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Laying Foundation Stone for Staff Quarters

The foundation-stone for staff quarters of Centre on Rabi Sorghum (NRCS), Solapur was laid by Dr. Mangala Rai, Director General, ICAR, New Delhi in the presence of Dr. G. Kalloo, DDG (CS&H), ICAR on 25 September 2005. Dr. DG Dhandhar, Director, CIAH, Bikaner; Dr. Ramchandra, OSD, NRC for Pomegranate; Dr. AL Pharande, ADR & Chief Scientist (Soils), MPKV, Solapur and Shri Chinchghare, Executive Engineer, CPWD, Nasik also graced the occasion. A total of 10 staff quarters (Type IV-2, Type III-4 and Type II-4) are being built within a year at a cost of 72.23 lakhs.

On 25 September, Dr. Mangala Rai, DG, ICAR and Dr. G. Kalloo, DDG (CS & H) visited our rabi centre at Solapur after the foundation-stone laying ceremony for the NRC for Pomegranate at Solapur. The DG asked the sorghum scientists to maintain and utilize diligently the Indian landraces for sorghum improvement. He addressed the staff of the Centre on Rabi Sorghum, and other AICSIP rabi centre in-charge officers. During the discussion on rabi sorghum Research & Development,

NRCS Director summarized the status of rabi sorghum research and future priorities. Dr. G. Kalloo, DDG (CS &H) advised the scientists to plan strategies to develop rabi sorghum hybrids with resistance to abiotic and biotic stresses and popularize them. As of now only the improved varieties have found the place on farmers' field. Besides the staff of the Centre, Dr. JV Patil, Sr. Sorghum Breeder, MPKV, Rahuri, and Dr. BD Biradar, Sr. Sorghum Breeder, UAS, Bijapur and their colleagues were also present. DG has also visited the farmers' fields in the Solapur District.

Hindi Week Celebrations

हिन्दी सप्ताह और हिन्दी दिवस समारोह

राष्ट्रीय ज्वार अनुसन्धान केन्द्र में ५७ वे हिन्दी दिवस के सुअवसर पर सितंबर ०३ से लेकर १३ तक हिन्दी सप्ताह मनाया गया जिसके दौरान अनुवाद, श्रुत लेखन, पठन, अशुभाषण, तंबोला, नंबरों के साथ फिल्मों का शीर्षक पता करना और शब्दों को जोड़ना आदि जैसे प्रतियोगिताएँ चलाए गये। सभी कर्मचारियों ने इसमें बड़ी उत्सुकता से भाग लिये।

१४ सितंबर, २००५ को राष्ट्रीय ज्वार अनुसन्धान केन्द्र में हिन्दी दिवस उत्साहपूर्वक रूप से मनाया गया है। कार्यक्रम के स्वागत वचन प्रशासनिक अधिकारी श्री के.जे. माथाईजी ने दिया है। कार्यक्रम की अध्यक्षता माननीया निदेशक महोदय डॉ. एन. सीतारामजी ने किया है और हिन्दी का सही उपयोग का अवसर और महत्व के बारे में बढ़िया प्रसंग दिया है। मुख्य अतिथि के रूप में डॉ. मोहन पिल्लै, उप निदेशक (राज भाषा) राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण विकास संस्थान, हैदराबाद पधारे हैं। प्रधान वैज्ञानिक और हिन्दी प्रभारी अधिकारी डॉ. इन्दिराजी केन्द्र में हिन्दी कार्यान्वयन की प्रतिवेदन प्रस्तुती की है। मुख्य अतिथि डॉ. मोहन पिल्लै के सुंदर भाषण के उपरांत हिन्दी सप्ताह के दौरान आयोजित प्रतियोगिताओं के विजेताओं तथा सहभागियों को प्रमाण पत्र और पुरस्कार के साथ डॉ. मोहन पिल्लै के हाथों से सम्मानित किया गया। डॉ. टोणपि ने कार्यक्रम का धन्यवाद प्रस्ताव किया।



Dr. Mangala Rai, DG (ICAR), the DDG (CS&H) with the staff after laying the foundation stone for the staff quarters



Dr. S Indira, also officiating as Hindi officer speaking on the occasion of concluding day of Hindi week at NRCS, Seated in the centre is the Chief guest Dr. Mohan Pillai, Dy. Director (Hindi) of NIRD

1. Jowar Samachar—a new quarterly news letter from NRCS

The inaugural issue of sorghum quarterly newsletter entitled “**Jowar Samachar**” was released by Dr. G. Kalloo, DDG (CS&H) in the presence of Dr. Mangala Rai, DG, ICAR on 25 September 2005. This newsletter



Dr. Mangala Rai, DG (ICAR), and Dr. G Kalloo, DDG (CS&H) releasing the inaugural issue of Jowar Samachar

exclusively deals with scientific information pertaining to sorghum. Readers are also appreciative of our monthly in-house newsletter “*Happenings at NRCS and AICSIP News*” (which is in your hands now), and this new quarterly provides updated scientific information on sorghum.

2. Protection and Conservation of Indian Sorghum Landraces’ - A Book from NRCS

The book entitled ‘*Protection and Conservation of Indian Sorghum Landraces*’ by M Elangovan, Vilas A Tonapi, Prabhakar, S Varanavasiappan and N Seetharama was also released by Dr. Mangala Rai, DG, ICAR on the same occasion.

III Rabi Meeting at Solapur, 2005.

The third annual rabi sorghum research planning meeting was held from 2-3, September 2005 at the Centre on Rabi Sorghum (NRCS), Solapur. The meeting was organized to discuss the future plans and to develop a proposal to follow-up earlier NATP–MM hybrid project. The other objectives were to plan the strategies for rabi sorghum agronomy research, interact with all staff working on rabi sorghum biotechnology and discuss issues related to rabi sorghum research management. Thirty-five members participated in the meeting, which included scientists from AICSIP centers of Dharwad, Bijapur, Akola, Parbhani, NRCS Hyderabad & Solapur. Dr. AL Pharande, Associate Director of Research and Chief Scientist (Soils), MPKV, Solapur was the special invitee.

At the outset, Dr. MS Raut, Officer In-charge, CRS, Solapur welcomed the participants from AICSIP / NRCS and MPKV, Solapur. He briefly narrated the activities of CRS, and the agenda for the meeting. Dr. N Seetharama, gave a detailed account on status of rabi sorghum research and outlined the possible future priorities to be followed by the group. He also opined that food use of rabi sorghums should be given more attention as 98%

of rabi sorghum is used as food. Therefore, the issues of better keeping quality, palatability and modification of recipe based rabi sorghum to promote it as healthy food are researchable areas. The meeting came out with definite action plan. For further details please visit NRCS website or ask NRCS for the copies of the proceedings

Biotech research forum at Rajendranagar

A biotech consortium was formed in collaboration with local ICAR institutes and the Dept. of Biotechnology ANGRAU to facilitate use of each others research facilities and exchange skills. The first meeting was held on 15 September 05. Dr. Sivaramakrishnan, Head Biotechnology Dept., ANGRAU, and NRCS Scientists including Drs. KBRS Visarada, PG Padmaja, & IK Das participated in the meeting. The forum will facilitate informal and formal exchange of views and skills, monitor progress, organizing joint learning & training, build better working relationships, plan for infrastructure development and purchase of consumables at right price. It is also expected to promote lab safety, coordination of purchase and use of equipment to maximize return on investment. Mr. D. Balakrishna, Scientist, NRCS is the convener.

Visitors learn more about sweet sorghum

Mr. M. Narasimha Rao, General Manager and Mr. S Hazza Sharif, Joint Director of Agriculture (Rtd), Trichy Distilleries and Chemicals Ltd, Thirichirapalli, TN, visited NRCS on 28 September, to know more about the use of sweet sorghum for alcohol production. They met with the Director, Dr. SS Rao, Dr. CV Ratnavathi & others and discussed about the production technology, and visited on going field experiments. They were provided with literature and 10 kg seed of each released cultivar for their use.

Dr. Sharanappa, Associate Professor (Agronomy) GKVK, UAS, Bangalore, who has already planted the sweet sorghum crop during 2005 kharif in Karnataka visited NRCS on 29 September to discuss about the sweet sorghum production and related issues. He has plans to increase the sweet sorghum area in Karnataka in the coming seasons. The NRCS scientists Drs. SS Rao, CV Ratnavathi and Ch Sashidhar Reddy provided the necessary information & literature and showed him our work in field and lab.

Field day at Gujja village



The scientific team from NRCS answering the queries made by the group of farmers and farm women

A field day was organized on 14 Sept 05 at Gujja village, Narayanpur mandal, Nalgonda district, in association with the collaborators of the NRCS-NAARM linkage programme. Dr. Sandhya Shenoy, Principal Scientist, NAARM was the chief guest and Dr. Padmavati, Sr. Scientist, ARI, and Ms Seema Rao, Programme officer NACTO Trust were the guests of honour. Drs. Chari Appaji, LH Rao, NAARM, Padmaiah, DOR, Ms Shyamala CEO and Mr. Bala Chari Director, SWEET, (NGO) also helped to organize this event. About 350 farmers and farm women participated in the field day and were explained the ongoing activities of the project. On this occasion, a film on sorghum production technology produced by NRCS was screened for the benefit of farmers.

Radio Talk

Dr. AV Umakanth delivered a radio talk in Telugu on the topic "*Rabi jonna sagu*" (Rabi Sorghum Cultivation) through All India Radio on 29 Sept, 05 broadcasted at 7.15 pm during the Farmer's programme.

Best stall award



Dr. CD Mayee, Chairman, ASRB, being explained the salient features of the high yielding sorghum hybrid, CSH 16 by NRCS extension officers at the Kisan mela

The sorghum stall put up by the NRCS staff during the *Kisan Mela* organized at Parbhani by MAU during 17-18 May 05, was chosen for the "Best stall award" among 150 competitors.

NRCS Congratulates Dr. Aruna and her technical team comprising Mr. K. Yadav Rao, Mr. AR Limbore, Mr. E. Suresh Kumar, Mr. P. Kisthiah and RM Patil for the award. Dr. S Audilakshmi, Chairperson of the revenue generation committee, who organized this event. We were successful in selling 4 tons of NRCS sorghum hybrid CSH 16, which is popular among farmers of Maharashtra.

Official travel

S.No	Name of the Scientist	Place visited	Dates	Purpose
1	Chari Appaji	Udaipur	1 -3 Sept 05	Implementation of FLD programme & trials
2	N Seetharama, S Indira, SL Kaul S Audilakshmi, TGN Rao, AV Umakanth & R Madhusudhana	Solapur	2-3 Sept 05	Participate in the III Annual Rabi Sorghum review and research planning meeting
3	Chari Appaji	Gujja village, Nalgonda	6 & 19 Sept 05	Farmer's Day – preparation and participation
4	N Seetharama	New Delhi	8 Sept, 05	To represent the DG in an ASRB activity, to meet NATP Director & NRCPB scientists.
5	SS Rao & Ch Sashidhar Reddy	Perumallapalli , Chittur	8-11 Sept, 05	To evaluate sweet sorghum trial and to participate in sweet sorghum bigmill test at M/s. Sagar Sugars, Nilvoy- Chittoor. & Visit to farmers' fields
6	Chari Appaji	Hayatnagar Farm, CRIDA	9 Sept 05.	Participated in Farmers Day organized by CRIDA
7	Chari Appaji	Udaipur, Indore, Parbhani, Ranga Reddy and Nalgonda Dt of A.P	19-27 Sept' 05	As member of joint monitoring team of FLD programmes conducted by Udaipur, Indore, Parbhani centres and CRIDA-NRCS
8	M. Elangovan	Coimbatore , Erode & Karur Districts in TN & Thrissur in Kerala	12-15 Sept 05	Collection of Germplasm & monitoring GM trials at Thrissur
9	BU Singh, SL Kaul, SS Rao	Coimbatore	14-17 Sept 05	Monitoring of AICSIP trials
10	N Seetharama	Solapur	24-25 Sept 05	Participate in the foundation stone laying ceremony of NRC for Pomegranate; and the same for NRCS (CRS) staff quarters and meeting on rabi sorghum improvement. Hosting DG, ICAR and DDG (CS&H)
11	SS Rao	Mandya	26- 28 Sept 05	To evaluate Sweet Sorghum trials
12	S Ravikumar	Nandyal	27 Sept 05	Seed distribution and monitoring of sowings at farmers field.
13	N Seetharama	Udaipur & Indore	30 Sept. – 3 Oct. 2005	To deliver a lecture at a training program at Udaipur. To visit AICSIP centres at Udaipur and Indore.

Meetings/Symposia/Conference/Workshops/Training attended

S.No	Name of the official	Participated in	Venue	Date
1	G. Ambujam	Noting & Drafting workshop	ISTM, New Delhi	8-9 Sept 05.
2	Vilas A Tonapi & N.Kannababu	ICAR sponsored short course on "Recent advances in seed quality enhancement"	Division of Seed Science and Technology, IARI	26 Sept. to 7Oct. 05
3	SS Rao	Meeting on pilot project on Production of Ethanol as a biofuel from sweet sorghum	Commissionerate of Agriculture, Bangalore.	26 Sept 05



Family News

Ms. Krittika Tonapi, daughter of Dr. Vilas A Tonapi secured the third position in the All-India inter school declamation contest organized by Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan's Sawan public school, New Delhi on 2 September 2005. She spoke on **"Self analysis: mankind's immediate necessity"**. Well done Krittika. Keep it up!

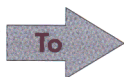
Thought for the Month

"We worry far too much about risks, and we are too anxious with changes. In the process, we do not tap into the power of our capabilities."

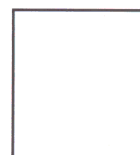
Dr. Manmohan Singh
Prime Minister of India



Printed Matter



PIN



Compilation & lay-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 500 030 (AP).
Website: www.nrctorsorghum.res.in

National Research Centre for Sorghum (NRCS)

Rajendranagar, Hyderabad - 500 030
Andhra Pradesh, India
www.nrctorsorghum.res.in

Hqrs: Rajendranagar, Hyderabad 500030 (AP).
Tel: 040-24015349, 24018651
Fax: 040-24016378
E mail: nrcshyd@ap.nic.in
Website: www.nrctorsorghum.res.in

Centre on Rabi Sorghum (NRCS),
NH 9, Bypass, Shelgi, Solapur - 413 006 (Mah.)
Tel: 0217-2373456
Telefax: 0217-2373456
E mail: raut_nrccs@nrctorsorghum.res.in

Off-season Nursery (NRCS),
ARS Farm, Mulugu Road, Warangal-506 007 (AP)
Tel: 0870-2530963
Telefax: 0870-2530963
E mail: ashok_reddy_nrrsw@nrctorsorghum.res.in