



Happenings at NRC for Sorghum and AICSIP news

Serial No. 23

Hyderabad ? Solapur ? Warangal

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Visit of Cane advisers and farmers to NRCS

Dr. JP Singh, Chief Cane Adviser, National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories Limited, New Delhi and Dr. RP Singh, Cane Adviser,



The visitors in conversation with Drs. BU Singh and SS Rao

Haryana State Federation of Cooperative Sugar Mills, Panchkul, Haryana visited NRCS on 12 August 2005.

They visited NRCS to study the use of sweet sorghum as an alternate feed stock for bio-ethanol production in the north Indian conditions (monsoon and summer crops). Dr. BU Singh, in-charge Director apprised the on-going activities of sweet sorghum R & D program at NRCS and AICSIP centers. Dr. SS Rao briefed the delegates on the sweet sorghum management, and emphasized the environmental conditions required for realizing good sweet sorghum cane yields. NRCS has conducted sweet sorghum trials at SBI regional station, Karnal during kharif 2004 and obtained more than 40 t/ha of cane of excellent quality. Both the sugarcane advisors showed keen interest to promote and

utilize sweet sorghum crop for bio-ethanol production in sub-tropical north India. They agreed



Dr. SS Rao explaining the salient features of sweet sorghum cultivars

to undertake more trials in some locations in Haryana and UP in the coming kharif 2006 season. Dr. SS Rao took the visitors to the 30-days old sweet sorghum field. He explained the crop management practices being followed. Dr. Sashidhar Reddy showed a film on sweet sorghum to the delegates and appraised the ongoing collaboration with various sugar and alcohol industries in the southern India.

Visit of farmers from Chalisgaon, Jalgaon

Shri Rambhau Shirode and AA Kapre, two progressive farmers from Chalisgaon, Jalgaon district of Maharashtra visited NRCS on 16



Farmer from Jalgaon tasting sorghum syrup

September 2005 to learn more on sweet-stalk sorghums. As a member of sugar cooperatives in

Maharashtra, Shri Shirode plans to use his good offices to promote sweet sorghum cultivation in small and marginal farmers of Maharashtra for bio-ethanol production in dryland areas where sugarcane can not be grown. The Director, SS Rao, Ch. S Reddy and other staff explained them the ongoing research and handed over the relevant literature. They were also given 10 kg of sweet sorghum seeds to plant in their farms on a trial basis. We have cautioned them on possible effect of low temperature during rabi on sweet sorghum productivity, but they were still very enthusiastic and wanted to multiply seeds for planting in 2006 kharif.

Consultation meeting on “Hybrid Parents” Research at ICRISAT

Consultation meeting on “Hybrid Parents Research at ICRISAT” was held on 5th August at ICRISAT, Patancheru. Scientists working on sorghum, pearl millet and pigeonpea from private and public organizations across the country participated in this one-day meet. Dr. BVS Reddy, Principal Scientist at ICRISAT, while presenting the progress made towards development of parental lines emphasized on the need for development of parental lines for sweet sorghum. Dr. S. Audilakshmi, NRCS presented public sector perspective on hybrid parents’ development and insisted on development of trait specific pre-breeding materials. She also welcomed the private organizations to join public sector for seed production and marketing of public released hybrids. Dr. G. Harinarayana, Director, Ganga Kaveri Seeds, presented view of private sector, and stated that the development of parents suitable for dual-purpose hybrids was a priority for kharif.

Agriculture Extension Officer’s visit NRCS

Twenty agriculture extension officers who are trainees under Agriculture Intensification programme, from Farmers training centre, Rajendranagar visited NRCS on 30 August 2005. They were exposed to the new technologies in research and extension activities at NRCS. They were also taken to various fields, biotechnology and alternate uses labs and museum. The team was given full exposure on the intricacies of sorghum production technologies. The visit was coordinated by Dr. Ch. Sashidhar Reddy.

One more Prize for NRCS Poster

The poster entitled “New initiatives for improvement of dual-purpose and forage sorghums” presented by Dr. AV Umakanth *et al* was adjudged as the “best poster” at the national symposium on “Advances in

forage research and sustainable animal production Hisar. Congratulations to Dr. Umakanth and his team.

Independence Day celebrated

The 58th Independence Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm and gaiety on 15 August. S. Indira, Principal Scientist hoisted the National Flag. The director addressed NRCS family. Prizes were distributed to the winners of various sport events conducted to mark the occasion.

Hindi promotion: competition

Hindi week celebration is normally scheduled during second week of September. However since many staff are busy in the field at that time, various



Competition in Hindi dictation , as part of promotion of skills in Hindi in progress at NRCS

competitions were conducted right from the month of August . The annual function will be held during September.

New arrivals in library

1. Bio informatics–Computing– *Bergeron Bryan*
2. Bioinformatics methods and applications – *SC Rastogi et.al*
3. Introduction to Bioinformatics – *Arthur M. Lesk*
4. Bioinformatics – A beginner’s Guide – *Jean-Michel et. al*
5. Photoshop Ver-8 - A beginner’s Guide – *Colin Smith*
6. Microsoft, Windows share point services – *Jim Buyens*
7. Professional ASP.Net1.1 – *Alex Homer et.al*

AICSIP News

Sorghum situation across AICSIP centres

Because of late rains, sorghum was planted late in most states. However, the crop is fine even though at places mid-season mild drought, lodging due to excess rain (now crop recovered), stem borer and minor incidence of leaf diseases were reported. Downy mildew was severe in Mysore area. Rabi planting has commenced in many places in Western Maharastra and northern Karnataka. All AICSIP centers are expecting a good kharif harvest, free of mold as most crops may escape rains during grain filling.

Survey for incidence of sorghum diseases in Karnataka



Dr. TGN Rao and other team members noting the rate of disease incidence in farmers field at Hassan District.

The area under fodder sorghum cultivation is increasing in Karnataka in view of the expanding dairy industry. In southern Karnataka sorghum is sown as early as in the first fortnight of April immediately after the first showers, which is not seen in any part of the country. Drs. TG Nageshwar Rao, Principal Scientist (Pathology), NRCS and YD Narayana, Sorghum Pathologist, UAS Dharwad surveyed sorghum growing areas of northern and Southern Karnataka during 21-28th August. They surveyed farmer's fields in Dharwad, Haveri, Davanagere, Chitradurga, Tumkur, Mysore, Mandya, Hassan and Chamarajnagar districts. Severe incidence of downy mildew, anthracnose, and sooty stripe was observed in almost all the fields. In certain pockets maize stripe disease was also observed. They met Joint Director of Agriculture, Mysore, Sh. Vishakanta and discussed about sorghum cultivation, control

methods for the management of the diseases, prospects and problems. They also visited Zonal Agricultural Research Station, Mandya and observed the downy mildew nursery, laid exclusively for screening at natural hot spot for downy mildew. Severe incidence of foliar disease was observed due to dense sowing of crop and high humid conditions. Hybrids are relatively free from diseases compared to local varieties. CSH 14, a short duration hybrid is popular in these areas, as the farmers can harvest by September itself, so that a good rabi crop can be taken up during the first week of October.

Sad Demise of Sh. TK Krishnan

Shri. TK Krishnan, former principal scientist (Agronomy), passed away on 11 August 2005. He was 64 years old. Director and all the staff of NRCS paid tributes to the departed soul and recalled his services to the institute in various capacities. The staff also passed their heartfelt condolences to the members of the bereaved family.

Meetings / Symposia / Conference / Workshops / Training attended

| S. No | Name of the official | Participated in | Venue | Date |
|-------|---|---|--|-----------------------|
| 1 | CV Ratnavathi | "Advanced Techno Management Programme" for scientists (Middle Level) working with Govt. of India. | Administrative Staff College, Hyderabad. | 1 Aug - 9 Sept, 2005. |
| 2. | N Seetharama, Vilas A Tonapi, & M Elangovan | National conference on "IPR and Management of Agricultural Research" | NASC Auditorium, Pusa, New Delhi -12 | 27 -29 Aug, 2005. |
| 3 | Chari Appaji & AV Umakanth | National symposium on "Advances in forage research and sustainable animal production" | CCSHAU, Hisar Haryana. | 29 -30 Aug, 2005. |
| 4 | S Audilakshmi | Consultation meeting on "Hybrid Parents' Research | ICRISAT | 5 Aug' 2005 |
| 5 | K Revati | Training on ASP.NET | Orbit IT consulting Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad | |

Official travel

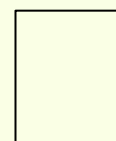
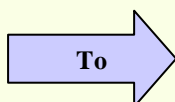
| S. No | Name of the official | Place visited | Dates | Purpose |
|-------|----------------------|---|-----------------|---|
| 1 | N Seetharama | Trissur – Kerala Dharwad - karnataka | 11-14 Aug 05 | To visit NBPGR regional station & to monitor Sorghum Germplasm To visit to Dharwad Centre. |
| 2 | N Seetharama | ICAR, New Delhi | 23 Aug 05 | To attend meeting on Internationally funded projects, and to interact with Dr. SN Puri, Chairman, QRT |
| 3 | S Ravikumar | Nandyal | 29 Aug 05 | To identify the farmers for proposed seed production programme. |

Thought for the month

Courage is not the towering oak that sees storms come and go; it is the fragile blossom that opens in the snow.

-Alice Mackenzie Swaim

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