



Happenings at NRC for Sorghum, and AICSIP news

Serial No. 26

Hyderabad ? Solapur ? Warangal

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Training cum demonstration of artificial drier

On 10 November'05 CFC-FAO-ICRISAT project and NRCS



Scientists from Nrcs and ICRISAT discussing the use of artificially dried sorghum with the farmers at Kothakota

scientists organized training-cum-demonstration programme on uses of grain-dryer technology for the farmers of Mahaboobnagar district. This process enhances utilization of sorghum and pearl-millet grains in poultry feed to improve livelihoods of small scale farmers in India. More than 100 men and women farmers from the district at KVK, Kothakotta participated. Dr. Ashok Kumar of ICRISAT explained to farmers the importance of good grain quality for poultry feed and Drs. Audilakshmi and Aruna delivered a lecture on five interrelated technologies to improve grain quality of kharif sorghums. They also demonstrated advantage of harvesting at physiological maturity and artificial drying of one tonne of sorghum produce in community drier to improve grain quality. This drier was installed by NRCS at KVK, Kothakota under NATP project.

NRCS Foundation Day celebrated

NRCS celebrated the Foundation day on 16 November quietly but with great enthusiasm. Following four different sessions were held.

Introspection session: Celebrations during "Foundation days" generally deals with retrospection, but NRCS did in a different way – Introspection (examining the growth prospects, future

challenges and thoughts). Staff from all categories reviewed "present status" and make suggestions to improve organization health and consider future prospects. The target is to make NRCS one of the best centres within ICAR system on developing efficient work and service culture.

Health session: Dr. RV Raghavendra Rao, General Surgeon, Medwin hospitals, Hyderabad delivered a lecture on Health



Dr. Veeraprasad of Global Hospitals appraising the staff regarding health awareness

education pertaining to general problems of intestine. He narrated the problems relating to gastroenteritis and stone formation, and the precautions needed to be taken. Dr. M. Veera Prasad, Vice-President- Medical services, Global hospital appraised the staff regarding need for health awareness of all important diseases and advances in medial research including heart and other organs transplantation, stem cell research and applications. He also discussed various medical insurance schemes that can supplement CGHS.

Wealth session: Mr. Sashidhar, relationship manager – customer service and Mr. Hari Kishore, Head, ICRISAT branch of IDBI Bank, explained financial planning for the safe future, focusing on value investment and smart-banking.

Spirituality and Yoga session: Dr. Sumitha Roy, Professor in English, Nizam's College, OU, Hyderabad delivered a lecture on "Science and Spirituality". She stressed on the need to



Dr. Sumitha Roy delivering a lecture on science and spirituality

cultivate holistic approaches by regular practice to realize peaceful means of achieving personal and organizational goals. Dr. SN Saha, Principal Scientist, NAARM highlighted that the Yoga is nothing but the harnessing one's own inner power that helps to keep fit without any physical and psychological problems. Yoga in fact heals diseases to enable

the individual to work peacefully and double the output. This session helped to educate the staff about wholesome living.

Training programme on 'Propagation of alternate uses for sorghum, and sweet sorghum technology

A national-level training course on "Propagation of alternate uses for sorghum and sweet sorghum" was organized at NRCS during 24-26 Nov 2005. There were 10 participants from public and private sector. A total of 12 resource persons delivered



Dr. CV Ratnavathi and Mr. D Gopala Krishna explaining the technology of preparing syrup from sweet sorghum

varied lectures on diversified topics on alternate uses of sorghum and sweet sorghum. Ready-made lecture notes and a CD on all presentations were prepared and distributed to all the trainees for ready reference. Visit to all NRCS fields and labs were also arranged. The feedback from the participants was good. The Director thanked Dr. Sashidhar Reddy and other course coordinators B Dayakar Rao, CV Ratnavathi and SS Rao; other team members such as E. Suresh Kumar and others also for making valuable contribution to this programme.

India Glycols Ltd., collaborates with NRCS for bio-ethanol production

The representatives of M/s. India Glycols Ltd., Khashipur, Uttaranchal, Dr. Jaisingh Saroj, Adviser (Cane & Agriculture) and Dr. Ashutosh Gautam, Asst. General Manager (ETP) visited the NRC Sorghum on 17 November, 2005 to know the



The representatives of India Glycols Ltd in discussion with Director and other staff members of NRCS

techno-economic feasibility of sweet sorghum cultivation for ethanol production. M/s. India Glycol is one of the biggest distilleries in Asia and largest producer of ethyl alcohol and its downstream products such as mono ethylene glycol (MEG), glycol, ethoxylates, PEGs, glycol ether from molasses. The team had a thorough discussion with the Director, Drs. SS Rao,

B Dayakar & CV Ratnavathi on a possible large-scale cultivation of sweet sorghum crop for ethanol production in the sub-tropical Tarai plains of Uttaranchal, and UP.

The team was informed that the excellent sweet sorghum cane yields can be obtained in subtropical climate on deep alluvial soil under high solar radiation and long days. Sweet sorghum crop may be the best option for summer as well as rainy season as a supplement to sugarcane. Invitation was extended to the NRCS team of scientists to visit the company for an assessment. It has been decided to sign an MOU between NRCS and Indian Glycols Ltd., on transfer of sweet sorghum technology.

Monitoring team visit of National Seed Project (crops)

The south zone monitoring team comprising of Drs. Hanchanal (UAS, Dharwad), Rajendra Prasad (UAS, Bangalore), Ponnusamy (TNAU, Coimbatore); Dr. SN Sinha (Head, regional research centre, Karnal), scientists and nodal officers from NSP units of ANGRAU, DRR and DOR visited NRCS on 28 Nov' 2005 for reviewing the breeder seed production



The NSP monitoring team in discussion with Director, NRCS

activities at NRCS. Drs. N Kannababu and N Seetharama explained them about BSP activities and also distributed the copies of the updated reports. The team appreciated the BSP program of NRCS for surplus quantities of breeder seed, and good revenue generation from breeder seed sale. While reviewing the other south centres, the team identified UAS, Dharwad centre, where the failure of sorghum nucleus and breeder seed program for the past two years was reported.

Review and monitoring of AP-NL transgenic project

The monitoring committee consisting of Dr. RP Sharma,



Dr. Visarada explaining molecular confirmation thru southern blots

Former Project Director, NRCPB; Prof. P Balasubramanian, Prof & Head Division of Plant Biotechnology and Molecular Biology, TNAU, Dr. G Pakki Reddy, Professor & Coordinator, AP-NLBP, IPE, Hyderabad, Dr. MLN Rao, Scientific advisor, visited NRCS on 30 November 2005 to review and monitor Transgenic project entitled "Evolving transgenic sorghum with suitable Bt gene constructs resistant to stem-borer". The team also examined the material developed, papers published, and

books of accounts pertaining to this project. Dr. S. Indira, Director in-charge welcomed the team members. Dr. KBRS Visarada and her team members (Dr. PG Padmaja, Mr. N Sai Kishore, and Mr. E. Pashupatinath), apprised the review team the progress made so far and the future strategies. Dr. SV Rao, Principal Scientist also participated in these deliberations.

Vigilance week Observed

NRCS observed "Vigilance awareness week" from 7 -11 Nov. 2005. This event commenced with an oath taking ceremony on 7 November as per council's guidelines. All staff took a pledge in Hindi to eradicate corruption in all spheres of life and also to do duties without any fear and favour.

Nodal persons as per "Right to information Act" and e-governance

The following officials were identified from NRC Sorghum Hyderabad as nodal persons to furnish information to the public.

Administrative Matters : Mr. KJ Mathai, Administrative officer
(In his absence AO I/c)

Scientific, technology and extensive matters :Dr. S. Ravi Kumar, Sr. Scientist (In his absence Dr. KV Raghavendra Rao, T6)

e - Governance:

Mr. V. Anjaneyulu (e-mail id: patoao@nrcoresorghum.res.in)
Mr. D. Ram Babu (e-mail id: patoafao@nrcoresorghum.res.in)

NRC-Sorghum in Google

We are happy to announce that the web-site of NRC for Sorghum has been added to search engine of Google. Now information from NRCS can be viewed worldwide through Google search

www.google.com

Visitors

Twenty five M.Sc students from Department of Biotechnology & Microbiology, School of Life sciences, Kannur University, Palayad, Kerala visited NRCS as part of their study tour on 14 Nov 2005. They visited Biotechnology laboratory, transgenic glass-house, and other facilities.

Fifty B.Sc students from Agriculture College of Kerala Agricultural University, Thrissur visited NRCS on 19 Nov, 2005 as part



Dr. Shashidhar Reddy, Extension officer, explaining students salient features of sorghum production technology.

of their study tour. They were taken to Biotechnology, Pathology, Entomology rearing labs and the transgenic research facilities.

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

S. No	Name of the official	Participated in	Type	Venue	Date
1	N. Seetharama	Training programme at "3 rd Directors' Management workshop"	T	NAARM, Hyderabad	8 -11, Nov, 05.
2	M Elangovan	Second regional workshop of FAO sponsored project on "Establishment of national information sharing mechanism on the implementations and monitoring of the global plan of action for the conservation and sustainable utilization of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture"	W	NBPGR Regional Station, Hyderabad	9 -10 Nov, 05
3	N Seetharama, Vilas A Tonapi, Prabhakar, R Madhusudhana, AV Umakanth	Special meeting on "Research and development efforts in selected hybrid crops"	M/W	NBPGR, New Delhi	21-22 Nov, 05
4	Vilas A Tonapi	Indo- European Union seminar on "Geographical indications"	S	Hotel Taj, New Delhi	23-24 Nov, 05
5	TGN Rao	Global conference-II on "Plant Health- Global wealth" organized by the Indian Society of Mycology and Plant Pathology.	C	MPUA&T, Udaipur	25-29 Nov, 05

Official Tours

S. No	Name of the Scientist	Place visited	Dates	Purpose
1	N Seetharama	CRS, Solapur	3 - 5 Nov, 05	Review of work at Solapur centre including farm research, extension, staff matters and CPWD works. Conduct of a meeting on project formulation for the Farmers' participatory research project supported by the DFID
2	SS Rao	RARS, Anakapalle	4 - 5 Nov, 05	To evaluate sweet sorghum advance trial
3	AJ Mathai	KAU, Mannuthy and CMFRI, Cochin	4 - 10 Nov, 05	to perceive the cost of cultivation, also to observe the labour management at KAU. To ascertain the Hindi work done by CMFRI, Cochin.
4	N Seetharama	New Delhi	21-23 Nov, 05	Visit DBT and ICAR HQ for consultation on important administrative matters. Discuss about FLD program for next year with the Agri. Commissioner, Gol.
5	B Dayakar Rao	Nandyal (AP) and Bellary (KN)	26 -30 Nov, 05	To conduct a brief survey on economics of sorghum seed production
6	IK Das	CRS Solapur	30 Nov, 05	Monitoring of rabi trials
7	N Seetharama	New Delhi	30 Nov, 05	Participate in the IPR committee meeting at ICAR Hq.



Smt. P Sathemma, who has put her 15 years service as SSG II to the institute, passed away on 17 November 2005. She recently superannuated from her service on 30 June. The staff paid their tributes to the departed soul.

Thought for the month

"The greatest resource which a nation can have is the resource of peace; it counts for more than arable lands, more than mines of untold riches."

Paul P. Harris, founder Rotary International

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To



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