



Happenings at NRC for Sorghum



Hyderabad, Solapur & Warangal

Serial No. 3 November, 2003

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Celebration of NRCS foundation day

The Foundation day of NRCS was celebrated for the first time in its history on 15 November with great enthusiasm. All the former heads of this centre - Drs. NGP Rao, RV Vidhyabhushanam, UR Murty and BS Rana were present on the occasion. The Director ap-



praised the NRCS family on the recent changes and achievements and sought suggestions on the ways and means to scale newer heights. Ex-heads praised the current work being done and expressed the hope that, that day is not very far when this institute also will win the best institute award from the ICAR. A lunch was

hosted for all the staff members including permanent and temporary officials. Sh. KJ Mathai, AO coordinated the programme. In the afternoon, a 3-hour review session was held including NRCS scientists and past Directors focusing on the projected goals for the X Plan period. Many valuable suggestions made by the ex-heads were noted down for immediate implementation.

Dr. G Kalloo, DDG (CS) felicitated by Seed Association of India

Dr. G Kalloo, Dy. Director General (Crop Science), ICAR was felicitated by *The Seed Association of India* during the National Seed Seminar and Annual General Meeting of the association on 29 November at the Taj Banjara, Hyderabad. This honour was bestowed on him in view of his remarkable research contributions in the field of horticulture, and agricultural research management at the national level.

Dr. G Kalloo, DDG (CS) reviews research at NRCS

Dr. G Kalloo, DDG (Crop Science), ICAR visited NRCS on the afternoon of 29 November. He was taken around NRCS campus, labs and shown the recent developments, upkeep of the office and lab, etc. He was



appreciative of the clean and green situation of the campus. He also had a brief discussion with the scientists and reviewed the research priorities for the immediate future. He encouraged scientists to participate actively in many network projects initiated recently.

National-level workshop-cum-seminar on kharif sorghum production technology

Nine senior level agricultural officers representing major sorghum growing states (Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh & Tamil Nadu), one agronomist from SAU (UAS, Dharwad) and one representative of NGO attended the National level workshop-cum-seminar on "Kharif sorghum production

technology" conducted by the Centre for excellence on training for sorghum at NRCS from 11-13 November. A total of 10 lectures were delivered and a visit to IC-RISAT was also organized on November 12, where



they saw various water-shed management practices. All the lectures and presentations made during the workshop were made available on CD. Dr. DM Hegde, Director, DOR distributed certificates to the participants and advised on dryland farming. The Director thanked Dr. Sashidhar Reddy and his team for making excellent preparations and successful conduct of the workshop.

Sorghum genetic resources information to appear soon on web

The Sorghum Genetic Resources (SGR) information on collection, evaluation, documentation, conservation and utilization is ready in the form of web pages. The SGR link will provide information on the functions of germplasm programme of NRCS. Dr. M Elangovan has prepared this during his training on "Cyberary: A platform for information management and networking" at MAN-AGE, Hyderabad.

Release of technical bulletin by the Hon.'ble Agriculture Minister of AP

A technical bulletin entitled "Industrial utilization of sorghum in India - Status and prospects" was formally released by the Hon. ble Minister of Agriculture (AP), Sh. V Sobhanadrishwar Rao on 14 November at the AP Secretariat, Hyderabad. A briefing on current status of



sorghum – its production, utilization and marketing opportunities with special reference to AP was made by Drs. Seetharama and Dayakar Rao. Dr. SP Singh, Secretary (Agri.) and Dr. Sutiirtha Bhattacharya, Comm. &

Director of Agriculture were also present. This report a part of NATP (RNPS-6) work was prepared and documented after 3 years of intensive data collection and analysis which deals with the current utilization of sorghum grain in various industries and estimated demand for 2010 AD.

NRCS sought the help of state government to support sorghum production and consumption especially in poultry, dairy and ethanol industries. As it is a poor man's crop, any benefit that would result in the improvement of standard of living of poor dryland farmers should be encouraged, NRCS scientists pleaded.

The Minister appreciated the efforts of NRCS in spreading sorghum in non-sorghum growing regions of the state such as in the coastal regions because of severe drought this year. He was particularly happy about the growing acceptance of sorghum *roties* amongst the urban populace. The commercialization seen in the eateries in city is an ample proof of its growing popularity because of its high nutritive value. He promised to encourage the food processing department to get involved in the use of sorghum.

Interaction with NG Ranga KVK, Kavur for introduction of sorghum in Krishna delta

Recently, because of drought and lack of irrigation water supply, the area under rice cultivation in Krishna delta has been significantly reduced by about 70%. Hence, the farmers of the above region are eager to find a cost-effective alternate cropping system. In this regard, a team of Sarva Sri G. Nageswara Rao, Chairman, A Subbrami Reddy, Principal and V Mahesh Baba of Prof. NG Ranga KVK, Kavur, Guntur visited NRCS and held discussion with the Director and other scientists regarding the possibility of introduction of sorghum as an alternate cost effective sole or intercropping system. Director assured all possible help in the form of scientific input, and initial seed supply. Drs. Subbarayudu and Sashidhar Reddy will take follow-up actions.

ICAR south zone sports meet



The ICAR south zone sports meet was held from November 3-7 at Railway Recreation Club Grounds, Secunderabad. This meet was organized by NAARM, Hyderabad. NRCS contingent actively participated in all games. Ms. Revathi, Computer Programmer, was the winner in the Women's Chess.

NRCS-CRIDA collaboration on transfer of technology

A meeting with the Director of CRIDA was held on 17 November to discuss the possible collaboration for transfer of improved sorghum production technologies

in the KVK, CRIDA's adopted villages and other CRIDA- implemented programmes. It was decided that NRCS would collaborate in all the programmes connected with sorghum and sorghum-based systems. We will demonstrate benefits of growing CSV 15 sorghum variety on farmer's field in the KVK adopted villages and under IVLP-TAR programme and development of seed village. During the current rabi season, CRIDA will organize seed production of SSV 84 (a sweet sorghum variety) at their farm under irrigation. NRCS was represented by Drs. S Ravi Kumar & Chari Appaji and CRIDA was rep. by Drs. YS Ramakrishna (Director), KPR Vittal, G Subba Reddy, YVR Reddy, MS Prasad (Pr. Scientists) and M Srinivas Rao (Sr. Scientist).

Sorghum stall at Kisan mela at Warangal

A sorghum stall was put up to show farmers the recent advances in sorghum production technologies, and value-addition to sorghum, during the *Kisan mela* held at Agril.Research Station of ANGARU, Warangal on 9 November. About 3500 farmers visited the NRCS stall. They were appraised of the development of recent sorghum production technologies and were also provided with bulletins and brochures developed by the centre on the relevant subjects. ANGRAU, the state department of agriculture and allied departments, public and private seed producing agencies visited our stall.

Dr. NGP Rao felicitated by the AP Govt.

On the eve of State formation day (1 November) the Government of AP felicitated Dr. NGP Rao, renowned sorghum scientist and the former Chairman ASRB with exalted *Telugu Athma gowravam* Award for his lifetime achievements in the area of agricultural research.

Nomination of Dr. CV Ratnavathi as evaluator at Children's Science Congress

The Children's Science Congress (age group between 10-15 years) meant for exploring scientific talent, especially related to agriculture was organized at Hyderabad by the AP State Council for Science and Technology (APSCST) on 5 Nov. at DAV Public School. The theme was "*Food production, security and nutrition for all*". Dr. CV Ratnavathi, evaluated the projects under improved food production and post-harvest technology sub-themes along with three other scientists from National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad. She also interacted with children creating awareness among them on the benefits of different nutrition cereals and legumes promoted by the ICAR.

National integration week observed

The National integration week was observed at NRCS from 19-25 November. All the employees participated in this celebrations. The National Integration logo was displayed in the Notice Board and the pledge was taken on 22 November in both Hindi and English.

Reconstitution of NRCS Recreation Club

NRCS Recreation Club was reconstituted on 10 November. All staff agreed for recovery of subscription from their monthly salaries as per approved bye-laws. The office bearers and executive members were elected unanimously.

Name	Position
Dr. N Seetharama	President
Sh. KJ Mathai	Vice-President
Sh. HS Ghaywan	Secretary
Sh. D Ram Babu	Joint Secretary
Ms. VSG Parvathi	Treasurer

Executive members:

Dr. VK Chaturvedi	Scientific
Sh. K Laxminarayana	Technical
Sh. B Jayaprakash	Administrative
Sh. J Narsimha	Supporting
Ms. A Vishala Devender	Women Rep.
Sh. A Venkateshwara Rao	IJSC Rep.

Important visitors during November

Besides Dr. G Kalloo, DDG (H & CS) on 29 November, the following personnel visited.

5 November: A group of 50 farmers including 30 women from Bhandara district of Maharashtra visited the Centre on Rabi Sorghum (NRCS), Solapur as a part of their educational tour. Dr. MS Raut, Officer-I/c., briefed on the mandate of the centre and achievements in a nutshell and showed samples of the improved rabi cultivars in the museum. Drs. Prabhakar (Plant Breeding) and IK Das (Plant Pathology) also appraised about the current research activities of the centre.

7 November: About thirty farm women trained under ANTWA II Village based training programme, organized by Farmer's Training Centre, Rajendranagar, visited NRCS. The farm women were explained the importance of sorghum in the daily diet, and were also exposed to the recently released cultivars and sorghum production technology.

11 November: Ten farmers from Haryana visited NRCS as a part of the study tour to different agriculture research institutions. They were explained the recommended sorghum production technology for grain and fodder cultivation.

20 November: Twenty five Farmer's and 10 Farm women from Ibrahimpatnam, Ranga Reddy District, visited NRCS as a part of their exposure visits to different research centres.



They were explained the sorghum production technology and value addition aspects.

The Extension Unit facilitated the above three visits.

21 November: Dr. Andrew Barnett, Consultant and Dr. Shambu Prasad, Innovation Systems Analyst from DFID, UK had discussions with Drs. N Seetharama and BD Rao regarding feed back on DFID project "Factors affecting utilization of sorghum" in which NRCS-NRI-ICRISAT were collaborators. Director briefed on constraints involved in successful implementation of the project and suggested better mode of operation and a pro-active role of national partners involved from the stage of project formulation.

Workshop/meetings/conferences attended

Drs. N Seetharama and B Dayakar Rao participated in the conference "Business opportunities in Agriculture: Focus Maharashtra" held at Mumbai on 11 November. The conference dealt on topics on integrating supply chain focusing major crops of Maharashtra. The technical bulletin on "Sweet sorghum stalk - A potential raw material for ethanol production" was distributed to the delegates. We are in dialogue with the organizers-Confederation of Indian Industries, Mumbai-for a similar meeting on coarse cereals.

Drs. N Seetharama, KBRV Visarada, CV Rathnavathi and D Balakrishna participated in the "International seminar series in biotechnology" organized by International Organization for Developing Universities, Chicago, USA and Sreenidhi Institute of Science & Technology, Ghatkesar, Hyderabad. The seminar was held on 28 November at Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (IICT), Hyderabad. Dr. N Seetharama delivered the Presidential address on the occasion and stressed the need for students to recognize the growing importance of biotechnology and the need for pursuing multiple-skill sets to ensure employability in the emerging competitive environment. Being an expert in only one discipline is not enough. The present day job market demands much better compatibility, adaptability in using modern tools and better technology management capability. He wished the students a very bright future and the Srinidhi management for smooth conduct of this International seminar series. A series on plant biotechnology is planned at Rajendranagar, in the near future.

Dr. IK Das, Scientist, CRS-Solapur participated in orientation course on "Bio-safety considerations for evaluation of transgenic crops" at NBPGR, New Delhi from 10-18 Nov 2003. The course was jointly sponsored by ICAR and Dept. of Biotechnology mainly to address biosafety issues related to transgenic research and focus them in right direction.

Dr. Prabhakar, Sr. Scientist, CRS-Solapur participated and presented a paper entitled "Breeding for improved resistance to drought and charcoal rot in rabi sorghum" in National seminar on Advances in Genetics and Plant Breeding- Impact of DNA revolution held at University Agricultural Research, Dharwad from October 30-31, 2003.

Mr. Pramod Kumar, T-6 participated in a workshop on "Natural language processing in Hindi" held from 20-31 Oct. organized by Language Tech. Res. Centre, International Institute of Information Technology, Hyderabad. He also participated in the "35th Meeting of town official language implementation committee (Central government officers)" held on 24 October at Rail Nilayam, Secunderabad. During discussions, he explained various steps taken in the implementation of official language by NRCS.

Honesty appreciated

Mr. GSS Pavan Kumar of Physiology unit found and returned a valid self-cheque (not crossed) on the road which belongs to one of our staff. We appreciate his honesty in returning the same to the lawful owner.

Feedback from our readers

Dr. SA Patil, Vice-chancellor-UAS, Dharwad has appreciated the efforts made by the Director and his Publication team to bring out a monthly publication on Sorghum (Happenings at NRC for Sorghum). He also hoped that this publication will become a mouth piece for all sorghum information in future.

He also praised for coming out with a booklet on "Sweet sorghum stalk: A suitable raw material for fuel alcohol production" with useful information for the farmers as well as industrialists. He hoped that sorghum will get good price in future with the policy and promotions being made at NRCS.

Response on popular articles: Immense response was received from the farmers and industrialists on the two popular articles "Jonna-adanapu viluvalu (5 October) and "Cheruku jonna sugu labhadayakam" (7 October) published in the Telugu daily Andhra Jyothi. Dr. CV Rathnavathi attended to the queries. However, seeing the response and to facilitate the farming community a more informative article will be published this month detailing about the sweet sorghum production and protection technology. One more question and answer session on the sweet sorghum cultivation has appeared in the daily on 29 November.

Efficient use of your computer

1. Delete duplicate files, or old versions. Even *.BAK may be deleted after you backup.
2. Switch off your computer if not being used for long, or at least switch off the monitor, if energy control software does not operate in your machine. Prevent screen burn-out, and save electricity. Do not allow hard disc idle for more than 30 min.
3. Use paper sparingly, and use draft mode whenever you can and save toner. Do not staple drafts, save the paper for re-use (side 2).
4. Sparingly use printer-cum-photocopies for photocopying. It is three times costly when used to photocopy rather than a dedicated machine.

Thought for the month

Statistics are often used as a drunkard uses a lamp post, not to light his way, but to support his instability.

Anonymous

Compiled & laid-out by:

Dr. KV Raghavendra Rao, Sh. K Sanath Kumar & Sh. HS Gawali

Edited and published by:

Dr. N Seetharama, Director,
National Research Centre for Sorghum (NRCS),
Rajendranagar, Hyderabad 500030 (AP).

Website: nrscsorghum.res.in