



Happenings at NRC for Sorghum



Hyderabad, Solapur & Warangal

Serial No. 2 October, 2003

In this Issue

1. Fodder and stover quality meeting at NRCS
2. NRCS-GMR Industries collaboration on propagation of sweet sorghum cultivation in AP
3. Seed sector researchers meet at NRCS
4. Field SRC at NRCS
5. Demonstration of pearling of molded grain at Lingareddyguda
6. Visit of technical staff to ICRISAT
7. Visitors
8. NRCS Scientists honoured
9. Nominations
10. Guest/ Invited lectures
11. Sorghum stall on Castor field day at Kandakur RR Dist.
12. Appreciation from NATP Review Team
13. Staff travels and interactions
14. Popular articles in newspapers
15. Hindi week celebrations
16. Sendoff to Sh. S Babu Rao, Driver
17. Economy and safety measures
18. Thought for the week

Fodder and stover quality meeting at NRCS

A brainstorming session on "Fodder and stover quality" was organized on 3 October, 2003 at NRCS. Dr. BN Mathur, Director-NAARM presided. Drs. PS Pathak,



Director-IGFRI, Jhansi, IS Khairwal, PC (Pearl Millet), Jodhpur and Krishne Gowda, PC (Small Millet), Bangalore, Michael Blummel and Jean Hanson from ICRISAT and Scientists from CRIDA and ANGRAU besides the directors and researchers from few private companies participated in this meeting. Drs. SL Kaul and BD Rao in their presentations discussed various parameters of the issue. This meeting was coordinated by Drs. VA Tonapi, AV Umakanth and R Madhusudhana. Based on the discussions, the following concluding remarks were made by the Chair, Dr. Mathur:

- Our approach for achieving the fodder sufficiency through national policy focusing on sorghum and pearl millet as fodder crops must be properly documented and circulated
- Model villages on each agro-climatic zone can be developed with the adoption of all improved technologies to achieve adequate fodder security
- Improved seed production and distribution policy is to be in place soon

NRCS-GMR Industries collaboration on propagation of sweet sorghum cultivation in AP

Mr. Chennakesavulu, Consultant of GMR Industries, Srikakulam visited NRCS on 8 October. NRCS scientific team representing Drs. CV Ratnavathi and B Dayakar Rao and GMR Industries represented by Sivasri K Narayana Rao, Managing Director, TCS Reddy, President, Gunwant Patel, President, Chennakesavulu, Consultant, K Sree Rama Murthy, Distillery Manager and Sri VC Narsimha Reddy, Senior cane Manager, discussed sweet sorghum cultivation in Srikakulam district of AP during kharif 2004, for alcohol production. The conclusions drawn were as follows:

- Sweet sorghum seed would be multiplied in three villages with three farmers in each covering an area of 6-8 hectares in rabi, 2003-2004
- Necessary technical support and initial seed would be given by NRCS. NRCS will work with villagers to promote Seed Village concept through FLD program
- Sweet sorghum cane and grain would be purchased by GMR Sugar factory for further trials of ethanol production (cane @ Rs.400 / ton & grain @ Rs.5000 / ton)

Seed sector-researchers' meet at NRCS

The Seed sector-researchers' meet on sorghum was held on 23 October. About 55 delegates from seed industry, ICRISAT, SM Sehgal Foundation, ANGRAU, AP Seeds, CRIDA and scientific and technical staff of NRCS participated in the meeting. After registration,

the group was taken on a quick tour of the museum, exhibit stands of promising HYVs of private and public sector, uses of sorghum, and biotechnology. Drs. SL Kaul, S Audilakshmi, and Aruna C Reddy explained the research activities and significant research leads on



breeding; KBRS Visarada on biotechnology; CV Ratnavati on alternate uses and P Padmaja and D Balakrishna on Bt transgenics.

The presentations on current sorghum production, productivity, consumption, utilization and spread of HYV's were made by Drs. Seetharama, B Dayakar Rao and Chari Appaji. Dr. FR Bidinger, Emeritus Scientist from ICRISAT chaired the discussion session. Issues in seed production in addition to seed legislation and seed policy were presented by Dr. Vilas Tonapi. Later in the afternoon, Tonapi presented legal issues affecting seed industry in the light of Draft Seeds Bill, 2002, and Farmers and Plant Varieties Protection Act. Dr. Audilakshmi gave a brief presentation on DUS testing and its implications on seed industry. Deliberations on DUS testing methodology, important issues related to national R & D of sorghum, seed production and supply, new areas of research, training and service needs, impact assessment, and the proposed formation and scope of *Millet Society of India* were also discussed. The recommendations emerging from the meeting are being circulated. Drs. Vilas A Tonapi and Chari Appaji coordinated this meeting.

Field SRC at NRCS

A field SRC meetings were organized on 6, 7 and 10 October at NRCS. The experimental fields of Breed-

ing, Pathology, Germplasm, Entomology, Breeder Seed Production and Agronomy were visited. All the scientific staff including the director took stock of the experimental plan, targeted observations and resultant outcomes. Amendments were suggested where needed. Each visitor scored each trial based on a number of pre-determined criteria and gave the feedback to concerned scientists.

Demonstration of pearling of molded grain at Lingareddyguda village

Under the NATP Project RNPS 23 "Total grain quality management of kharif sorghum", Dr. CV Ratnavathi visited Lingareddyguda village and demonstrated the pearling of molded grain for the improvement of its appearance. A sample of 10 kg molded grain was pearled to demonstrate to a group of farmers. Samples were collected for laboratory analysis and market price evaluation.

Visit of technical staff to ICRISAT

Twenty six officials belonging to technical cadre from NRCS visited ICRISAT, Patancheru on 10 October, 2003 to observe farm management practices, judicious utilization of farm facilities and to evaluate means to improve field activities, mechanization and farm output at NRCS. Ms. Lidya Flynn, Programme Coordinator, ICRISAT facilitated the visit to farms and engineering division, campus ICRISAT watershed management practices. Master plan for land use, allocation method, functions of farm research committee, plant protection measures initiated and the weed management practices were narrated to visitors. Suggestions which are feasible at NRCS will be implemented.

Visitors

20 October, 2003: About 30 farm women trained in Village-based Training Programme under ANTWA-



Phase II organized by the Farmers Training Centre, Hyderabad visited NRCS. They were appraised on the production technology of sorghum and efforts being made in the research and development on sorghum by NRCS. Dr. Chari Appaji facilitated the above visit.

NRCS Scientists honoured

The Maharashtra Society of Extension Education has awarded a third prize in the "Best Research Paper Read Competition" for the paper entitled "Dimensions of Entrepreneurial Behavior" to Drs. MS Rao, RA, DFID Project and Chari Appaji, Senior Scientist, amongst the papers presented in the Seminar on "Entrepreneurship Development in Agriculture", jointly organized by Maharashtra Society of Extension Education and Marathwada Agricultural University, Parbhani, at Parbhani on 2-3 March 2002. A certificate to this effect was awarded during the seminar of MSSC held at Nagpur during 2003.

Nominations

Dr. Chari Appaji was nominated as Member of Joint Monitoring Team to monitor FLD programmes conducted at Rahuri, Parbhani and Akola (Sorghum) and Dhule, Aurangabad and Parbhani (Bajra) by Directorate of Millet Research, Jaipur.

Dr. Vilas Tonapi evaluated Ph.D and M.Sc. (Agri.) theses in Seed Science & Technology from TNAU, Coimbatore, and UAS, Dharwad. He was also appointed as the external examiner to conduct Ph.D. *viva-voce* at Tamilnadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore.

Guest / Invited lectures

At the National Seminar on "Organic products and their future prospects" organized by Sher-E-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology, Srinagar held on 21-22 October, 2003, Dr. S Ravi Kumar, Sr. Scientist, delivered an invited lecture on "*Methods to minimize chemical fertilizer usage in rainfed sorghum – a multilocation study*". He also co-chaired the Technical Session-IV on the theme "Future strategies". In this, the closing remarks were "information and communication technologies have shrunk the distances, various agencies are trying to create a level-playing ground, opportunities are immense but highly competitive to move along with the stream and to make an impact; therefore, we need to attain higher production efficiency".

Sorghum stall on Castor Field day at Kandakor, Ranga Reddy District

A field day (Castor day) was organized by DOR at Kandakor Village on 10 October, 2003. Considering importance of sorghum in these villages, NRCS scientist Dr. Chari Appaji, illustrated to the farmers available cultivars of sorghum (CSH 16, CSH 18, CSV 15, PSV 1) and narrated the recommended practices for cultivation of sorghum to reap higher yields. The farm-

ers were also requested to use FYM to improve soil health thereby increasing the possibility of increasing the yields.

Appreciation from NATP Review Team

A three Member Review Team from NBPGR, New Delhi and Regional Centre, Hyderabad visited NRCS and reviewed the work done under NATP Project-Mission Mode-Biodiversity. The collection of sorghum germplasm from different parts of the India, its maintenance, systematic characterization and evaluation done by Dr. M Elangovan, Project Leader was appreciated.

Video conference

MANAGE, Hyderabad organized an interaction through video conference with the women and men participants of "Workshop on Biodiversity". NBPGR and Deccan Development Society (DDS) at Zaheerabad Mandal, Medak (AP) initiated this venture. Drs. N. Seetharama, and Chari Appaji, represented NRCS.

Dr. Seetharama, answered many queries on farmers concerns on access to genetic resources, biosafety and commercialization. He explained that there was not much difficulty to access germplasm by bonafide users once it was stored with NBPGR and other institutions. The germplasm would be evaluated for various characteristics and the vital information is documented and maintained for long-term use. Transgenic crops are thoroughly tested for suitability in different areas and for food safety before being released for cultivation.

The participants were informed of the ongoing activities in research and development related to sorghum and the improved varieties and hybrids to be grown by them. Regarding protection from grain molds the participants were suggested to harvest at physiological maturity and dry, a economically feasible technology demonstrated by NRCS.

AICSIP Monitoring A team consisting of principal investigators from NRCS visited Coimbatore on 7 October and along with Drs.SS Angadi (Dharwad) and Vittal Sharma (Udaipur). The team also visited Mauranipur, Indore and Akola from 10 to 14 October. A significant observation was that sorghum is regaining area lost to soybean in Madhya Pradesh. There was a contiguous area in and around Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh covered with fully matured and ready to harvest clean and white grained sorghum hybrid. Farmers were very much pleased with CSH 16 and CSH 18.

Joint Research Planning

Dr. Nirmala, Scientist II, MAHYCO Research Foundation, Hyderabad visited NRCS on 13 and 21 October 2003 and held technical discussion on a collaborative

project on Hormonal influence and the digestibility and nutritional quality of sorghum grain. The role of NRCS will be to carry out analytical work regarding auxins and other hormones as well as lysine levels besides genotype selection and multiplication. MAHYCO will carryout the molecular work related to digestibility was regulated by phytoharmones. Drs. Rathnavati and N Seetharama represented NRCS.

Popular articles in Newspapers

Two popular articles on alternate uses of sorghum were published in the *Andhra Jyothi*. First one was authored by Drs. N Seetharama, PK Biswas and CV Rathnavathi entitled "JONNA—ADANAPU VILUVALU" on 5 October and the second one authored by Dr. CV Rathnavathi, Senior Scientist entitled "CHERUKU JONNA SAGU LABADAYA-KAM" 7 October.

More Hindi week celebrations

The valedictory function of the *Rajbhasha Saptah* conducted during 15-20 September was held on 29 October. Prizes were distributed to the winners of various competitive events conducted during the Hindi week.



The Chief Guest, Sh. Kishore Vasvani, Dy. Director (Rajbhasha), Central Hindi Directorate, Hyd. stressed the need to promote Hindi in our daily official use and popularize it in the non-Hindi speaking zones. Director and the Chief Guest reiterated that the usage of Hindi should be in such a manner that it encourages all to use

hindi without undue inhibitions. No one should hesitate to use English technical word if it can convey the meaning more easily to the audience. A sorghum production technology bulletin in Hindi entitled "Jowar ki unnat kheti" was released by the Chief Guest. Sh. KJ Mathai, AO also spoke on the occasion. The formation of Hindi cell at NRCS is envisaged during X Plan. However, informal cell exists under the leadership of Mr. Pramod Kumar.

Send-off to Sh. Babu Rao, Driver

A warm send off was accorded to Sh. Babu Rao, Driver. In his introductory speech, Director highlighted the efforts put in by Shri Baburao in fulfilling his



duties as a driver without ever displeasing any official or his passengers. He particularly emphasised his pleasant manners displayed while dealing with people. All staff

members wished Sh. Babu Rao and his family a healthy and cheerful retired life.

Economy and safety measures

1. Please remove/move e-mails from your inbox as it has limited size and if too many mails wait for you, new mails will not be received
2. Please do not remain connected to web all the time; close it as soon as you browse! Otherwise you will retard speed of internet for other users
3. No instant messaging is allowed, use only e-mail. Do not connect to external messaging service with office computer
4. Do not waste computerizing power on large-sized wall-papers, etc. Use your power for computing, and not for too fancy posters of in-house purpose
5. **Defrag** your hard drive soon after weekly backup

Thought for the month

What happens to good people, when bad things happen to them? They become better people.

Anonymous

Compiled & laid-out by:

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

Edited & published by:

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

Website: [www. nrctorsorghum.res.in](http://www.nrctorsorghum.res.in)