



Happenings at NRC for Sorghum, and AICSIP news

Serial No. 29

Hyderabad ? Solapur ? Warangal

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Training Programme: "Sorghum DUS Testing"

A training program on sorghum DUS testing was



Participants listening in rapt attention to the lecture being delivered by Dr. Kanna babu

organized during 2-4 February 2006 at NRCS. Total 18 participants including scientists and technical officers from SAUs, ICAR institutes, seed corporations and private seed industries participated in this programme. The main objective of the programme was to make sorghum researchers aware of DUS testing protocols and to demonstrate characters of the example varieties for a given trait and sub-traits. Among the trainees, 12 participants were from public sector and 6 were from private institutions. The subjects deliberated were related to sorghum DUS testing, distribution and breeding, maintenance of seed purity in sorghum. The lectures were delivered on DNA fingerprinting technology by Dr. Dineshkumar, statistical software for DUS testing and data documentation by Dr. RC Agrawal (NBPGR), principles of DUS testing by Dr. M Ganesh (ANGRAU), IPRs in Agriculture by Dr. Kalpana Shastry

and sorghum morphology by Dr. Kamala Venkateswaran. The training programme was coordinated by Dr. N Kannababu.

Rabi Sorghum field day at Solapur

The rabi sorghum field day was organized at Machnur village by the Centre on Rabi Sorghum (NRCS), Solapur on 3 February 2006. More than two hundred farmers from nearby villages - Brahmapuri, Machnur, Chenoli, Najilepimpri, Boode, and Balhan attended the field day.

The special theme was on understanding of sorghum as health food for all. Dr. A. N. Deshpande, Associate Director of Research MPKV, Solapur was the chief guest. He advised farmers to adopt improved varieties



Dr. N Seetharama addressing the gathering during the farmers day

and production technology for its profitability. The Director, NRCS stressed the importance of sorghum in



Farmers keenly looking at the preparations made from grain sorghum and the technology developed for value addition

the daily diet and narrated the scope for organic sorghum cultivation to realize higher price. The need for promotion of industrial products was also stressed by the Director and the local researchers.

The dignitaries including Dr. P Kumar, Director, NRCP, Solapur and Sh. Charanu Patil, Chairman, Damaji Sugar Factory, Mangalwedha, Scientists from NRCS and KVK,

Solapur participated in this programme. This field day was organized under DFID Project in Collaboration with Krishi Vignan Kendra, Solapur. The display included all of selections made for rabi with farmers' and consumers participation.

Meeting on participation of NAIP projects

A brief meeting was held on 20 February, 2006 with all the scientists at NRCS to discuss possible opportunities



Dr. SP Tiwari, Director, NAARM, making a point during the meeting

for participation of NRCS scientists in the National Agricultural Innovation Project (NAIP). The new projects may be in a consortia mode and will be representing a broad group (beyond a single crop commodity based approaches). Since Planning Commission and ICAR are giving priority for research and development in millets the group tentatively proposed a project on "Millets for enhancing of nutritional status and livelihood security of rural households in semi-arid tropics of the country".

ADG visits NRCS

SN Shukla ADG (FFC), visited NRCS on 14 February



Dr. SN Shukla, ADG (FFC) being appraised about the newly developed MAS lab

2006. Dr. S. Indira, In-charge Director, appraised him about the recent research developments at this centre. He was taken to various laboratories and transgenic glasshouse. He also had a brief discussion with the administrative personnel.

NBPGR Director reviews Germplasm work at NRCS

Dr. AK Singh, Director and Dr. Ketherpal, Principal Scientist, Plant quarantine division of NBPGR New Delhi,

visited NRCS on 25 February 2006. Director, NRCS



Discussion on Germplasm research at NRCS in progress

briefed them about the ongoing research activities at NRCS. Dr. M Elangovan apprised them about the recent germplasm collections made at this centre. Some plans were made on sharing facilities and common research on millets.

NRCS bags "Best-stall Award" at Kisan Mela

The sorghum stall of NRCS at the Kisan Mela held during 16 -18 Feb 06, at Birsa Agricultural University, Ranchi, Bihar was adjudged the "Best-stall Award" among many other participants. It is the second time that NRCS is winning the "Best-stall Award" in recent months, the first being at MAU, Parbhani during 17-18 May 2005. *Congrats to the Extension Unit.*



Recognition for Dr. Audilakshmi



Dr. S Audilakshmi, principal scientist of NRC of Sorghum has been nominated as a member in the editorial board of scientific journal entitled "World Journal of Agricultural Sciences". This international journal belongs to the international digital organisation for scientific information and published by department of plant science, McGill University, Montreal, Canada. The NRCS family congratulates Dr. Audilakshmi for the honour conferred on her.

AICSIP News

QR Team visit

QRT members for NRC Sorghum, Dr. SN Puri, Chairman QRT, Dr. A Sitaram, (Ex-PC Minor Millets, Bangalore), Dr. R Rameshwar Singh, (Ex-Joint Director of Research GBPAU&T) Pantnagar, and Dr. SS Rao, Member Secretary-QRT, (NRCS, Hyderabad) and the Director, NRCS, visited five AICSIP Coordinating centres in Maharashtra and Karnataka during 7th-11 February, 2006. The team evaluated the field trials and reviewed research work at Parbhani, Rahuri, Solapur, Bijapur and Dharwad.

The members visited all the research farms at all research stations, and observed the newly developed parental lines, early maturing varieties and potential donors for shoot fly, stripe disease and nurseries designed to screen for cold and charcoal rot. The introgression programme using exotic and indigenous lines (Kharif) was appreciated by the QRT members. The experiments on rabi based cropping system and contingent planning drew special attention of the members.

Monitoring of DUS characterization trials

The team comprising of Prof. AD Dumbre (MPKV, Rahuri), Drs. N Kannababu, AV Umakanth and B Venkatesh Bhat (all from NRCS) visited the rabi DUS characterization trials at NRCS on 4th February and



Monitoring of DUS characterization trials in progress

at MPKV, Rahuri on 6th February 2006. The crop condition was good at both the centres. However, due to severe cold during the months of November and December 2005, the crop growth was poor. The monitoring team suggested the timely sowing of rabi -

DUS trials at both the centres in order to escape cold temperature and also for better expression of plants. The monitoring team inspection of above trials was organized by Dr. N Kannababu, seed scientist and nodal officer - sorghum DUS project.

Dr. Shyam Prasad joins NRCS



Dr. G Shyam Prasad, Sr. Scientist (Entomology), Central Agricultural Research Institute, Port Blair joined NRC sorghum on 1 February 2006. His e-mail address is [shyamprasad @ nrсорghum.res.in](mailto:shyamprasad@nrсорghum.res.in)

Visitors

Twenty two Students of M.Sc Biotechnology from City College, Hyderabad along with 2 of their faculty members visited Biotechnology and MAS labs on 9th Feb, 2006 on their educational tour.

New arrivals in the library

Following books are available in the Library for reference.

- Genetically modified crops - *Niger G Halford*
- Maize genetics and breeding in the 20th century - *Peter A. Peterson and Angelo Bianchi*
- RNA silencing - *Esra Galun*
- Transgenic plants : Methods and protocols- Vol : 286 - *Leandro Pena*

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

S. No	Name of the official	Participated in	Type	Venue	Date
1	D Rama Raju	Management development programme on "Accrual Accounting"	W	NIFM, New Delhi	6-7 Feb, 06
2	N Seetharama & M Elangovan	National conference on "Agro-biodiversity"	C	NBA, Chennai	12-15 Feb,06
3	N Kannababu	Annual review meeting on "Breeder Seed Production"	M	NBPGR, New Delhi	12-14 Feb,06
4	B Jaya Prakash & V Anjaneyulu	Technical workshop on "Pension and other retirement benefits with focus on New pension scheme"	W	ISERA, New Delhi	16 -18 Feb,06
5	KBRS Visarada	National symposium on "Biotechnology-trends and perspectives"	S	SKDU, Anantapur	17-18 Feb,06.
6	D Rama Raju & V Anjaneyulu	Management development programme on "Finance for non-finance executives"	W	NIFM, Faridabad, New Delhi	20-24 Feb,06
7	KBRS Visarada	Review meeting on "ICAR Network project on transgenics"	M	NRCPB, New Delhi	20-21 Feb, 06
8	N Seetharama, Chari Appaji, VA Tonapi & N Kannababu	XII National Seed Seminar on "Prosperity through quality seed" - organized by Indian Society of Seed Technology and ANGRAU.	S	ANGRAU, Hyderabad	24-26 Feb, 06

Official Tours

S. No	Name of the Official	Place visited	Dates	Purpose
1	S Ravi Kumar	Kovilpatti	2-3 Feb, 06	Representing ICAR in the FLD monitoring team.
2	N Seetharama, HS Talwar, G Shyam Prasad, D Gopala Krishna, HS Gawali & V Ravi Kumar	Machnur village Solapur	3 Feb, 06	To participate in the Field day
3	SL Kaul, VA Tonapi	Shamshabad	4 Feb, 06	Visit of seed production plots of NRCS
4	N Kannababu, B Venkatesh Bhat & AV Umakanth	MPKV, Rahuri	5-7 Feb, 2006	Monitoring team inspection of Rabi 2005-06 DUS trial.
5	Chari Appaji, HS Talwar & HS Gawali	Tandur	7 Feb, 06	Videography and digital photography of Roti making machine and FLD crops at Marepalli village near Tandur
6	N Seetharama & SS Rao	Parbhani & Rahuri	7-8 Feb, 06	Monitoring visit with QRT members
7	SS Rao	Solapur, Bijapur, Dharwad	9-11 Feb, 06	Monitoring visit with QRT members
8	C Aruna, K Lakshminarayana, M Anjaiah	Nandyal	8 Feb, 06	Harvesting of CSH 16 seed production plot.
9	S. Ravi Kumar	Nandyal	10 Feb, 06	Farmers ' field visit
10	IK Das	CRS, Solapur	13-17 Feb, 06	Rabi harvest
11	E Suresh Kumar & P Prakash	Birsa Agri Univ., Ranchi	16 -18 Feb, 06	To participate in the farmers day and monitoring of FLD trials

Thought for the month

"The measure of success is not whether you have a tough problem to deal with, but whether it's the same problem you had last year."

- John Foster Dulles.

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To



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