



## Happenings at NRC for Sorghum, and AICSIP news

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### Preparations for ICAR-ICRISAT collaborative research review meeting

A planning meeting to prepare for ICAR-ICRISAT collaborative research review at New Delhi was held at NRCS on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2006. ICAR was represented by Dr. SN Shukla, ADG (F&FC) and Dr. N. Seetharama, Director, NRCS, while Dr. CLL Gowda, Leader, Global Theme-Crop Improvement and Dr. KN Rai, Principal Scientist (Pearl millet Breeding) represented ICRISAT. The fundamental needs and the essential purposes of collaboration, and the approaches were discussed. The group deliberated on the scope of the collaboration and protocols to be followed. It was agreed to emphasize long-term sustainable collaboration to solve the tough problems that are difficult for the national programs to achieve on their own. The programme and draft agenda items for the ensuing ICAR-ICRISAT collaborative research meeting to be presented to the DGs of ICAR and ICRISAT during May 25-26, 2006 are now ready.

### Special SRC Consultations on Sorghum Improvement

A special Scientific Research Committee (SRC) meeting was organized at NRCS on 29 April, 2006 for consultations on sorghum improvement. Former heads of NRCS, Drs. NGP Rao, UR Murthy and BS Rana, along with Dr. Y Yogeshwar Rao, President, AP Seedmen Association were the guest participants. Dr. N Seetharama, Director- NRCS, presented the medium-term vision for sorghum research and development in India. He suggested the development of cultivars for specific end-uses considering specific expected demands. Dr. B Dayakar Rao presented the SWOT analysis of NRCS and AICSIP. The current activities and the progress expected in breeding and future emphasis

were discussed by respective NRCS scientists, viz., Drs. S. Audilakshmi (kharif sorghum), Prabhakar (rabi sorghum), B Venkatesh Bhat (forage sorghum), AV Umakanth (dual-purpose sorghum), CV Ratnavathi (food safety), R Madhusudhana (MAS) and C Aruna (pest



*Deliberations in progress at the meeting*

resistance). Dr. NGP Rao advocated a two-pronged approaches of AICSIP field testing of advanced entries, and trait-based basic research to improve rabi sorghum productivity. He hoped that with the new and young staff, improved facilities and new laboratories, NRCS is fully geared up to advance sorghum research for the benefit of the nation and beyond. Dr. Rana suggested that sorghum has more scope in niche areas where it can replace other crops. Dr. Murthy mentioned that converted A2 restorers may be used for hybrid production with grain mold tolerance. Dr. Yogeshwar Rao stated that opportunities exist for linkages with seed industry to share *Bt* transgenic, fully developed germplasm, selection of hybrids during field days and licensing NRCS seeds to private sector under mutually agreed terms. All NRCS scientists participated in the deliberations. Details are available on [www.nrcjowar.res.in](http://www.nrcjowar.res.in)

### Consultations to develop International Sorghum Information System (ISIS)

The NRCS team consisting of Drs. AV Umakanth, M Elangovan, Mr. OV Ramana and V Ravikumar joined Dr. HE Sashidhar, Associate Professor, UAS, Bangalore and his team during 11 and 12 of April 2006 to discuss about development of International Sorghum Information System (ISIS) development initially under the DBT- sponsored project. The team felt that the ICIS developed for rice by IRRI, Philippines is the best model and has a user-friendly retrieval system. The identified basic data input such as ID numbers, pedigree information required for the ISIS will be shared by NRCS. Conversion of pedigree-wise database (SPV & SPH Nos) developed by NRCS into new format under ISIS will be initially executed at GVKV, Bangalore. Right to access the information under ISIS can be regulated under the new IPR regime. We expect to link this to a

millet digital library, and hope the private sector to eventually finance this venture.

### Planning consortia for NAIP project formulation

A meeting of NRCS and ICRISAT scientists to plan for NAIP projects and form a consortium was held at NRCS on 17th April, 2006. All the NRCS scientists, Drs. BVS Reddy, S Ramesh, V Vincent and RK Varshney from ICRISAT and Dr. M. Blummel from ILRI participated in the meeting. After detailed discussions, five research areas were identified for NRCS(3) and ICRISAT(2) to lead and collaborate, with other organizations. These areas are : Post-harvest technology of millets (Audilakshmi to lead preparation of project proposal);



*A meeting to plan for NAIP projects in progress*

High fodder yield of millets, and acid and saline soil tolerant sorghum (Bhat V); Biofuel and bioethanol using sweet sorghum (N Seeharama); Drought and biotechnology of drought factors in millets (HC Sharma); and wide crosses for improving biotic stress resistance (Vincent). The meeting was convened by Drs. SV Rao and S Indira. Similar meetings and consultations will be held with AICSIP centres and private organizations.

### QRT visits OSN and NRCS

QRT members for NRC Sorghum, Dr. A Sitaram, (Ex-PC Minor Millets, Bangalore) and Dr. NP Saxena, member, visited OSN Warangal on 25 April and NRCS Hyderabad on 26 April 2006. The team evaluated the Rabi trials and various laboratories. Dr. SS Rao, Member Secretary-QRT coordinated the visit and appraised the team members on on-going research programs.

### Executive-body meeting of Society for Millets Research

The third executive body meeting of *Society for Millets Research* was held on 29 April 2006. Dr. NGP Rao, President of the society, Dr. Y Yogeshwar Rao, executive member, Dr. N Seetharama, secretary, and Vilas A Tonapi, treasurer, were present. Decisions were taken on the planning for inauguration of the society on 12<sup>th</sup> Nov 2006 at Marathwada Agricultural University, Parbhani. The printing of souvenir entitled "*Strategies for Millets Development and Utilization*" to be released on the eve of inauguration was approved (now available to members). The meeting also deliberated on enhancing membership of the Society and launching a journal on *millets research, development and industrial utilization*.

### Scientists field day at NRCS

All Scientists of NRCS actively participated in the Field day and demonstrations on 7 April, 2006. All breeding, germplasm and dual-purpose sorghum experiments



*Dr. Aruna explaining the field research activities*

were visited. The director and all scientists reviewed the progress made by each discipline, and suggested measures to further improve data analysis and reporting.

### Visit of Administrative Review Committee

Administrative Review Committee of ICAR represented by Sh. B Pandu Reddy, Sr. Finance & Accounts Officer, Sh. PK Bage, Under Secretary (Fisheries), and Sh. Sanjay Gupta, Dy. Secretary (Admn & Cash) visited the institute and conducted the inspection of various records during 24-25 April. The committee verified all the records including service books, CCR folders, reservation rosters, asset register, bank reconciliation statement, outstanding advances, purchase files, medical bills, Income-tax deduction statements, etc. and made suggestions for further improvement of administration at NRCS.

### DBT projects accounts reviewed

Mr. K Srinivas, Sr. Section Officer from Department of Biotechnology, New Delhi visited NRCS on 27 April 2006 to inspect the records pertaining to DBT projects operational at this Institute. He also visited Biotechnology and MASS laboratories at NRCS. He expressed his satisfaction on the maintenance of all the records relevant to DBT funding at NRCS.



## Visitors from Ministry of Agriculture and ICAR



*Dr. N Seetharama, director, discussing prospects of popularization of sorghum foods with MoA officials visiting NRCS*



*Dr. CP Singh, ADG (Seeds) reviewing BSP and other activities related to seeds at NRCS*

## Sh. M Anjaiah retires

Sh. M Anjaiah, Private Secretary to the Director, NRCS superannuated on 29 April 06 after his long service to the



*Mr. M Anjaiah, retiring PS being presented a token gift on his superannuation*

centre. Former directors Drs. NGP Rao and BS Rana, present director, N Seetharama and staff recalled his meticulous services rendered by him during the farewell ceremony and wished him a happy and healthy retired life.

## New arrivals

The following new books are now available at our library

**Right to Information: Law and Practice - Shalu Nigam**  
**Commentary on the Right to Information Act, 2005 – NK Acharya**

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

S. No	Name of the official	Participated in	Type	Venue	Date
1	N Seetharama, Chari Appaji, & D Gopala Krishna	National Seminar on "Millets as food, fodder and feed energy" organized by Society of millet research and AICPMIP.	S	Junagadh Agri. Univ. Junagadh	10 Apr 06
2	N Seetharama	One-day group meeting on Pearl millet.	M	Udaipur	11 Apr, 06
3	AV Umakanth, M Elangovan, OV Ramana & V Ravi Kumar	Meeting on "International sorghum Information system" (ISIS) under DBT project	M	UAS, Bangalore.	11-12 Apr, 06
4	N Seetharama	Annual group meetings on rice organized by DRR.	W	ANGRAU, Hyderabad	17 April 06.
5	N Seetharama	1 day SRC meeting on Plant Breeding at DOR	M	DOR, Hyderabad	18 April, 06
6	N Seetharama	Workshop on "Measures of Impact of services and technology in India; Agriculture & Rural Development" organized by Swaminathan's Foundation.	W	Teachers home, ANGRAU, Bhoiguda, Hyderabad	19 April, 2006
7	S Ravikumar	Workshop on "Right to Information Act"	W	NAARM, Hyderabad	18-19 April, 06
8	W Srinivas Bhat	Technical workshop on "Purchase policy & procedure in Government departments".	W	CTSR, New Delhi	19-21 April, 06.
9	KV Raghavendra Rao	Workshop on "Right to Information Act"	W	NAARM, Hyderabad	25-26 April, 06

## Official Tours

S. No	Name of the Official	Place visited	Dates	Purpose
1	N Seetharama	Udaipur and ICAR, New Delhi	12 Apr 06	At Udaipur to participate in the QRT review and to discuss matters concerned to sorghum and NRCS at the Hq.
3	Chari Appaji	MAU, Parbhani	19-21 April 06	Participatory work related to annual sorghum group meetings.

## Thought for the month

*"Too often we underestimate how quickly our feelings are going to change because we underestimate our ability to change them."* -- **David Gilbert**

**Printed Matter / Book Post**

To



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