



Happenings at NRC for Sorghum

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Hyderabad, Solapur & Warangal

April,

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Annual research review meeting

The institute's staff research council met during 5-8



Scientists review the salient features of their research program

April 2004 to review the progress of the research by each scientist and reviewed the new research projects for the years 2004 - 05.

Seed day organized

A seed day to promote seed village concept was organised as a NRCS-CRIDA linkage activity to popularise sorghum hybrid CSH 16. The seed was multiplied at Kollur village in Medak District. The "Seed Day" was organized at NRCS on 2 April. About 50 farmers from 5 CRIDA- KVK adopted villages in Ranga Reddy district of AP participated. The farmers visited the NRCS museum and fields. Drs. TG Nageshwar Rao, C Aruna, B Subbarayudu and N Kannababu explained recent developments in sorghum production technology, and improved

cultivars. Later the farmers visited hybrid seed



Farmers show keen interest in understanding critical aspects of CSH 16 seed production

production plots at Kollur. The programme was initiated by Drs. S Audilakshmi. Other activities were coordinated by Chari Appaji, VA Tonapi, S Ravi Kumar and B Subbarayudu.

Participatory evaluation of Germplasm

On 2 April, 50 farmers from five CRIDA-KVK villages participated in the line to line evaluation and selection of sorghum germplasm (64 acc.) at NRCS GTC block. Farmers' opinion and rating based on the



Dr. Ravikumar explaining farmers about the new lines of germplasm

feedback was received and consolidated by Dr. M Elangovan, Scientist. They did not prefer the compact earhead because of the insect pest problem. An average of 16% farmers rated single accessions as "good". 17% of the accessions were scored "good" for fodder purposes.

Film on sorghum for Doordarshan

The film on sorghum production technology was shot

on the 3 April 2004 by Mr. RS Sharma and his team, *The Compro*, Gurgaon, Haryana, an empanelled



Video shooting in progress in the field of NRCS



Video shooting in progress while explaining the various genotypes

producer for Ministry of Agriculture, and GOI.

The shooting started with a brief introduction by the Director in Hindi about the mandate, ongoing research activities and future plans of the Institute. Later, following scientists explained the technology development in their respective areas of research.

1. Dr. SL Kaul - *Varietal recommendations for Kharif sorghum*
2. Dr. BU Singh - *Insect pests and its management*
3. Dr. TG Nageshwar Rao - *Diseases on sorghum and its management.*
4. Dr. Chari Appaji - *Efforts on popularizing of sorghum production technologies to farmers*
5. Dr. S. Ravi Kumar - *Agronomic management for higher production and yields*
6. Dr. CV Ratnavathi - *Value- addition*
7. Dr. B Dayakar Rao - *Economics of sorghum cultivation and value- addition.*

Departmental promotions

Under the provisions of technical service rules and on the recommendations of the Departmental

promotion committee, the following officials were promoted to the next higher grade.

T5 category II to T6 category III

1. Dr. KV Raghavendra Rao
2. Sh. K Laxminarayana
3. Smt. Vishala Devender

T3 category II to T4 category II

1. Sh. TJ Balakrishnan
2. Sh. DM Bahadure
3. Sh. Arun Pratap Singh
4. Sh. AR Limbore

T1 category I to T2 category I

1. Sh. A Laxma Reddy
2. Sh. KS Rathnam
3. Sh. RM Patil

Congratulations to all.

NRCS Staff helped in organizing the General Election

A total of 55 NRCS staff were on the general election duty to elect members to the House of Parliament and the State Assembly, between 18 - 21 April. They served as presiding officers, polling officers, and others were on transport duty. First, they also attended two day training programme conducted by the Election Commission to get acquainted with new electronic voting machines and other poll process. During a brief meeting on 22 April staff exchanged their experiences and the Director thanked all the staff members for shouldering this national responsibility.

Our photograph finds place in Vigyan Rail

The photograph of a farmer with CSH 13 panicles



The photo which found a place in vigyan rail

(displayed in the Director's chamber and on previous page) has found place in the *Vigyan rail* – a mobile science exhibition train traveling across the country depicting the progress of science and technology in India. This photograph was taken by HS Gawali at Karkalpad village, Mahaboobnagar district of Andhra Pradesh under the extension programme on testing of "Link worker model of transfer of technology". The photo found place in the first display bogie out of stiff competition of photo entries from various ICAR institutes.

Work on development of digital library of millets initiated

Mr. V Ravikumar (SRF) was trained in Digital Library Development, at ICRISAT from 12-16 April, 2004. He has acquired knowledge on following softwares: Greenstone digital library; Apache server; WINISIS; Genisis; Xitami server and Web-Agris. These softwares (supplied by UNESCO) were installed at NRCS successfully. Our institute is contemplating a full fledged digital library on millet crops in collaboration with ICRISAT library very soon and the work in this regard has already begun.

Meeting with technical and supporting staff

On April 1, Director met the technical and supporting staff on 1 April to exchange views on prevailing working conditions and the progress as conceived by employees. The proceedings of the meeting are posted at the NRCS *intranet site*.

OSN News

- **Visit of the Director:** Director visited Off Season Nursery at Warangal on 8 April 2004 and examined all the advanced materials being multiplied at this centre. He also assessed and finalized the minor works to be undertaken to improve the farm facilities at warangal.
- **Harvest of Indore material:** Team headed by Dr. PN Gadewadikar visited OSN during 21-23 April and completed the harvesting of their nursery.
- **S Indira and SV Rao** visited OSN accompanied by Mr.N Bikshapathi, technical assistant. They collected data on charcoal rot and stemborer incidences with the help of Dr. A Ashok Reddy, O/I, Off-season nursery. Experiments on stemborer, and effect of moisture stress on stalkrot complex in charcoal resistant in lines (tissue culture mutants) were studied.

Visitors

Dr. MJ Vasudeva Rao, Sr. Vice-President, *Advanta India Limited*, Bangalore visited NRCS on 12 April 2004.

Sh. SS Goenka, Managing Director, *Meenakshi (India) Pvt. Ltd*, Chennai and Dr. Shradha Goenka, Managing Director, *Biotech Desk Pvt. Ltd*,



Prospects of commercialization of Sorghum food products being discussed with the visitors

Secunderabad visited NRCS on 12 April. They showed keen interest on marketing of sorghum food products. They had detailed discussions with the Drs. N Seetharama, CV Ratnavathi and B Dayakar Rao on the alternative uses of Sorghum, market strategies to popularize sorghum products.

Tours

Dr. Vilas A. Tonapi visited the wheat Rust Research Station, Mahabaleshwar and AICSIP centre at Indore to record observations on flowering behavior and seed set in the NRCS experiments related to cold tolerance in sorghum, from 28 March to 2 April.

Trainings / Seminars/ Meetings

Dr. N Seetharama participated in the meeting conducted by the Agricultural Commissioner Dr. CD Mayee on 26th April 2004 at New Delhi, and presented plan for FLDs under AICSIP. He also visited Parbhani centre and interacted with the sorghum scientists and University administration on matters of mutual interest.

Dr. N Seetharama participated in the last day of "Minor millets" workshop at Mandya near Bangalore. He, along with Dr. SN Shukla, ADG (FFC) visited CFTRI, Mysore on the next day to explore scope for interaction in the area of post harvest technology for Millets with CFTRI.

Lectures delivered

Dr. Chari Appaji delivered a lecture at CRPF school, Jawahar nagar, Secunderabad on "Food production in India, - challenges" on 30 April, for senior school children; on special invitation from Mr. AZ Khan, Dy. DIG, CRPF. The lecture was attended by school children, teachers, and Sr. officials of CRPF., Jawahar-nagar.

Family News

Master **NC Bhargav** son of Dr. Chari Appaji, secured 88 % in class IV final year examination conducted by Secunderabad High School in April 2004 and has been promoted to V class. He has also received certificate of merit for participation in the painting competition conducted by Indian Navy, on the occasion of Navy Day celebrations.

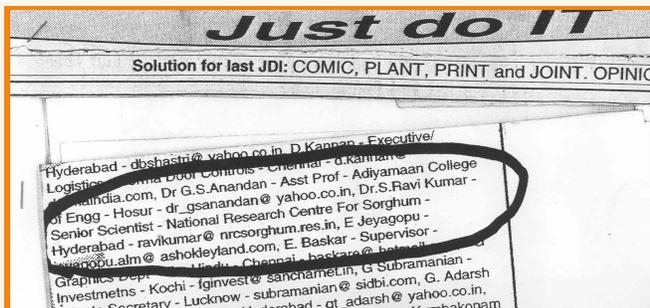


Mr. Omkant Sharma, eldest son of Mr. Pramod Kumar, T-6, was appointed by M/s Reliance Industries, as Engineer trainee on 19 April at Jamnagar. Mr. Omkant Sharma is a chemical engineer.



Miss Krittika d/o Dr. Vilas Tonapi, scored 93% in (IV rank) in the class VII final exams of Bharathiya Vidya Bhavan's Vidyashram School, Hyderabad. Krittika also passed National Talent Search Examination successfully.

Another daughter **Baby Aishwarya** from the same school scored 92% (IX rank) in Class II.



Dr. Ravikumar does it and puts NRCS among the long list of solution providers to "Just do it" column in the 19 April edition of Business line.

Forthcoming meetings/ engagements

- A one day meeting on "Biotechnological applications for millets improvement " will be held at NRCS on 15 May 2004 to evaluate the prospects for applying biotechnological tools to improve quality of millets and to enhance their utilization. This meeting is supported by the Department of Biotechnology of GOI. Adviser VP Gupta and Director RR Sinha will also be participating.
- The **34th Annual Sorghum group meeting** of All India Sorghum Improvement Project will be held at TNAU campus, Coimbatore during 20-22 May 2004. About 200 participants including those from ICAR, SAU, ICRISAT, NGOs, State seed certification agencies, private sector, and the host university are expected to attend this meet.

Economy and safety measures

- Switch off all the lights and electrical appliances (if not in use) before leaving your workplace.
- Close the water taps, gas cylinders and other containers of liquids / gases / chemicals before leaving your workplace. If any leakages, are found, please complain to the Officer I/ c. Works promptly.
- Drive carefully and slowly in the campus because speed kills you and innocent victims. You are liable to be prosecuted. Why invite trouble?. Park only at designated places.
- When you leave the campus and move on to the main road near the gate, be careful of the speedily moving vehicles.

Thought for the month

What could a companion help, those who lack inner content?

Chanakya

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