



Happenings at NRC for Sorghum, and AICSIP news

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DDG visits NRCS

Dr. PL Gautam, Deputy Director General (Crop Sciences), ICAR, visited NRCS on the afternoon of 27 October 2007. He addressed the NRCS staff and had a brief discussion with the scientific fraternity and reviewed the ongoing activities. He encouraged the scientific



Dr. PL Gautam DDG (CS), ICAR addressing scientists and officers at NRCS



Dr. PL Gautam DDG (CS), ICAR inspecting poster on ergot

समाचार सारांश

संस्थान में उप महानिदेशक का दौरा : डॉ. पी.एल.गौतम, उप महानिदेशक (फसल विज्ञान) भा.कृ.अनु.प. ने 27 अक्तूबर 2007 को अपराह्न रा.ज्वा.अनु.के. का दौरा किया। उन्होंने रा.ज्वा.अनु.के. के स्टाफ सदस्यों को संबोधित किया तथा संस्थान के वैज्ञानिकों के साथ लघु चर्चा एवं चालू गतिविधियों की समीक्षा की।

स्वास्थ्य और व्यापार हेतु ज्वार : ग्रेन ज्वार तथा मीठी ज्वार का मूल्य संवर्धन एवं व्यापारीकरण पर अध्ययन कार्यशाला : रा.ज्वा.अनु.के. में 29-31 अक्तूबर 2007 के दौरान स्वास्थ्य और व्यापार हेतु ज्वार : ग्रेन ज्वार तथा मीठी ज्वार का मूल्य संवर्धन एवं व्यापारीकरण पर अध्ययन कार्यशाला का आयोजन किया गया। इस कार्यशाला में सार्वजनिक तथा निजी सेत्र से कुल 23 सहभागियों ने भाग लिया। कार्यशाला का उद्घाटन डॉ. ए.आर. सुकुमार, आई.ए.एस; आयुक्त तथा निदेशक, कृषि, आंध्र प्रदेश सरकार ने किया। इस कार्यक्रम का समन्वय डॉ. बी. दयाकर राव, डॉ. सी.एच. शशिधर रेडी, डॉ. सी.वी. रत्नावती, डॉ. ए.स. तलवार तथा इंजि. पी. मुकेश ने किया।

मीठी ज्वार पर पत्रकार सम्मेलन : जैव-ईंधन उत्पादनार्थी मीठी ज्वार पर 22 अक्तूबर 2007 को रा.ज्वा.अनु.के. में एक पत्रकार सम्मेलन का आयोजन किया गया। डॉ. ए.न. सीतारामा, निदेशक ने मिडिया के लोगों को संबोधित करते हुए मीठी ज्वार से होने वाले फायदों एवं उसके वैकल्पिक प्रयोगों के संबंध में बताया तथा कहा कि इसकी खेती हेतु बहुत-ही कम पानी की आवश्यकता होती है।

पी.क्यू.पी प्रशिक्षणार्थियों हेतु डस परीक्षण : भा.कृ.अनु.सं. के (पीपीवी तथा एफआर प्राधिकरण, नई दिल्ली द्वारा व्यावसायिक रूप से योग्य व्यक्ति (पी.क्यू.पी.) का प्रमाण-पत्र प्राप्त) सत्रह प्रशिक्षणार्थी को रा.ज्वा.अनु.के. हैदराबाद में 5 अक्तूबर 2007 को ज्वार में डस परीक्षण का प्रशिक्षण लिया। उन्हें प्रशिक्षण के दौरान ज्वार डस परीक्षण की जटिलताओं एवं तकनीकी पहलुओं के बारे में बताया गया।

ज्वार प्रक्षेत्र दिवस व अ.भा.सम.ज्वा.उ.न.परि. की समीक्षा बैठक : रा.ज्वा.अनु.के. में 6 अक्तूबर 2007 को ज्वार प्रक्षेत्र दिवस व अ.भा.सम.ज्वा.उ.न.परि. की समीक्षा बैठक का आयोजन किया गया। चर्चा में अ.भा.सम.ज्वा.उ.न.परि. केंद्रों, विज्ञान कृषि विश्वविद्यालयों तथा रा.ज्वा.अनु.के. से कुल 40 सहभागियों ने भाग लिया।

ईराख से एफ.ए.ओ. प्रशिक्षणार्थियों का दौरा : ईराख से भा.कृ.अनु.सं. नई दिल्ली में बीज उत्पादन तथा विपणन पर प्रशिक्षण लेने आए सात एफ.ए.ओ. प्रशिक्षणार्थियों ने 10-14 अक्तूबर 2007 के दौरान हैदराबाद स्थित कृषि संस्थानों का दौरा किया। परिषद् द्वारा आधिकारिक रूप से कार्यक्रम समन्वयक के रूप में नामित डॉ. विलास ए. टोणपी, प्रधान वैज्ञानिक रा.ज्वा.अनु.के. ने कार्यक्रम का आयोजन किया।

रा.बी.परि. निगरानी दल द्वारा निरीक्षण : बीज अनुसंधान निदेशालय द्वारा नामित राष्ट्रीय बीज परियोजनों निगरानी दल ने 30 अक्तूबर 2007 को रा.ज्वा.अनु.के. का निरीक्षण किया। निगरानी दल ने रा.ज्वा.अनु.के. तथा अ.भा.सम.ज्वा.उ.न.परि. केंद्रों में नामिक तथा प्रजनक बीज तंत्र अर्थात् समन्वय, उत्पादन तथा वितरण की समीक्षा की। अ.भा.स.ज्वा.उ.न.परि. समाचार

कृषक सभा एवं प्रक्षेत्र दिवस का आयोजन : रा.ज्वा.अनु.के. हैदराबाद तथा आई.जी.एफ.आर.आई. झाँसी के संयुक्त तत्त्वावधान में 10 अक्तूबर 07 को सनोरा, मध्य प्रदेश में तथा मऊरानीपुर के अ.भा.सम.ज्वा.उ.न.परि. केंद्र के संयुक्त तत्त्वावधान में 11 अक्तूबर 07 को मऊरानीपुर, उत्तर प्रदेश में कृषक सभा एवं प्रक्षेत्र दिवस का आयोजन किया गया।

हिंदी सारानुवाद : डॉ. महेश कुमार

community to prepare for the future with greater confidence by planning to reach the goals set. He was appraised by the Director about the institute activities and all administrative matters. He was also taken to the pathology, biotechnology, MAS and alternate uses laboratories. He visited the fields on 28 October'07 (Sunday) morning.

Workshop on "Sorghum for health & business: value-addition & commercialization of sweet sorghum"

NRCS organized logistics for the learning workshop on "Sorghum for health and Business: Value-addition and Commercialization of Sorghum and Sweet Sorghum" during 29-31 October, 2007. There were 23 participants



Dr. AR Sukumar, IAS, commissioner of Agriculture, Govt. of AP delivering inaugural speech during the training program

from public and private sectors. Dr. AR Sukumar, IAS, commissioner and Director of Agriculture, Govt. of AP inaugurated the programme. Resource persons were chosen from NIN, CFTRI, ITC, ASCI, ICRISAT, Rahul Malts, Jaipur and NRCS. The participants were taken to ICRISAT for a day as a part of their course. The course dealt with different aspect of alternate uses of sorghum (including sweet sorghum). The scope for entrepreneurs including business development potential for millets, processing technologies, value-addition, health foods, ethanol production technology, poultry feed, and commercialization were discussed. This programme was coordinated by Drs. B Dayakar Rao, Ch. Shashidhar Reddy, CV Ratnavathi, HS Talwar and P Mukesh.

Press conference on sweet sorghum

A press conference on "Sweet sorghum for biofuel production" was held at NRCS on 22 October 07. Dr. N Seetharama, Director addressed the media-persons and



The Director NRCS addressing the press persons and other visitors

asserted that there is a good scope for cultivation of sweet sorghum in different parts of the country for



The Director, NRCS addressing video session highlighting the progress and future of sweet sorghum in India

biofuel production. He projected current scenario of ethanol production and the scope enlarged with sorghum. The demand for ethanol in the light of government's decision to blend the 10 percent ethanol in petrol is high. The production of sweet sorghum would cater the demand of both food and fodder for dryland farmers, besides production of biofuel from stalks leading to additional income to rural communities. Sweet sorghum has high ability to adapt and tolerate drought and saline-alkaline soils. Water requirement is also very less when compared to sugarcane cultivation. However the scope for production of ethanol from sweet sorghum is very high and can go in supplementation with sugarcane in the sugar factories, as very high quality ethanol could be produced with sweet sorghum to supplement the biofuel utilization initiatives in India.

DUS training for PQP trainees

Seventeen trainees from IARI undergoing training on DUS testing to become "Professionally qualified persons" upon receipt of certificate by PPV&FR



The PQP trainees being trained on identifying typical DUS traits in sorghum

Authority, New Delhi, underwent the training on DUS testing in sorghum at NRCS, Hyderabad on 5th October, 2007. They were taught about intricacies and technical aspects in sorghum DUS testing through lectures and

hands on experience in field with various sorghum hybrids and varieties. They also participated in a three hour practical training on sorghum DUS testing. This programme was coordinated by Drs. Vilas A. Tonapi and M Elangovan, and field and practical sessions were facilitated by D Chandrasekhar Reddy, V Shubhakar, G Srinivas and Raghunath Kulkarni.

Sorghum field day cum AICSIP review meeting

Sorghum field day and review meeting of AICSIP was conducted at NRCS on 6 October 2007, with a view to



The scientists from AICSIP centres interacting on Sweet Sorghum development

discuss and plan various sub-projects and modules for operation during forthcoming XI plan. A total of 40 participants from AICSIP centres, SAUs, and NRCS participated in the deliberations. The meeting started with a field visit of NRCS experimental plots. During the



The review session of work at AICSIP centre in progress

post-lunch session, the discussions were held mainly on shaping up of XI plan concept note and formation of new centres. Discussions were also held on national crossing programme with exchange of plant material, self-evaluation of AICSIP staff, off-season nursery requirements, status of genetic management records, DUS testing, and improvement in trials testing. The director stressed the need for submitting the reports and financial statements in-time from all the individual centres. The proceedings are posted at NRCS intranet.

Visit of FAO trainees from Iraq

NRCS facilitated the visit of seven FAO trainees from

Iraq to Hyderabad, undergoing training on "Seed production and marketing" at IARI New Delhi, from 10-14th October 2007. The trainees had an opportunity to learn about seed production and marketing of sorghum, pearl millet, maize, rice, castor, pigeonpea, chickpea,



FAO trainees from Iraq during their visit to NRCS research fields

groundnut, cotton and forage crops. The trainees visited National Research Centre for Sorghum, Directorate of Rice Research, Directorate of Oil seeds Research, Acharya NG Ranga Agricultural University and Nuziveedu Seeds at Hyderabad. They interacted with Directors and the scientists in each of these institutes and the breeders, seed production, processing and seed testing personnel at the seed companies. The trainees were also taken to International Crops Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics, where they had discussion with Drs. CLL Gowda, Global Theme Leader for crop improvement, HD Upadhyaya, Principal Scientist and head Genetic Resources Unit and KN Rai, Principal Scientist and Head Pearl millet improvement. The trainees had opportunity to listen to lectures, visit museums and international gene bank, research and production fields exhibiting latest hybrids, varieties and technologies. This event was organized by Dr. Vilas A. Tonapi, who was officially nominated as programme coordinator from the council.

NSP monitoring team visit

The monitoring team of National Seed Project (crops) nominated by the Directorate of Seed Research (DSR) visited NRCS on 30th October 2007. The team comprising of Drs. M Ganesh, S Rajendraprasad,



The NSP monitoring team reviewing the BSP and mega seed project achievements and plans

Prabhakaran and Francis Rose Mary reviewed the nucleus & breeder seed systems viz., coordination, production and distribution at NRCS and AICSIP centres. Also, the team discussed on the seed research areas of sorghum to be projected in future. Dr. N Kannababu explained the team about constraints like non-lifting of breeder seed by the indenting agencies and consequent problems of storing the stock in cold store. He also highlighted the very-low demand for sorghum breeder seed during Kharif 2007 due to high rainfall received at actual seed production areas of sorghum in Andhra Pradesh.

AICSIP News

Farmers' meet and Field days

Sanora (Madhya Pradesh): NRC Sorghum, Hyderabad and IGFRI, Jhansi jointly organized a sorghum field day and Farmers meet at village Sanora at Datiya district in Madhya Pradesh on 10 October 2007. About 160 farmers



A progressive farmer from Sanora village speaking on the benefits of growing high yielding cultivars of sorghum

including 34 women farmers and 20 officials from IGFRI, Jhansi and NRCS, Hyderabad participated in this programme. The farmers visited frontline demonstrations laid down in the nearby villages. At village Sanora, exhibits on sorghum, and literature were also displayed.



A women farmer speaking on her experiences on the benefits of growing high yielding sorghum cultivars

Dr. Kumar Amarendra Singh, Director IGFRI was the chief guest. The dignitaries appraised farmers about the uses of high yielding sorghum cultivars, agronomic practices and production technology. Farmers also

appreciated the performance of new sorghum cultivars. On this occasion a handout on sorghum production technology was also released by the chief guest. The programme was organized in association with IGFRI, Jhansi. Drs. RN Dwivedi, Pr. Scientist, I/c TOT, SB Tripathi, Head crop Production, Dr. Sunil Kumar (Horticulturist) and others from IGFRI, and Chari Appaji, (NRC Sorghum) participated in this programme.

Mauranipur (Uttar Pradesh): NRC Sorghum, Hyderabad and AICSIP centre at Mauranipur (CSAU&T) jointly organized a sorghum field day and farmers meet on 11 October 2007 at Mauranipur in Uttar Pradesh. About 200 farmers including 60 women farmers from Bundelkhand region, 20 officials from IGFRI, Jhansi and 3 officials from NRCS, Hyderabad participated in this



Dr. YK Singh demonstrating the newly developed sorghum cultivars to the farmers during the field day

programme. Dr. KA Singh, Director IGFRI was the chief guest. The center's officer in-charge Dr. SP Sachan, Dr YK Singh, Agronomist, Dr. Chari Appaji (NRCS) and other dignitaries explained the farmers about the new cultivars and their performance. Dr. RN Dwivedi, Pr. Scientist (IGFRI), VK Sachan, Asst Director, Regional Soil Testing Laboratory, Jhansi also addressed the gathering. The farmers visited frontline demonstrations laid down in the farm. Farmers and women farmers also elucidated their outlook on sorghum cultivation on Dias. The farmers expressed the need for early duration varieties like CSV 17, and dual purpose varieties like CSV 20 and simple technologies for the cultivation of sorghum for more monetary returns. On this occasion one booklet entitled "Sorghum in Bundelkhand Region" prepared by Dr. Appaji Chari also released by the chief guest.

Mobile Soil Testing Service: The officials at Mauranipur, in a novel way arranged soil testing facility to the farmers besides a customary field day demonstrations. The officials from Regional Soil Testing Laboratory, Jhansi, during the field day at Mauranipur facilitated analysis of 250 soil samples belonging to different farmers in the Bundelkhand region. The initial soil testing results were correlated with second round of testing at Jhansi. The results are communicated to the farmers with the recommendations to follow suitable soil amendments towards the soil deficiency factors in the farmer's field to harvest the best possible yields. This facility was extended on gratis by Dr. VK Sachan. Asst.



Soil testing in progress at the mobile soil testing lab of UP Government

Director (Soil testing & Culture), Regional testing laboratory, Jhansi.

Visitors

Dr Bharwani, Executive from Meru Capital, Mumbai, along with Dr KP Rajan, Company executive of Hi-tech Power Generation Corporation, Hyderabad visited NRCS on 31 October, 07 with new plans to diversify and expand their horizons to bio-fuel production. In particular, they evinced keen interest in growing sweet -

sorghum to produce biogas. The team had a detailed discussion with Dr. SS Rao, Senior Scientist. The group



Discussion on possible ways to commercialize sweet sorghum technology to produce biogas with Dr. SS Rao

was apprised about the new developments in ICAR pertaining to collaborative projects with private sector. The team expressed their keen interest to execute a MoU with NRCS for Scientific and technical support for R&D on sweet sorghum.

Official Tours

S. No	Name of the Official	Place visited	Dates	Purpose
1	VR Bhagwat & Arun Pratap Singh	CRS, Solapur	2 – 4; 18-19 & 25-27 Oct, 07	Sowing of AICSIP Trails, monitoring of shootfly
2	N Seetharama	New Delhi	12-13 Oct, 07	Discussion on NAIP project proposal with TAC-2, and to participate in the meeting of DBT group on food safety.
3	SS Rao, Audilakshmi & TGN Rao	Rahuri, Phaltan	8-9 Oct, 07	Monitoring of AICSIP trials
4	S Audilakshmi, TGN Rao, IK Das & VR Bhagwat	Parbhani & Akola	10 -12 Oct, 07	Monitoring of AICSIP trials
5	Chari Appaji, KV Raghavendra Rao & HS Gawali	Jhansi & Maujanipur	10 – 11 Oct, 07	Organizing sorghum field days
6	VA Tonapi	TNAU, Coimbatore	15 Oct, 07	To conduct viva-voce exam of post graduate students in seed technology
7	N Seetharama	Pune	18-19 Oct, 07	To discuss with Agharkar Institute on nutritional aspects of sorghum and to visit Praj Industries (sweet sorghum based alcohol)
8	N Seetharama & B Dayakar Rao	IARI, New Delhi	22-25 Oct, 07	Review and defense of proposal entitled "Creation of demand for millet foods through PCS value chain" with Research Programme Committee and Cost Committee
9	C Aruna & HS Talwar	CRS, Solapur	25-27 Oct, 07	Monitoring shootfly in RIL trials, Monitoring trials on draught tolerant trials
10	M Elangovan	Southern & Saurashtra, regions of Gujarat	27 Oct -2 Nov 07.	Collection of new sorghum germplasm in Gujarat
11	VA Tonapi	NBPGRI, New Delhi	30 Oct, 07	Central Varietal Release committee meeting
12	N Seetharama	NAARM, Hyderabad	30 Oct, 07	Inauguration of video conferencing facility with DG, ICAR
13	N Seetharama	ICRISAT, Patancheru	31 Oct, 07	ICRISAT-Private sector meeting on cereals

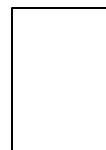
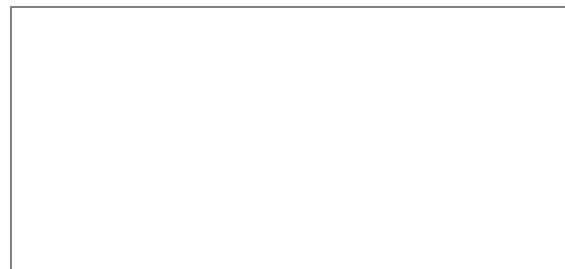
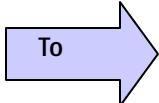
Meeting (M)/ Symposia (S)/ Workshop (W)/ Training (T) / Conference (C) attended

S. No	Name of the official	Participated in	Type	Venue	Date
1	Shyam Prasad	Short training course on "Post harvest entomological techniques for insect free grain storage to achieve nutritional security"	T	TNAU, Coimbatore	19 – 28 Sept, 07
2	N Kannababu	"Meeting of DUS nodal officers"	M	NASC complex, New Delhi	3-6 Oct, 07
3	KBRS Visarada	The National dialogue on "Genetically modified seeds" organized and sponsored by DST. Delivered a panel member lecture on the topic "GM seeds: Information support and Management strategies"	S	Institute of Productivity, Quality and Reliability (IPQR), Kolkata	4-5 Oct, 07
4	Mahesh Kumar	Official Language Conference organized by Dept. of OL, New Delhi	C	Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (IICT) Hyderabad	4-5 Oct, 07
5	B Venkatesh Bhat	Theoretical and practical course on "Molecular Approaches in Gene Expression Analysis for Crop Improvement"	T	International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB), New Delhi	8 -19 Oct, 07
6	HS Talwar	National conference on "Climatic change & Indian Agriculture"	C	NASC Complex, New Delhi	12 -13 Oct, 07
7	HS Talwar	Annual workshop of the network project on climatic change	W	NASC Complex, New Delhi	14-15 Oct, 07
8	KJ Mathai & NVRN Murty	Special interactive workshop on "Administrative and financial Matters"	W	NIANP, Bangalore	26 -27 Oct, 07
9	Vilas A Tonapi	47 th Meeting of the central sub-committee on crop standards notification and release	M	NBPGRI, New Delhi	30 Oct, 07

Thought for the month

"Action may not always bring happiness; but there is no happiness without action." - Benjamin Disraeli

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