



Happenings at NRC for Sorghum, and AICSIP news

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Rabi group meeting at CRS Solapur

The Fourth Annual Rabi sorghum research planning meeting was held on August 4, 2006 at Centre on Rabi Sorghum (NRCS), Solapur. The meeting was organized to review and discuss rabi sorghum research activities at various AICSIP



The Rabi review meeting in progress

centres and NRCS in all the disciplines and formulate technical programme for rabi 2006-07.

Dr. DP Biradar, Associate Director of Research, Agricultural Research Station, UAS, Bijapur was the Chief Guest. The participants included rabi sorghum workers from Rahuri, Parbhani, Bijapur, Dharwad, NRCS (Hyderabad & Solapur), Tandur and Surat. Scientists in breeding, agronomy, physiology, pathology and entomology disciplines briefly mentioned the research achievements and presented the experiments planned for rabi 2006-07 with details. Besides, discussions were held on the preparation for 11th five year plan period. More emphasis was given for specific research oriented programme with strong collaborative efforts in all the disciplines across locations. It was felt that apart from genotype, management aspects on soil, water and nutrients need more and renewed emphasis to improve rabi sorghum productivity. Also, the plant protection research in rabi sorghum should concentrate only on a very few specific areas with a highly

focused programme rather than continuing with mere routine screening works. Subsequently, participants have filled the performance planning sheets, which will be compiled for monitoring.

DBT Review meeting

The progress of the projects under the Dept. of Biotechnology (DBT)-sponsored national network for "Development and applications of biotechnological tools for millet improvement" was reviewed at NRCS on August 28, 2006. The DBT-nominated expert committee consisting of Dr. RP Sharma, Ex-Project Director, NRC for Plant Biotechnology, New Delhi (Chairman), Dr. Ramesh K. Agarwal, CCMB, Hyderabad, Dr.



Members deliberating during DBT review meet

CT Hash, Principal Scientist, ICRISAT-Patancheru, Prof. AR Reddy, Dept. of Plant Sciences, University of Hyderabad and Dr. RR Sinha, Advisor, DBT, New Delhi, reviewed progress made by individual principal investigators of the project. Out of the 12 projects presented, three projects were from NRCS. It was decided to hold the next meeting at UAS, Dharwad on 12 January, 2007. They also watched the sorghum *roti* making machine. The committee and participants had a chance to relish sorghum foods, especially sorghum snacks. The overall arrangements of the meeting were made by Dr. R. Madhusudhana. Proceedings will be finalized soon.

Mega-project on Seeds: First *public-public partnership* meeting

The generic model of public sector released cultivars spread through national and state seed development corporations has had its impact and needs a fresh look in the today's context. ICAR's new initiative in the form of a 'Mega-Project on Seeds' provides an opportunity for strengthening existing and new linkages in the form of Public-public and Public-private partnerships. As a first step in this direction a public-public partnership meeting was held on 30th August with NRCS playing the host. The members who participated are Dr. N Sudhakar, Principal Scientist, Zonal Coordinating Unit, CRIDA, Mr. SS Anwar, Regional Manager, NSC, Secunderabad, Mr. B Ramesh, Asst. Manager (Prod), and Mr. B Ashok Reddy, Asst. Manager (Prod), APSSDC, Hyderabad. Drs. S Audilakshmi, VA Tonapi, Chari Appaji, S Ravi Kumar from NRCS participated in the deliberations. The Director, NRCS called for support from all public sector institutions and to team up with NRCS in its efforts to identify long-term viable methods of popularizing the improved sorghum cultivars. The strengths of individual institutions are being integrated through such



Deliberations to foster new public-public partnerships in progress

partnerships, so as to facilitate the national goal of making an impact on productivity linked production targets. Dr. S Ravikumar, Sr. Scientist coordinated this meeting.

Sri Lankan farmers at NRCS

A team of 20 farmers from the Council of Agricultural Research and Policy, Sri Lanka headed by KE Karunathilake, Executive Coordinator (Agricultural Development), accompanied by Dr. SR Yadav, PRO, CRIDA, visited NRCS on 26 August 2006. Director, NRCS welcomed the Sri Lankan farmers and briefed about the institute and its research activities. NRCS invited 15 progressive farmers from Ranga Reddy district of AP who



Sh. G Nagarathnam Naidu, award winning farmer from Hayathnagar Mandal, explaining his experiences and the techniques for bumper yields to the visiting farmers

cultivate sorghum and rice, for the direct interaction with the Sri Lankan farmers.

Sh. G Nagarathnam Naidu, an International award winning farmer from Hayathnagar Mandal, explained his experiences and the techniques for bumper yields. (Sh. Naidu was the only farmer allowed to interact with the Honorable President of USA Mr. George Bush during his recent visit to ANGRAU, Hyderabad). The other farmers also shared their experiences with Lankan farmers on sorghum cultivation practices. Dr M Elangovan appraised about the status of sorghum genetic resources at this centre and germplasm exchange programme with Sri Lanka under ICAR-CARP-WP and its advancement to the AVT under AICSIP. The farmers also visited MAS, Biotechnology, Alternative Uses, and Microbiology Laboratories, and the fields of NRCS. Dr. Sashidhar Reddy coordinated this programme.

Interactive meeting with the Director, NBPGR

Dr SK Sharma, Director, NBPGR, New Delhi and Dr KS Varaprasad, OIC, NBPGR (RS -Hyderabad) visited NRCS on 22 August 2006 to attend the scheduled meeting. The meeting was held under the chairmanship of Dr S Indira, Director In-Charge. The members discussed about the sorghum genetic

resources management activities, future collaboration in research and sharing of the field facilities at terraces among NRCS and NBPGR. Drs M Elangovan and Vilas A Tonapi also participated in the deliberations and discussed possible collaboration under either XI plan or NAIP.

Independence Day celebrated

The Nations 59th Independence Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm and gaiety on 15 August. The Director hoisted the National Flag and addressed the NRCS family.

Visitors

Administrative Officers

A group of 20 Administrative officers of ICAR from various institutes who are undergoing training at NAARM, visited NRC Sorghum on 25 August 06. Director addressed the team and



A team of administrative officers being explained different applications of instruments in MAAS lab

informed the progress made at NRCS to run the administration smoothly and to adopt modern management tools and techniques. They have visited various facilities at NRCS and also interacted with the finance and administrative staff. Mr. KJ Mathai, AO of NRCS coordinated this visit.

Students from Coimbatore

41 students of B.Sc Microbiology from Dr. GR Damodaran college of Science, Coimbatore, TN visited NRCS on 10th August 06 as a part of their study tour to Hyderabad. They have visited the Biotechnology, Biochemistry and Microbiology labs. They were appraised about new equipment, the recent advances in sorghum biotechnology and provided latest



Students being appraised about the diseases in sorghum and means to overcome them

informative brochures. Drs. KBRS Visarada, IK Das, CV Ratnavathi, R Madhusudhana and BV Bhat also actively participated in this programme. Dr. Sashidhar Reddy coordinated this visit.

Farmers from RR dist

A team of 10 farmers from Ranga Reddy district, Andhra Pradesh accompanied by Dr. Vasantha, Extension specialist, DATT Center, ANGRAU visited NRCS experimental fields in new area on at 12.00 noon on 26 August 06. Dr. Ch Sashidhar Reddy explained them by taking around NRCS experimental fields in new area about suitable improved kharif & Rabi sorghum and sweet sorghum cultivars seed availability & time of sowing along with their quality & yield parameters including cultivation practices.

Sorghum diet for animal husbandry

Dr. N. Seetharama, Director of NRCS, along with 3 scientists met with Dr. Sreenivas Gowda, Vice Chancellor, KVAFSU, and Dr. S. Mallikarjunappa (Dean), Veterinary Collage on 3 August 06 at Bidar. During the deliberations it was realized



that sorghum has a potential as feed and fodder in northern Karnataka as sorghum stover constitutes a major component in animal feed in the area. The university proposed to collaborate on raising dual sorghum under cattle breeding program. Turkey and Emu birds also prefer chopped green sorghum plants, which is a good balanced diet. NRCS can play an important role to popularize the sorghum varieties/hybrids through FLDs, in collaboration with university. Studies on evaluation of sorghums for palatability, nutritional composition and draught were also proposed.

Parmesh and pink carnation

Mr. H. Paramesh, a student working at biotechnology laboratory of NRCS, has contributed towards the development of pink carnation through mutation breeding. Carnation is one of the most popular cut flowers and of highest economic importance in the floriculture industry. This variety is developed at IIHR, Bangalore under the leadership of Dr Tejaswini, Sr.

Scientist and released as IHRP-1. *Congratulations to Mr. Paramesh.*

Smt. S Bakkamma retires

Smt. S. Bakkamma, SSG I, superannuated on 31 August 06 after her long service to the centre. During the farewell ceremony, Director and staff recollected her services to the organization, since the inception of PIRCOM centre in various



Mrs. Bakkamma being given a token gift in appreciation of her services

capacities. A memento from staff recreation club was also presented by the Director. The staff wished her a happy and healthy retired life.

NRCS team bags first prize in volley ball

The volley ball team of NRCS won first prize in P Anjaiah



The winning volley ball team

memorial volleyball tournament held at Rajendranagar. This event was conducted by Navajyothi youth club on 15 August 06, to mark the occasion of the Independence Day. Dr V Ramulu, founder member of this club distributed the prizes to the winners.

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

S. No	Name of the official	Participated in	Type	Venue	Date
1	N Seetharama, VR Bhagwat, HS Talwar, S Ravi Kumar & IK Das	Rabi sorghum planning meeting	M	CRS, Solapur	4-5 Aug, 06
2	Vilas A Tonapi, KBRS Visarada, N Kannababu & M Elangovan	One-day workshop on PVPFR and Seed sector	W	Hotel Amrita Castle, Hyderabad	5 Aug, 06
3	CV Ratnavathi	Training on "Contract management and arbitration of scientists' week"	T	ASCI, Hyderabad	21- 26 Aug, 06
4	N Seetharama	Review meeting of forage biotechnology projects.	M	IGFRI, Jhansi,	21- 23 Aug, 06
4	Chari Appaji, AV Umakanth & HS Gheywan	25th Regional coordination committee meeting of Regional station for forage production and demonstration, Pahadisharif, Hyderabad	M	CRIDA, Hyderabad	28 Aug, 06
5	Mahesh Kumar	40 th meeting of Town Official Language Implementation Committee (TOLIC)	M	Rail Nilayam, Secunderabad	24 Aug, 06

Official Tours

S. No	Name of the Official	Place visited	Dates	Purpose
1	N Seetharama, VR Bhagwat, HS Talwar, and IK Das	KVA & FS University centre, Bidar.	3 Aug, 06	To plan rabi experiments at university centre
2	VR Bhagwat HS Talwar and HS Gawali	KVA & FS University centre, Bidar.	18 Aug, 06	To conduct experiments on draught and investigation on palatability /nutritional compositions at Cattle Breeding Farm in collaboration with Karnataka Veterinary, Animal & Fisheries Sciences University, (KVAFSU) Bidar, Karnataka.

Thought for the month

The great thing in the world is not so much where we stand, as in what direction we are moving."

-- Oliver Wendell Holmes

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