



*In this issue*

1. Sorghum Annual Group meet at ANGRAU
2. DDG (CS&Hort.) inspects NRCS
3. Scientists annual review meeting
4. Sweet sorghum meet
5. Australian expert reviews ACIAR-ICAR project
6. DFID project review meeting
7. Post annual group meetings to chalk out strategies
8. Interaction with sweet sorghum producing farmers
9. CD on sweet sorghum released
10. Department promotions
11. New arrivals at Library
12. Publications released during sorghum group meeting
13. Meetings, conferences, etc., attended
14. Thought for the month

**Sorghum annual group meeting held at ANGRAU**

The 35<sup>th</sup> annual sorghum group meeting of All India Coordinated Sorghum Improvement Project (AICSIP) was conducted at the Acharya NG Ranga Agricultural University, Hyderabad during 21-23 April 2005. Dr. G Kalloo, DDG (CS & Hort) was the chief guest. A total of 200 participants including AICSIP centre scientists and those from NRCS, IARI, IGFRI, CRIDA, ICRISAT, private seed industry, and non-governmental organizations



Dr. G Kalloo, DDG (CS & Hort) delivering the inaugural address

enthusiastically participated. Progress reports of various disciplines were presented by the concerned PIs. For the first time centre-wise progress reports of coordinating centres were presented and evaluated. Besides this, presentations on current global efforts in sorghum improvement and its relevance to India, common pitfalls in data analysis and means to overcome them, kharif sorghum for forage and industrial use, strategies for rabi sorghum improvement, multi-cut forage sorghums, initiatives on dual-purpose sorghum were also made in different sessions. The versatile sorghum researchers Drs. NGP Rao, R Vidyabhushanam, BS Rana also participated in the deliberations. Drs. IV Subba Rao (Ex-



Participants listen in rapt attention during the address of Dr. GM Kalloo

VC, ANGRAU and Chairman, RAC of NRCS), EA Siddiq (Former DDG, ICAR), SV Singh (Director, DMR, Jaipur) and A Padma Raju (DoR, ANGRAU) also actively took



Group discussion in progress during the workshop

part. Dr. M. Ganesh, Head, NSP-ANGRAU was the organizing secretary. Coordination centres competed for various prizes. The award recipients are as follows:

- 1. Best Poster**  
Indore (Rank I); Palem (Rank II) and Bijapur & Udaipur (Rank III)
- 2. Best Presentation**  
Udaipur (Rank I); Bijapur, (Rank II) and Coimbatore (Rank III)
- 3. Best Annual Report:**  
Udaipur and Bijapur (Rank I) (None qualify for Rank II & III)
- 4. Overall Best Centre**  
Udaipur (Rank I); Parbhani & Bijapur (Rank II) and Coimbatore (Rank III)

Director NRCS, in his address reiterated the need for more dedicated efforts, new collaborations and further strengthening by doing qualitative research. He also thanked Dr. M Ganesh and his team for the successful completion of the workshop.

**DDG inspects NRCS**

Dr. G Kalloo, DDG (CS & Hort.) visited NRCS on 22 April on the afternoon. Director appraised him about the

recent developments at this centre. He was taken to various labs and offices. He also had a brief discussion



Dr. Kalloo in serious discussion with NRCS director. Also seen in picture are Mr. KJ Mathai, AO, and Mr. T Sridaran, AFAO

with director and other staff members and reviewed ongoing research and plan for improving infrastructure at the centre.

### Scientists annual review meetings

The institute staff research council met during 6-7 April 2005 to review the progress of the research for the period 2004-05. Each scientist presented his/her accomplishments during the year and received suggestions for improving performance. They also reviewed the new research projects for the year 2005-06.

### Sweet sorghum meet

A one-day brainstorming meeting on "Sweet sorghum" was held on 20 April, 2005 at NRCS, Hyderabad with an objective of forging the linkages between public and private sector especially sugar & alcohol industry, in view of growing importance of sweet sorghum as bio-energy crop. Dr. B Venkateswarlu, Principal Production System Scientist (NATP) CRIDA, has expressed satisfaction on the impact of sweet sorghum as a bio-fuel especially with sugar and alcohol industry. He stressed the need for a special commission/organization for sweet sorghum promotion through contract farming that existed similar to sugarcane. The meeting was organized by Dr. CV Ratnavathi, Sr. Scientist.

### Australian expert reviews ACIAR-ICAR project

Dr. Ian Godwin, Associate Professor in Plant Molecular Genetics, Univ. of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia visited India on behalf of ACIAR of Australia to perform an adoption study from the sorghum research project as it is now three years after its completion. He interacted with the scientists involved in the project, and other interested scientists who may be applying results of the research that was carried out during 1997-2001 from all three components of the project (breeding, physiology and biotechnology).

### DFID project review meeting

Dr. DS Virk, University of Wales, Bangor, UK visited NRCS on 13 April 2005. He expressed his happiness on

the efforts made to compile all data and write summary report on the DFID Project entitled "*Participatory varietal selection in rabi sorghum*". However, He has suggested following documents were required. Final technical report; Project completion summary report; and Inventory report.

### Post annual group meeting to chalk out strategy

A meeting to take stock of the situation arising after the discussions in the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual sorghum group meeting held at ANGRAU during 21-23 April 2005, and to come up with the action plan was organized at NRCS, Hyderabad in the presence of two experts in sorghum research (previous Project Coordinators of AICSIP), Drs. RV Vidyabhushanam and BS Rana on 27 April 2005.

They felt happy over the achievements of the programme in the field of alternate uses and value-addition and expressed desire to increase efforts in this field as this area is going to give sorghum more credibility and the strength to compete and get back the areas lost to other crops. The group also felt that the programme should support forage sorghum improvement more vigorously than in the past which is catching up well in northern parts of the country.

On the point of co-existence with private sector the experts felt that the programme should compete and complete simultaneously in the fields of extension, marketing and quality for industrial sector which need to be strengthened. There was discussion on forming a consortium with private companies for which the Council will be approached for guidelines and approval.

The group requested Director to request the Council to upgrade the NRC into a Central Institute or at least Project Directorate because of the growing importance of sorghum in various fields.

### CD on sweet sorghum released

A VCD on sweet sorghum was released by the Dr. G. Kalloo, DDG (CS & Hort). This CD depicts video film and information on "*Bio-ethanol from sweet sorghum*" for



Release of a VCD on "Bio-ethanol from sweet sorghum" by Dr. G Kalloo

duration of about 15 minutes. The CD depicts details on production and profitability of cultivating sweet sorghum for bio-ethanol production in comparison to sugarcane

molasses and also the industrial liaison with NRCS for pilot studies on ethanol production. The film was made by Dr. CV Ratnavathi, under NATP RNPS-24.

### Interaction with sweet sorghum seed producing farmers



Mr. Anjanayulu, a farmer, receiving a cheque from Dr. N Seetharama, Director, NRCS.

Director NRCS, interacted with about 12 farmers from Phulgutta village from Medak district on 25 April 2005. The farmers also received the amount for the seed of sweet sorghum produced.

### New arrivals at Library

The following new books are available in our library for reference:

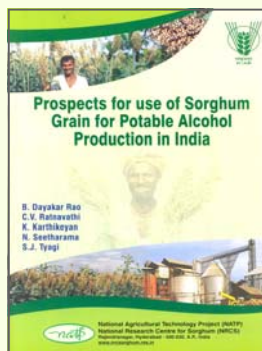
- ◆ Molecular markers in plant genetics & biotechnology – *Vienne*
- ◆ Encyclopedia of Entomology – (Vol. 1-3) – *Capineria*
- ◆ Integrated Pest Management : Potential, constraints and challenges - *Koul*
- ◆ Production practices and quality assessment of food crops – *R. Dris*
- ◆ An introduction to genetic analysis (8 Ed) – *Griffith et al.*

### Departmental promotions

Based on the Departmental Promotion Committee the following staff was promoted to their next grade:

1. Sh. OV Ramana - T5 to T6
2. Ms. A Annapurna - T5 to T6
3. Sh. M Venkateswarlu - T4 to T5
4. Sh. M Jangaiah - T4 to T5
5. Sh. P Subhakar - T4 to T5
6. Sh. P Prakash - T4 to T5
7. Sh. Md. Ismail - T4 to T5
8. Sh. N Bikshapathi - T1 to T2
9. Sh. Ch. Suresh Kumar - LDC to UDC

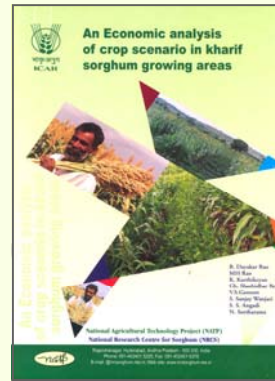
### Publications released during the Sorghum annual group meeting at ANGRAU



#### Prospects for use of sorghum grain for potable alcohol production in India

This document looks at the prospects of using the grain sorghum for potable alcohol production in India. The future scope and economics involved have been analyzed.

**Sale price: Rs. 75/-**



#### An economic analysis of crop scenario in kharif sorghum growing areas

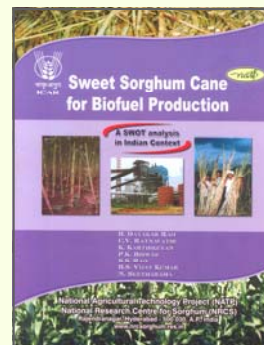
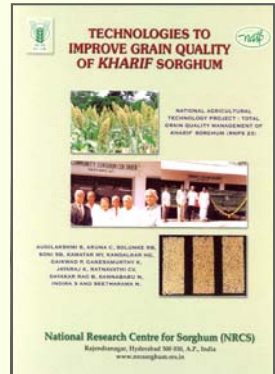
This publication is an endeavor to analyze the factors limiting kharif sorghum production and utilization in economic terms. The complete situational economic analysis of various factors is documented here.

**Sale price: Rs. 75/-**

#### Technologies to improve grain quality of kharif sorghum

The quality of kharif grain due to grain mold infection results in its lower marketability and consumer preference. The technologies developed and tested on the farmers field to improve the grain quality of kharif sorghum are represented pictorially in this bulletin.

**Sale price: Rs. 75/-**



#### Sweet sorghum cane for biofuel production

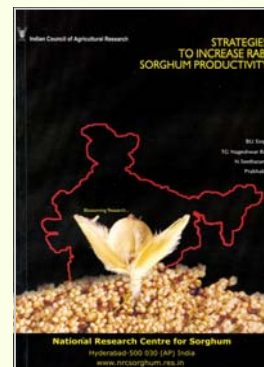
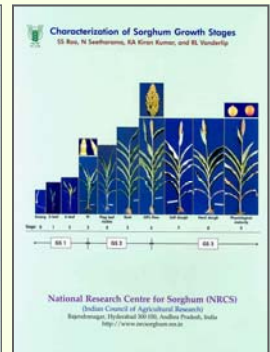
Sweet sorghum as a bioenergy crop is basically an efficient source for the production of biofuel. The technology developed on these aspects including their economic feasibility and practical bottlenecks are presented in this publication.

**Sale price: Rs. 80/-**

#### Characterization of sorghum growth stages

This report that describes the growth stages of sorghum under semi arid regions of India. The output presented will help in identification of sensitive growth stages that prone the crop to severe insect and pest damages. Understanding the growth characters will not only help to increase the yield but also the profitability.

**Sale price: Rs. 100/-**



#### Strategies to Increase Rabi Sorghum Productivity

The limiting rabi sorghum production in harsh environment is characterized by reducing soil moisture and various other biotic and abiotic stresses. This book discusses the issues and new strategies that need to be devised to increase rabi sorghum productivity.

**Sale price: Rs. 150/-**

**For book purchases:** Please send the cheque/ DD drawn in favour of "ICAR unit, NRCS", payable at Hyderabad addressed to the Director, NRC for Sorghum, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad-500030 (AP).

## Meetings / Symposia / Conference/ Training attended

No.	Name of the official	Participated in	Venue	Date
1	Dr. N Seetharama	Workshop on "Adoption of alternate fuels in Indian transport sector & developing partnerships".	India International Centre –New Delhi	13 April 2005.
2	Dr. N Seetharama	Workshop entitled "Safety assessment of Genetically modified foods".	ICRISAT, Hyderabad	14 -15 April, 2005.
3	Dr. IK Das	Training on "Biochemical and molecular characterization of agriculturally important microorganisms".	National Bureau of Agril. Important Microorganisms (NBAIM), MAU, UP	22-29 April, 2005.
4	Dr. S Ravikumar	Annual group meetings of AICRP on Weed Control	OUAT, Bhubaneshwar	25-28 April, 2005.
5	Dr. N Seetharama	Meeting of AICRP on Pearl Millet	RAU, Jodhpur	29 April – 3 May, 2005
6	Sh. V Ravi Kumar, SRF	Winter school on "Remote sensing applications in agriculture".	IARI, New Delhi	22 March – 16 April, 2005

### Thought for the month

A man would do nothing, if he waited until he could do well, that no one at all would find fault with what he has done.

- Cardinal Newman

### Printed Matter / Book Post



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