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Director, NRC Sorghum wishes staff of
NRCS & AICSIP
a Happy New Year
& Sankranti

Seed - day at NRCS

All scientists of NRCS actively participated in the seed-day and demonstration of shootfly nursery at Arboretum farms of NRCS on 21 December 2005. The seed day was organized at the breeder seed plot of CS 3541 at NRCS by Dr. N Kannababu. The scientific fraternity of various disciplines participated in the



Scientists in the shootfly nursery plot during the seed day

seed day and discussed on the issues of sorghum seed quality maintenance and distribution system. In the shootfly nursery the promising lines of pre-breeding material of elite x shoot fly resistant sources, 6 RILs of 296 B X IS 18551 and three new germplasm lines were observed by the team.

BSP monitoring team visits NRCS

The monitoring team comprising Mr. N Rajendraprasad, Chief seed production officer, APSSCA, Mr. B Ashok Reddy, Chief seed production manager, APSSDC, Mr. Sudhakar, Chief seed



Dr. Kannababu explaining the salient features of CS 3541 to the monitoring team

production manager, NSC and Dr. Ankaiah, Principal Scientist (Seed Production), ANGRAU visited CS 3541 breeder seed production plot at NRCS on 23rd December 2005. The monitoring team declared the well grown crop as genetically pure. Dr. N Kannababu conducted the seed production programme.

Inauguration cum demonstration of community drier at Locur, Dharwad

NRCS and UAS Dharwad jointly organized the Inauguration - cum- demonstration of community drier at Locur village of Dharwad district on 15 December 05. About 300 farmers attended this programme. Dr. Nadgoud, Director of Extension,



Dr. Nadgoud, along with the team of officials and farmers at the demonstration venue

UAS, Dharwad in his inaugural speech suggested "Gram panchayat" to take over the demonstration of the technology of harvesting at physiological maturity and artificial drying to the farmers to prevent mold aided grain deterioration in kharif due to rains around maturity and harvest. The advantages of the technology of harvesting at physiological maturity using artificial drier were explained to the farmers by the local innovative farmer who is familiar with it. He explained that by following the technology not only the kharif sorghum becomes remunerative but also the land is vacated 10-15 days earlier for sowing of a second crop. Farmers were impressed by the community dryer and were inquisitive about drying of other crops with it. The event was coordinated by Dr. Kamatar, Senior Scientist, UAS, Dharwad and S. Audilakshmi of NRCS. The video coverage of this event was done by Mr. H.S Gawali. (available on request)

Institute's quarterly Scientific Research Council Meeting

Three scientists presented the progress and achievements of various projects during the SRC on 9 December 05. Dr. CV Ratnavathi presented the progress of the ICAR network project "Prevention and management of mycotoxins contamination in sorghum". The progress in the APNL biotechnology project "Enhancing tolerance of sorghum to abiotic stresses through genetic manipulation" was presented by Dr. SV Rao. The team of scientists also discussed the revised proposal of the APNL biotechnology project submitted by Dr. KBRs Visarada on "Evaluating transgenic sorghum with suitable Bt gene constructs resistant to stem-borer". The director outlined the future hybrid research programme which had been earlier approved by the ICAR review committee headed by the DDG (CS).

Institute Biosafety Committee (IBSC) meeting

The Institute Biosafety Committee (IBSC) met on 30 December 2005 under the Chairmanship of Director, NRCS. The DBT-Nominee, Dr. V Dashawanth Reddy, Head, CPMB, Osmania



The IBSC team in discussion with Director, NRCS

University critically reviewed the on-going biotechnology research projects and suggested appropriate biosafety guidelines to be followed. The proposals of Drs. KBRs Visarada and SV Rao for the use of newly procured genes were considered. The meeting was attended by the member-secretary Dr. SV Rao and other members, Dr. SL Kaul, Dr. TGN Rao, Dr. G Padmaja, Dr. KBRs Visarada and Dr. BV Bhat. The committee was also introduced to the sorghum food specialties. Later, the committee was taken around the labs to verify biosafety measures practiced by the biotechnology laboratories.

Institute's common meetings

1. Institute Joint Staff Council meeting

The IV Institute Joint Staff Council meeting of this centre was held on 22 December, 2005 at 11:00 AM in the Seminar Hall. The following staff members were present in the meeting: **Official side:** Dr. N Seetharama - Chairman, Dr. S Indira and T Sridharan - Members, and KJ Mathai - Member Secretary (Office side) **Staff side:** Sh. TJ Balakrishna - Secretary, Sh. Yadav Rao - Member (CJSC), Sh. AV Rao - and Sh. K Sanath Kumar - Members (Administration), and Sh. P Yadaiah - Member (Supporting staff).

The Chairman welcomed IJSC members and emphasized the need for conducting IJSC meetings on a quarterly basis, even if there is no specific agenda. The Chairman also appreciated the idea of conducting such meetings at our Regional / Sub-stations at CRS-Solapur and OSN-Warangal in future. The Member Secretary (Official Side) has appraised the house on the Action Taken Report of the third IJSC meeting held on 6 January, 2004.

2. Grievance cell meeting

First Institute Grievance Cell Meeting was held on 22 December, 2005 at 12:00 AM at NRCS seminar hall although no grievance was received. The following members were present in the meeting: **Official side:** Dr. N Seetharama - Chairman, Dr. S Indira, KJ Mathai and T Sridharan - Member. **Staff side:** Sh. SR Meena Secretary, Dr. SV Rao - Member (Scientific), Sh. Pramod Kumar - Technical (Technical), Sh. K Sanath Kumar - Member (Administration). Since, the Member Secretary informed the house that there is no grievance pending. The house was open for general discussion with the permission of the Chairman.

3. General Body Meeting of Staff Recreation Club

The second general body meeting of staff recreation club was held under the auspices of the annual general meeting of the recreation club on 22 December, 2005 at 3:00 PM Mr. HS Ghaywan, Secretary - Recreation Club presented the Administrative Report and also the Expenditure statement

The Vice-President took up the election issue of New Executive Committee Members for the club, which has to function from 1st January, 2006, for further period of 2 years. The following are the new members elected unanimously by all the Staff Recreation Club members:

- | | | |
|----------------------|---|----------------------------------------|
| 1. Dr. N Seetharama | - | President, Ex-officio |
| 2. Sh. KJ Mathai | - | Vice-President |
| 3. Sh. Ghaywan | - | Secretary |
| 4. Sh. SR Meena | - | Joint Secretary |
| 5. Sh. D Ram Babu | - | Treasurer |
| 6. Dr. VK Chaturvedi | - | Executive member from Scientific Staff |
| 7. Sh. Pramod Kumar | - | Executive member from Technical Staff |

Detailed minutes of all the above meetings are posted at NRCS intranet.

NRCS staff eat their "own words"

Most of you know that sorghum is a healthy food. At NRCS now you can have a Jowar roti - a nutritious ready-to-eat food as lunch at very reasonable price. This facility opened by the Director on 2nd December 05, is receiving much



The staff tasting the Jowar roti (Inset - Thali with Jowar roti)

response from NRCS staff and also from the neighbouring sister ICAR institutes. Thanks to all sorghum staff for showing interest in eating their own product (jowar). In addition NRCS is going to put on sale other sorghum delicacies at canteen for all the patrons.

Dr. Venkatesh Bhat joins NRCS

Dr. B Venkatesh Bhat, Sr. Scientist (Genetics & Cytogenetics), IGFRI, Jhansi joined NRCS as Sr. Scientist on 2nd December 2005. He will work on forage sorghum improvement and biotechnological applications. His e-mail address is bhatv@nrсорghum.res.in



Guest lecture delivered

On 22 December 05, Dr. N Kannababu delivered a lecture on "Principles of sorghum nucleus and breeder seed production" in the training program on "Package for production and maintenance of nucleus and breeder seed of crop varieties" organized by Dr. EA Siddiq, Chairman & President of 'Farm and rural science foundation' at ANGRAU during 19-24th December 2005.

AICSIP NEWS

Dr. ST Borikar appointed as Director of Research

Dr. ST Borikar, Ex. Sr. Sorghum Breeder of Parbhani AICSIP centre has taken over the post of Director of Research, MAU, Parbhani on 5 December, 2005.

Publications from Dharwad

The following two brochures in Kannada were released by Dr. Nadgouda, Director of Extension, UAS, Dharwad on 15 December 2005



Dr. Nadgoud, Director of Extension, UAS, Dharwad releasing the brochures in presence of Dr. NY Nayaker

Brochure on DSV 6

This leaflet provides complete information of grain-mold tolerant variety DSV 6 including damage symptoms of grain-mold and how this variety is tolerant to this disease.

Brochure on artificial dryer

This brochure explains the technology of harvesting at physiological maturity and artificial drying through the use of community dryers to prevent grain deterioration in kharif due to rain at harvest.

Visitors

Sh. Dinesh C Joshi, Executive Director, Barwale foundation, Hyderabad and Dr. DS Murty, Plant breeding consultant visited

NRCS on 17 December 2005 to discuss possible collaboration on "highly digestible sorghum (HDS)" being developed by the Barwale foundation.



The visitors in dialogue with the Director

On 16 Nov 2005, 28 students from PG diploma course in tissue culture techniques, PR College, Kakinada, AP visited NRCS on educational tour on 16 Dec 2005. They were taken around the biotechnology facilities at NRCS.

Publication

N Sai Kishore, KBRS Visarada, PG Padmaja, E Pashupathinath, SS Raut, V Shobha Rani, M Royer and N Seetharama 2005 - "Deployment of Bt transgenic technology for resistance against stem borer in sorghum". Proceedings of National conference on "New Frontiers in Biotechnology" Dec 7th-8th, 2005 organized by Department of Biotechnology, Sree Nidhi Institute of Science & Technology, Hyderabad, pp 24-27.

Forthcoming events at NRCS

- ❖ Training course on "Seed production, processing and marketing of sorghum and other major millets" will be organized by Drs. C. Sashidhar Reddy & VA Tonapi at NRCS during 12 -19, January 2006.
- ❖ Six-monthly review meetings on DBT sponsored "network projects" will be held on 19, January 2006.
- ❖ Training on "Sorghum DUS testing" will be organized by Dr. N Kannababu during 2-4, February 2006.
- ❖ One day "Pre-annual group meeting" of all centre in-charges of AICSIP and other PIs of all disciplines will be held on 28, February 2006.
- ❖ Four day training programme on "Biodiversity, PUP and IPR protection in India" for AICSIP scientists and public/private seed industry will held from 1-4 March, 2006. Drs. Vilas Tonapi and M Elangovan are coordinators.

Official Tours

S.No.	Name of the Official	Place Visited	Dates	Purpose
1	S Audilakshmi	Dharwad	15, Dec 05	Demonstration of community drier at Dharwad
2	S Ravikumar & Chari Appaji	Chegunta, Medak Dist, AP	12, Dec 05	Conducting and organizing Farmers Day
3	M. Elangovan	Khammam district in AP	15 -18, Dec 05	Maghi germplasm collection
4	Chari Appaji	Lingareddyguda, Mehboobnagar District.	23, Dec 05	Monitoring of seed production plots
5	E Suresh Kumar & P Prakash	Bhubaneswar, Keonjhar, Kalahandi, Phulbani Districts of Orissa	25 - 31 Dec 05	FLD Data Collection

Meetings (M)/ Symposia (S)/ Workshop (W)/ Training (T) attended

S. No.	Name of the Official	Participated in	Type	Venue	Dates
1	AV Rao	Executive development programme for group B technical and non-technical officers	T	ISTM, New Delhi	14 - 25, Nov 05
2	KBRS Visarada, PG Padmaja	Meeting of APNL funded projects and submitted the progress of the work done in the project entitled "Evolving transgenic sorghum resistant to stem borer with suitable Bt gene constructs"	M	University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad	1, Dec 05
3	KBRS Visarada	National conference on "New Frontiers in Biotechnology" and presented an invited lecture on "Plant biotechnology, IPRs - an awareness"	C	Sree Nidhi Institute of Science & Technology, Hyderabad	7, Dec 05
4	N Sai Kishore	National conference on "New Frontiers in Biotechnology" and presented paper on "Deployment of Bt transgenic technology for resistance against stem borer in sorghum"	C	Sree Nidhi Institute of Science & Technology, Hyderabad	8, Dec 05
5	D RamaRaju, B Jayaprakash, G Saraswathi, D Rambabu	Technical workshop on "Finance Act, 2005 the salient aspects with reference to TDS and its complexities and company taxation etc." organized by Institute of Socio Economic Research and Action, New Delhi.	W	Hotel Viceroy, Hyderabad	20, Dec 05
6	OV Ramana, K Revathi & V Ravikumar	Microsoft launching programme and seminar on "Visual studio 2005 & SQL server 2005"	S	Hotel Taj Krishna, Hyderabad	20, Dec 05
7	M Elangovan	Training cum seminar on "Patterns and Protections" organized by NRDC, New Delhi.	T/S	Bhubaneshwar	26-31, Dec 05

Printed Matter / Book Post

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