



## Happenings at NRC for Sorghum

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### Meeting of ANGRAU – NRCS Researchers and Policy Makers



Researchers and policy makers from NRCS and ANGRAU met under the chairmanship of Dr. Padma Raju, Director of Research, ANGRAU on 16 August at NRCS. The main idea of the meeting was regarding sharing of technical know-how and



Dr. Padmaraju, Director of Research, ANGRAU, emphasizing on the need for collaborative work on Sorghum popularization

facilities between NRCS and ANGRAU. Dr. Padma Raju in his address stressed the need for multi-disciplinary approaches to tackle various problems pertaining to sorghum feed, food and fodder. He requested the scientists to adopt the benchmark farmers for scientific studies on sorghum. The University, he said will extend all needed cooperation to NRCS to popularizing sorghum in Andhra Pradesh. The discussion also centered on cultivation of sorghum in rice fallows in Krishna and Guntur districts, utility of tillering (and recovery resistance) types for avoiding losses from shootfly incidence, value addition to

sorghum products for popularization of sorghum, and concept of “organic feed” in poultry industry. Since sorghum is one of the cheapest and nutritious foods, Home Science Department of ANGRAU is also addressed to make attempts to compare rice and jowar foods on all aspects. The group also decided that Palem centre should be involved in sweet sorghum breeding along with NRCS, and Anakapalle be used as a testing centre. Based on demand, ANGRAU will plan for foundation and certified seed production of sweet sorghum along with AP seeds. NRCS should supply breeder's seed. Dr. VA Tonapi and Dr. M Elangovan coordinated this meeting.

### National level meeting on Sweet sorghum

A National level meeting on “Sweet sorghum utilization for ethanol production” on 28 August' 04 was organized by Agro Ecosystem Directorate, CRIDA with various entrepreneurs from private sugar industry and scientists from various research organizations involved in sweet sorghum research. Honorable Agriculture Minister, Andhra Pradesh, Mr. Raghuvveera Reddy, attended the meeting. Dr. SL. Mehta, National Director, NATP and the SAP members Drs. Kanwar and NGP Rao, Directors of CRIDA and NRCS also participated in the deliberations. The Agriculture minister highly appreciated initiatives taken on sweet sorghum development at NRCS.

### Varietal Identification Committee Meeting

The Varietal Identification Committee met under the chairmanship of Dr. G. Kalloo, DDG (CS & H) on 17 August, 2004 at ICAR, Krishi Bhavan, and New Delhi, along with the members: Dr. SN Shukla, ADG (FFC), ICAR, Dr. CD Mayee, Agri. Commissioner (Seed), DAC, Dr. V Sankaran, GM (Marketing), NSC, Beej Bhavan, Dr. LC Khairwal, PC (Pearl Millet), Mandore, Jodhpur, Dr. Shanmugam, Dy. Commissioner (Q & C) along with the Member Secretary, Dr. N Seetharama, Director, and Dr. S Audilakshmi, Principal Scientist at NRCS.

In all, 10 proposals received by the Coordinator were placed before identification committee. Those are SPV 1546; SPV 1595; SPV 1518; SPH 1290; SPH 1331; SPH 1342; SPH 1347; UPMCH 1101 and RSSV 9. A total of six proposals were accepted. Details are posted at NRCS website. We will submit these proposals very soon to CVRC for release of these cultivars at National level.

### Meeting on DBT Projects

On 7 August, A meeting was held at NRCS, Hyderabad to discuss formulation of Sorghum biotechnology projects for submission to DBT for their consideration.

The meeting was attended by scientists from ICAR and from UAS Dharwad, Bangalore, Osmania University, TNAU, Coimbatore, ANGRAU, Hyderabad, University of



*Dr. Ramesh Bhat, former dy. Director, NIN making a point during DBT meet*

Pune, Pune, RRS-UAS, Bijapur, MRPUA&T, Udaipur, CCS HAU, Hisar, NBPGR-RS, Hyderabad. In all 11 presentations were made. Then proposals are now being collected for subsequent evaluation by the DBT.

### The Farm Research Committee (FRC) Meeting

The institute FRC meeting was held on 7<sup>th</sup> August. During the discussions, it was decided that 20-25 ha land area has to be surveyed, maps prepared, leveled including creating drainage and channels systems. Enquires to be floated from contractors and initiate action to fabricate planter and buying a new tractor. Saplings of *Pongamea pinnata* (Bio-diesel tree) be planted on the unused land in terraces keeping the first 100 m land free for normal cultivation, and take necessary action to prepare the pits and go for transplanting of the saplings after survey is completed.

### Participation of NRCS in Exhibitions

**Exhibition at Guntur :** Sweet sorghum and its products. were exhibited at the exhibition organized by RARS, Lam farm, ANGRAU, at Guntur on 8 August, 2004. Honorable Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Dr. YS Rajasekhara Reddy and Former Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Digvijay Singh visited the exhibition. They were briefed on the research and development activities on sweet sorghum and its commercialization especially for ethanol production. He was also briefed



*Dr. Ratnavathi, Scientist, explaining Dr. Y. Rajsekhar reddy, Chief minister, A P, about the salient features of Sweet sorghum hybrid, NSSH 104*

about seed distribution efforts made by NRCS in the areas affected by drought in Andhra Pradesh.

**AGRITEX exhibition:** An AGRITEX exhibition was organized jointly by TNAU and Government of Tamilnadu at Coimbatore from 20-26, August, 2004. NRCS also exhibited the products of sweet sorghum in collaboration with Renu Lakshmi Agro Industries, Coimbatore.

### Tableau on Agriculture wins Prize

The state department of Agriculture, Andhra Pradesh had exhibited a tableau on the theme of sweet sorghum and bio-fuel production on the eve of Independence Day parade at Parade grounds, Secunderabad on 15<sup>th</sup> August, 2004. The exhibits on sweet sorghum and bio-fuel production contained in the tableau were the exclusive contributions of the NRCS. This tableau won the second prize out of 21 tableaus exhibited.

### Nomination

The Council has nominated Dr. TG Nageshwar Rao, Principal scientist (Pathology), NRCS as the member for the Management Committee, Central Tobacco Research Centre, Rajahmundry, for a period of 3 years w.e.f. 6 July 2004 to 5 July 2007.

### Independence Day celebrated

The Nations 57<sup>th</sup> Independence Day was celebrated



*Staff paying tributes to the nation on the eve of Independence day*

with great enthusiasm and gaiety on 15 August. The director hoisted the National flag and addressed the NRCS Family.

### Sadbhavana Day observed

On 20 August, *Sadbhavana* Day was observed in the institute. All employees took pledge in Hindi and English, to work for the emotional oneness and harmony of the people of India regardless of caste, creed, region, religion and language, to solve all differences among themselves through dialogue without resorting to violence.

## New Ph. D scholar at NRCS

Mr. V Ravi Kumar, SRF has registered for Ph. D. in Environmental Sciences department at JNTU, Hyderabad. He will be working on research project entitled "Characterization of rabi sorghum environment and real - time information system for rabi sorghum productivity on a regional scale".

## Farewell to Staff

Mr. K Devaiah SSG IV and smt. Gopamma SSG I superannuated on 31 August 2004 after their long service to the centre. Director and staff recollected their



Shri Devaiah (Top) and Smt. Gopamma (Below) being given a token of gift on their superannuation.

services and wished them a happy and healthy retired life. The staff recreation club presented a token gift to the retired officials.

## AICSIP NEWS

The status of kharif trials conducted during 2004 is listed below:

The AICSIP Centres at Coimbatore, Deesa and Pantnagar reported that the trials are in good condition.

Surat : Agronomy experiments affected due to heavy rains. Re-sowing was done for breeding trial as it was submerged in water due to heavy rains.

Mauranipur, Udaipur and Dharwad: Crop in satisfactory condition.

Palem: Trials are affected due to acute shortage of water. Rainfall will decide the crop status.

Indore: Breeding trials affected due to shortfall of rain.

## Membership drive for Society for Millets Research

The "Society for Millets Research", was registered under AP Societies Regn. Act, 2001 (Act) with Registrar of societies, RR district, Andhra Pradesh (Regn. No 395/2004). The society was formed with the amalgamation of erstwhile "Sorghum Society" as per the decisions of the general body meeting held at TNAU, Coimbatore on 21 May. This society will be a common platform for researchers, farmers, teachers, policy makers, administrators, industries and students engaged in the endeavour to enhance production, productivity and utilization of millets, covering sorghum, pearl millet and all small millets.

### Aims and objectives :

- ◆ To advance the cause of millets and promote research and development on millets and millet-based cropping systems
- ◆ To disseminate knowledge on millets through lectures, seminars, publications and exchanges
- ◆ To promote alternate and industrial uses of millets, and develop national, international and academia-industry collaboration

### Planned activities for the near future:

- ◆ Conduct seminars and symposia
- ◆ Publication of Journals, bulletins, reports and sponsored monographs on various aspects of millets

### Office bearers:

1. President : Dr. NGP Rao, Former Chairman, ASRB
2. Vice-president : Dr. IS Khairwal, PC (Pearl Millet)
3. General Secretary : Dr. N Seetharama, Director, NRCS
4. Joint Secretary : Dr. KT Krishne Gowda, PC (Small Millets)
5. Treasurer : Dr. Vilas A Tonapi, Sr. Scientist, NRCS
6. Executive members : Dr. BVS Reddy, Pr. Scientist, ICRISAT  
Dr. Y Yogeshwar Rao, President,  
Seedsmen Assoc

### Membership fees details:

Category	Subscription fees
Corporate Membership	Rs. 5000/- (one time)
Life Membership	Rs. 2400/- (one time)
Annual Membership	Rs. 200/- (per annum)
Student Membership	Rs. 100/- (per annum)

We request you to become the life member of this society. Please circulate this note in your organization and beyond (to private sector) and encourage them to become members to advance the cause of millets research and development. We specially request corporate to become patrons by donating at least Rs. 15000 or more . They may also sponsor special activities, honors, or fellowships to encourage R&D and commercialisation of these crops.

To subscribe your membership kindly send a DD for requisite amount in favour of "Society for Millets Research" payable at Hyderabad-500030 to Dr N Seetharama, Secretary, Society for Millets Research, NRCS, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad-500030. Phones: 040-24015225, 040-24015349, Fax: 040-24016378

## Conference / Seminar / Trainings / Meetings attended

Scientist	Participated in	Venue	Date
Drs V A Tonapi, N. Kannababu, and N Seetharama	Discussion session on finalization of "Andhra Pradesh State Seeds Bill – 2004 "	Commissionerate of Agriculture, Government of Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad.	23 August 2004
Dr KBRS Visarada	International conference on Agricultural biotechnology ushering in the second green revolution	FICCI, New Delhi	10 – 12 Aug 2004
Drs M Elangovan and VA Tonapi	Training programme on IPR in PGR Management	NAARM, Hyderabad	30th Aug and 02nd Sep 2004.
Mr. Srinivasa Bhat , AAO	Training programme on Administrative vigilance	Institute of Secretariat training and Management, New Delhi	16 Aug to 27 Aug 2004

### हिन्दी प्रवीण परीक्षा के परिणाम

भारत सरकार/गृह मंत्रालय, राजभाषा विभाग के हिन्दी शिक्षण योजना के अंतर्गत मई २००४ में आयोजित हिन्दी प्रवीण परीक्षा में राष्ट्रीय ज्वार अनुसन्धान केन्द्र के निम्नलिखित कर्मचारी उत्तीर्ण हुए। निदेशक श्री डॉ. एन सीतारामाजी ने उत्तीर्ण हुए कर्मचारियों को केन्द्र की ओर से बधाई दी।

अनुक्रमांक	नाम	अनुक्रमांक	नाम
१२७७५	एम जंगय्या	१२७७६	ए लक्ष्मा रेड्डी
१२७७७	एम शंकरय्या	१२७७९	के एस रत्नम
१२७६८	एस नरेन्दर	१२७६९	एस अंजय्या
१२७७१	ए पेन्टय्या		

### Economy and safety measures

1. Switch off all the lights and electrical appliances (if not in use) before leaving your workplace.
2. 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.
4. 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.
4. When you leave the campus and move on to the main road near the gate, be careful of the speedily moving vehicles.

### Training for Seed and Agro Industry

Training cum workshop on "Biodiversity and Intellectual Property Rights in relation to Agrarian and seed sector reforms in India" from 17-20 November, 2004.

- Course Duration:** 4 days (9.00 am to 5pm)  
**Proposed dates:** 17 - 20 November, 2004  
**Course Directors:** Dr. N Seetharama, Director  
 Dr. Vilas A. Tonapi, Senior Scientist (Seed Technology)  
**Course coordinators:** Dr. KBRS Visarada, Senior Scientist (Biotechnology)  
 Dr. M Elangovan, Scientist (Economic Botany)  
**Registration deadline:** 10th October, 2004

Nominations (may be) will be accepted on first-cum-first-serve basis.

### Thought for the month

*People demand freedom of speech as a compensation to freedom of thought, which they seldom use*

- Aierkegaard

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