. Elangovan

Drs. M. Elangovan and PG Padmaja, scientists from NRC sorghum have been awarded a NFP/TP fellowships by the Netherlands Government. Dr. M Elangovan will participate in the training programme entitled

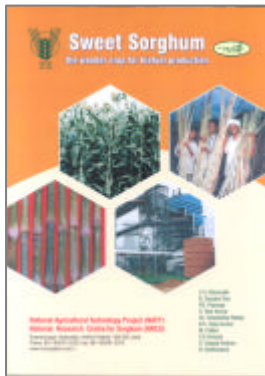


Dr. Padmaja

“*Conservation, management and use of plant genetic resources in agriculture*”, which will be held during 8 May – 16 June 06. Dr. PG Padmaja will undergo training on “*Integrated pest management and food safety*”, which is scheduled to be held during 29 May - 23 June, 2006 at Wageningen, Netherlands. Team NRCS congratulates the scientists for the honour conferred on them.

Publication on sweet sorghum released

A publication entitled ‘**Sweet sorghum – the wonder crop of biofuel production**’



written by Dr. CV Ratnavathi *et al*, was released by Dr. IV Subba Rao, Chairman-RAC of NRCS on 10 March 2006. This 24 pages manual deals with summarized information on importance of ethanol as biofuel, sweet sorghum research in India and at NRCS, production technology, seed production and distribution. This publication is the part of output from the NATP project (RNPS

24) on “Developing sorghum as efficient biomass and bio-energy crop and providing value addition to the rain

damaged kharif grain for crating industrial demand”.

(**Authors:** CV Ratnavathi, B Dayakar Rao, PG Padmaja, S Ravikumar, Ch. Sashidhar Reddy, BS Vijay Kumar, M Pallavi, VV Komala, D Gopala Krishna and N. Seetharama; **Pages** 24; **Price** Rs. 50 including postage charges.

For the copies, DD should be drawn in favour of “ICAR unit – NRCS, Hyderabad” and addressed to the Director, NRC for Sorghum, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad – 500 030.

AICSIP News

Popular article

AV Umakanth, VSS Kiran and V Satyanarayana 2006. *Pasu grassa jonna saagu* (Cultivation of forage sorghum) *Annadata* March 2006 Pp: 10-11

QRT reviewed forage centres

Drs. SN Puri, Chairman QRT, A Sitaram, Ex-PC (Minor Millets), Bangalore, R Rameshwar Singh, Ex- Joint Director of Research and Prof. Plant Breeding, GBPAU&T, Pantnagar, NP Saxena, Hyderabad, HS Shetty, Professor, Agri. Botany and Biotechnology, Mysore and SS Rao, Member Secretary-QRT, and N Seetharama, Director, NRCS, Hyderabad, all QRT members for NRC Sorghum, and Dr Venkatesh Bhat, Sr. Scientist, NRCS visited the AICSIP Coordinating centres viz Hisar (Haryana) and Pantnagar (Uttaranchal) and IARI, New Delhi during 6 - 7 March, 2006. The team evaluated the forage sorghum field trials and reviewed research work.

Family News



Ms. Aparna Seetharama, daughter of N Seetharama passed final MBBS examination in first class from Kasturba Medical College, MAHE, Mangalore.

Meeting (M)/ Symposia (S)/ Workshop (W)/ Training (T) / Conference (C) attended

S. No	Name of the official	Participated in	Type	Venue	Date
1	K Revati	Training Programme on “Data warehousing and data mining” sponsored by DBT, New Delhi	T	Administrative Staff College of India, Hyderabad	27 Feb – 3 Mar, 06
2	N Seetharama	Meeting called by the DG at New Delhi to discuss and finalize presentation to the Hon’ble Agriculture Minister.	M	ICAR, New Delhi	1& 3 March, 06
3	AV Umakanth	2nd National Plant Breeding Congress-“Plant breeding in post genomics era”	S	TNAU Coimbatore	1-3 Mar, 06
4	N Seetharama, SS Rao & B Venkatesh Bhat	Multi-cut forage group meeting & QRT review on forage sorghum research at Hisar, Pantnagar, and IARI, New Delhi.	M	DMR, New Delhi.	5-7 Mar, 06
5	N Seetharama	National symposium on “Molecular breeding in crop plants” to deliver an invited lecture.	S	IIVR, Varanasi	19-21 Mar, 06
6	IK Das & A Annapurna	Training programme on “Mushroom cultivation” organized by Dept. of Horticulture, Govt. of AP.	T	Public Gardens, Hyderabad	20 Mar, 06
7	S Ravikumar	ARS Forum -National Convention on “Knowledge driven agricultural development: Management of change”.	S	IARI, New Delhi	24 -26 Mar, 06
8	C Aruna Reddy	Training course on “Molecular markers and transgenics for precision in rice breeding”	T	DRR, Hyderabad	20-29 Mar, 06
9	N. Seetharama, SS Rao, CV Ratnavathi, Chari Appaji, S Ravi Kumar, B Dayakar Rao, & D Gopala Krishna	Work shop on “Sweet sorghum for improving the livelihood of farmers” organized by Federation of Farmers Association, AP.	W	FAPCCI Bhavan, Hyderabad	31 Mar, 06

Official Tours

S. No	Name of the Official	Place visited	Dates	Purpose
1	IK Das & HS Talwar	Dharwad	7 Mar, 06	Disease survey in research farm and farmers field in Dharwad.
2	SL Kaul & Chari Appaji	Lingareddyguda & Shadnagar	8 Mar, 06	Seed certification of breeder seed (SPV 1616)plot
3	TGN Rao, Chari Appaji & E Suresh Kumar	Thimmapur & Muthupur vil-lages (Mahaboobnagar District)	21 Mar, 06	Pre kharif meetings with farmers at Thimmapur, and Disease diagno-sis and remedies suggested at Muthupur.
4	S Indira & SL Kaul	NRC-WA, Bhubaneswar	21-22 Mar 06	IMC Meeting
5	B Dayakar Rao & D Gopala Krishna	Sagar Sugars, Chittoor and Chennai	22 -25 Mar, 06	Pilot study to reconfirm and re-assess current scenario of biofuel production at Chittoor and data collection at Chennai
6	AV Umakanth	OSN Warangal	21-22, Mar,06	field inspections of F4 material
7	S Ravi Kumar & V Ravi Kumar	Space Application Centre, Ahmedabad & Div. of Agri Phisics, IARI, New Delhi.	21-26, Mar 06	To analyze rabi sorghum cultiva-tion area through the remote sens-ing data captured for Solapur dist. at 3 stages of the rabi 2005-06 season.
8	Vilas A Tonapi	RARS, Bijapur	27-29 Mar, 06	To finalize " Book on sorghum R&D" in Kannada

Thought for the month

No man has a chance to enjoy permanent success until he begins to look in a mirror for the real cause of all his mistakes. - Napoleon Hill

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To



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