



Happenings at NRC for Sorghum, and AICSIP news

Serial No. 53

Hyderabad ? Solapur ? Warangal

February, 2008

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NAIP Project launch at NRCS

The launching meeting of NAIP sub-project entitled "Creation of Demand for Millet foods through PCS Value-chain" was held at NRCS, on 5 February, 2008. Dr. NGP Rao, the chairman of the



The Director welcoming CAC members and participants to the function organized to launch NAIP project at NRCS

Consortium Advisory Committee (CAC) chaired the meeting. The participants included the CAC members - Prof. JP Mittal (National Coordinator, NAIP), Dr. SV Singh (Ex-Director, DMD), Dr. G Pakki Reddy (CEO, Agribiotech Consortium, ANGRAU), Mrs. Chinnamma Thomas (RDS, Wanaparthy), Drs N Seetharama (Consortium leader), B. Dayakar Rao (CPI), Drs. Kamini Devi, K Suhasini (ANGRAU), and NRCS Scientists Drs. CV Ratnavathi, G Shyam Prasad, MS Raut, Ch Sashidhar Reddy, M Elangovan, besides the monitoring team (HS Talwar, and C Aruna) also participated in this meeting. Dr. Illyas Ahmed, Director, NAARM also graced the occasion and spoke on the importance of this project. The main objective of this project is to generate demand through value-addition of processed foods and industrial products through reorientation of R&D efforts on millets in the wake of disincentives resulting from PDS for fine cereals at very low cost to consumers, and other practices. During this occasion, the recipe book on sorghum foods entitled 'Delicious sorghum foods' authored by Dr. CV Ratnavathi *et al*, and a brochure on the project information in brief were also released. Dr. Nirmal Reddy, partner representing ITC delivered a lecture on public private partnership (PPP) and food business.

समाचार सारांश

रा.कृ.न.प. परियोजना का शुभारंभ : रा.ज्वा.अनु.कें. में रा.कृ.न.प. की अखिल प्रणाली हेतु उत्पादन मूल्य शृंखला द्वारा गोटें अनाज के खाद्य पदार्थों की माँग सृजन नामक उप-परियोजना की शुभारंभ बैठक का 5 फरवरी 2008 को आयोजन किया गया। संघ परामर्श समिति के अध्यक्ष डॉ. एन सी पी राव ने बैठक की अध्यक्षता की।

रा.कृ.न.प. परियोजना के शुभारंभ के संदर्भ में पत्रकार सम्मेलन : रा.ज्वा.अनु.कें. में रा.कृ.न.प. की अखिल प्रणाली हेतु उत्पादन मूल्य शृंखला द्वारा गोटें अनाज के खाद्य पदार्थों की माँग सृजन नामक उप-परियोजना की शुभारंभ बैठक के संदर्भ में 5 फरवरी 2008 को एक पत्रकार सम्मेलन का आयोजन किया गया। डॉ. एन सीवात्समा, निदेशक, रा.ज्वा.अनु.कें. ने पत्रकारों को संबोधित किया।

डी.बी.टी. परियोजना पर बैठक : रा.ज्वा.अनु.कें. में डी.बी.टी. से वित्तीय सहायता प्राप्त मीठी ज्वार बगल से लिग्ने-रोटलुलोसिक एथनॉल उत्पादन नामक परियोजना हेतु तकनीकी कार्यों की पहली नियोजना बैठक का 18 फरवरी 2008 को आयोजन किया गया। इस बैठक की अध्यक्षता निदेशक, रा.ज्वा.अनु.कें. ने की।

राष्ट्रीय विज्ञान दिवस : रा.ज्वा.अनु.कें. में 28 फरवरी 2008 को बडे-छी उत्साह के विज्ञान दिवस मनाया गया। इस अवसर पर तीन अर्थात् 1. प्रारंभिक विज्ञान 2008, 2. विषय-समूह का शीतल : गद्योगेम धारणाएँ तथा 3. ज्वार 2050 : ज्वार का भविष्य प्रतियोगिताओं का आयोजन किया गया।

रा.ज्वा.अनु.कें. विद्यार्थी मंत्र का उद्घाटन : रा.ज्वा.अनु.कें. में विभिन्न परियोजनाओं में कार्य कर रहे अनुसंधान छात्राओं, वरिष्ठ अध्यापकों, पीएच.डी तथा स्नातकोत्तर छात्रों एवं तकनीकी स्टाफ ने परस्पर विचार विनिमय, व्यक्तिगत एवं समूह स्तर के विकास तथा सामाजिक कार्य संसृष्टि को बढ़ावा देने के प्रयोजन से एक विद्यार्थी मंत्र का गठन किया। इस मंत्र का 7 फरवरी 2008 को उद्घाटन किया गया।

भूतपूर्व राष्ट्रपति द्वारा रा.ज्वा.अनु.कें. के अध्यक्ष द्वारा रचित पुस्तक की सराहना : भारत के भूतपूर्व राष्ट्रपति डॉ. ए पी जे अब्दुल कलाम ने राष्ट्रीय ज्वार अनुसंधान केंद्र में वरिष्ठ अध्यापक के रूप में कार्यरत सुशील रघु भगवती द्वारा व्यक्तित्व विकास पर रचित "मेन सक्सेस" नामक पुस्तक की सराहना की।

भा.कृ.अनु.प. खेलकूद प्रतियोगिता : रा.ज्वा.अनु.कें. के स्टाफ ने रेलवे रिक्रियेशन क्लब प्रायेंड, सिकंदराबाद में 2-7 फरवरी 2008 के दौरान आयोजित भा.कृ.अनु.प. दक्षिण क्षेत्रीय खेलकूद प्रतियोगिताओं में भाग लिया।

आगम्यक :

● डॉ. एम आर रेड्डी, उपाध्यक्ष, रिटाईव्ड इंटरस्ट्रीज, पुणे 7 फरवरी 2008 को रा.ज्वा.अनु.कें. में आए। उन्होंने जैव-ऊर्जा फसल के रूप में मीठी ज्वार के प्रयोग को बढ़ाने के संघर्ष में संस्थान के निदेशक तथा अन्य वैज्ञानिकों से विश्वास-विमर्श किया।

● श्री जेडी सांघीच राव, अध्यक्ष, कृषक संघ, तेगाती, आंध्र. तीन प्रगतिशील किसानों के साथ 2 फरवरी 2008 को रा.ज्वा.अनु.कें. आए।

अ.भा.स.ज्वा.उ.प.परि. समाचार

निगरानी दल द्वारा एम पी के बी राहुरी में रखी इस विशेषताओं के परीक्षण का अवलोकन : संस्थान के वैज्ञानिक एवं राहुरी के विशेषज्ञों के एक निगरानी दल ने 14 फरवरी 2008 को एम पी के बी राहुरी में रखी इस विशेषताओं के परीक्षण का अवलोकन किया।

परस्पर ज्ञानार्जन सत्र : डॉ. एस एस राव तथा टी जी एन राव ने 4 फरवरी 2008 को तेलंगाना अनुसंधान निदेशालय, हैदराबाद में डॉ. अनिल पी जोशी, पूर्ववरणविद् द्वारा संबोधित परस्पर ज्ञानार्जन सत्र में भाग लिया।

लोक सत्साहित्य ज्वार संकलन तथा किरनों का व्यापरीकरण : "बौद्धिक संपदा की सुरक्षा तथा प्रौद्योगिकियों का व्यापरीकरण" पर भा.कृ.अनु.प. नीतियों के अन्तर्गत रा.ज्वा.अनु.कें. तथा अ.भा.स.ज्वा.उ.प.परि. निजी तथा सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के बीच संमेलनों को राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर लोकप्रिय तथा आशाजनक नई किरनों तथा संकलन हेतु सादरोंच प्रस्तुत करते हैं।

हिंदी सासनुवाद : डॉ. महेश कुमार

Press conference on “Creation of demand for millet foods”

A press conference on “Creation of Demand for Millet foods” was held at NRCS on 5 February 08. The Director addressed the media-persons and asserted that there would be an increasing acceptability of millet foods if available in ready-to-cook form or as convenient ready-to-eat foods in urban areas. At NRCS, the model framework for revival of millet economy-



The press men being addressed by Director, NRCS

based on promotion as health and convenient food will be carried out using sorghum. He also told that the production of sweet sorghum would cater to the demand of both food and fodder by dryland farmers, besides for the production of biofuel from stalks leading to additional income to rural communities. Dr. Mittal narrated activities under NAIP, and Dr. NGP Rao on the “goodness” of the millets for better health. The coverage by both print and visual media were substantial.

Meeting on ligno-cellulose ethanol production from sweet sorghum

First planning meeting of technical programme for DBT funded project entitled “Ligno-cellulosic ethanol production from sweet sorghum bagasse” was held at NRCS on 18th February, 2008.



Discussions on planning of technical programme in progress

The meeting was chaired by the Director, NRCS and attended by Dr VVN Kishore and Mr. Jiby Kurian from Tata Energy Research Institute (TERI), New Delhi, Dr. S V Ramakrishna, group advisor from Praj Industries, Pune and scientists Drs. SS Rao, CV Ratnavathi, AV Umakanth, B Venkatesh Bhat from NRCS. The activity milestones for the project were finalized.

National Science Day Celebrations



The National Science Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm on 28th February 2008 at NRCS. This day is celebrated every year to commemorate the invention of *Raman effect* was invented by the Nobel Laureate, Prof C.V. Raman at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore. Three competitions comprising Quiz programme were conducted: “Science 2008”,

the presentation on “Innovative ideas to - “Cool the Global Warming”, and a debate on “Jowar 2050”: the future of sorghum”. All the research scholars and scientists actively participated in all the programmes. Dr SL Kaul, Principal Scientist distributed the prizes to the winners and delivered the Science Day address. Scientists and students remembered the renowned scientists and great botanist Carol Linnaeus on his 300th anniversary. NRCS published a full page article in the popular English daily - Indian Express, on its achievements and progress in sorghum research to communicate to the public and the industry. Dr. M Elangovan, senior germplasm botanist organized this function.

Scientists field day at NRCS

All Scientists of NRCS actively participated in the Field day and demonstrations on 12 Feb, 08. All experiments on



Dr. Madhusudhana explaining the field research activities of biotech unit

breeding, germplasm, entomology, DUS, agronomy and dual-purpose sorghum were visited. The director and all scientists reviewed the progress made by each discipline, and suggested measures to further improve data analysis and reporting.

Inauguration of NRCS students club

To enable greater interactions among students and scientists, and for personality and soft-skill development and reinforce positive work culture, the Research Associates, SRFs, JRFs, Ph.D and M.Sc students and interested technical officers who are working in various research projects at NRC sorghum have formed a “Students Club”. This club was inaugurated by the Director on 7th Feb, 08. This club organizes a series of seminars every month on various topics. This club is also



Director, NRCS, delivering address during inauguration of students club at NRCS

inviting the fellow researchers from sister ICAR institutes in and around Hyderabad to join them. Dr. KBRS Visarada, Sr. Biotechnologist guides and organizes these young and enthusiastic group. The first seminar was on “Characterization of rabi sorghum environments and real-time information system for forecasting the rabi sorghum productivity on a

regional scale” by Mr. V Ravi Kumar, Ph.D. Student. On 29th Feb. 2008, Ms. S Bhagavathi, Senior Research Fellow delivered the second seminar in this series on “Personality development”. She explained the novel approach for motivation and development of positive attitude, personal skills for solution to problems.

Ex-president appreciates book written by NRCS scholar



Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, Hon.ble’ Ex-President of India appreciated the personality development book entitled “Gain Success” written by Ms S Bhagavathi, working as a senior research fellow at this Institute. The book describes the actions needed for winning all aspects of life, knowledge and is meant to help every one to build up a good career and rewarding life.



ICAR’s Sports meet

The ICAR south zone sports meet was held from 2 -7 February 08 at Railway Recreation Club grounds, Secunderabad. This meet was organized by NAARM, Hyderabad. NRCS Contingent from NRCS numbering 43 players actively participated in many events.

Visitors

Sri Jetti Sambasiva Rao, President, Karshaka Samakhya, Tenali, AP along with three other progressive farmers visited NRCS on 2 February 08. The team had a discussion on sorghum in rice fallows with the Director. Drs.SS Rao and AV



Sri Sambasiva Rao making queries on sorghum cultivation on rice fallows

Umakanth explained them about the new technological innovations, farm management, and other issues pertaining to sorghum cultivation.

Dr. MR Reddy, Vice-President, Reliance Industries, Pune visited NRCS on 7 February 08. He had a brief discussion with the director and other scientists on promotion of sweet sorghum as a bio-energy crop involving large-scale commercial production. The company has plans to grow sweet sorghum during this spring season at Bihar so as to utilize the lean period at sugarcane crushing units. The reliance industry is discussing with us on entering into an agreement for joint

activities in this fast emerging field.

AICSIP News

Monitoring team visits the Rabi DUS characterization trial at MPKV Rahuri

The monitoring team comprising of Drs. N Kannababu (Leader), M Elangovan and G Shyam Prasad from NRCS, and Prof. PD Khade, Dr. VR Shelar and Mr. RS Shaik from Rahuri visited the DUS characterization trial at MPKV Rahuri on 14 February 2008. There were 25 entries in the DUS trial. The observations were recorded for 33 characteristics (as per DUS test guidelines prepared by us and published by PPV&FRA) for the second year. The crop condition was good with uniform plant stand. Seed multiplication of example and reference varieties was also taken up.

New staff joining at centres

Palem: Dr. S Ameer Basha, Scientist (Pathology) joined in place of Dr. Khayyum Ahmed.

Deesa : Dr. S. K. Jain, Asst. Res. Scientist (Jr. Plant Breeder), has taken over charge from Dr H. R. Mahela, Jr. Breeder., *Sorghum family welcomes them!*

Interactive session with Padmashri Joshi

Drs SS Rao and TGN Rao attended the interactive session addressed by Dr Anil P Joshi, Environmentalist from Uttarakhand at DOR, on 4 February 08. About 40 scientists from different ICAR institutes participated in this programme. Dr Joshi and his 10 team members are in “Cycle yatra” from Kanyakumari to Kashmir. Dr Joshi narrated his experiences about the various problems encountered by Indian rural farmers. NRCS scientists apprised the team about the achievements of NRCS in promoting new sorghum cultivation technologies with minimum inputs for the betterment of rural farmers through participatory research programmes.

Commercialization and licensing ICAR technologies

Under the purview of ICAR policy on “Protection of Intellectual properties and commercialization of technologies”, NRCS and All India Coordinated Sorghum Improvement Project offers to license new nationally released and new promising hybrids and varieties to private and public sector seed organizations on non-exclusive basis upon signing the ICAR-approved Memorandum of Agreement (MoA). Recently NRCS entered into an agreement with “Vicky’s Agri-Sciences”, a reputed private seed enterprise at Hyderabad to produce and market new sorghum hybrids seeds on non-exclusive basis. In addition, NRCS also offers to undertake consultancy, contract research and for organizing training programmes in specific areas of your requirement. Please write to “Director, NRCS, Rajendaranagar, Hyderabad 500 030, AP., for any queries in this regard.

Official Tours

S. No	Name of the Official	Place visited	Dates	Purpose
1	N Seetharama	ASRB, New Delhi	1 Feb, 08	Member of selection Committee for promotions conducted by ASRB.
2	M Elangovan, N Kannababu & G Shyam Prasad	Parbhani & Rahuri	13 -15 Feb, 08	Monitoring team visit of Rabi DUS trails
3	N Seetharama	Maruteru	17 Feb 08	Review of MAS in rice at RAS, ANGRAU.
4	N Seetharama	Indore	25 Feb 08	Visit to AICSIP center and NRC Soybean.

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

S. No	Name of the official	Participated in	Type	Venue	Date
1	IK Das	Mid-term review meeting of ICAR regional committee meet -II	M	CIFRI, Barrackpore	5 Feb, 08
2	VA Tonapi	Meeting on Plant variety protection	M	TNAU, Coimbatore	12 Feb, 08
3	N Seetharama & VA Tonapi	Consultative meeting on " <i>Issues related to protection of Bt transgenics</i> " organized by PPV&FR authority and Biotech consortium, New Delhi	M	IISc, Bangalore	13 Feb, 08
4	VA Tonapi, B Venkatesh Bhat, R Madhusudhana & KV Raghavendra Rao	Training programme on " <i>Capacity Building on Intellectual Property Protection & Technology Licensing in Agriculture</i> " under Indo- US agricultural knowledge initiative programme organized by CCS HAU, Hlsar, ICAR and Michigan University, US	T	NAARM, Hyderabad	14-16 Feb, 08
5	V Ravi Kumar	International Symposium on " <i>Agro-meteorology and food security</i> "	S	CRIDA, Hyderabad	18-21 Feb, 08
6	N Seetharama & VA Tonapi	Germplasm Advisory committee meeting	M	NBPGR, New Delhi	22 Feb, 08
7	N Seetharama & VA Tonapi	National seminar on " <i>Strategies for popularization of public bred hybrids</i> "	S	JNKVV, Jabalpur	23-24 Feb, 08

Thought for the month

The roots of true achievement lie in the will to become the best that you can become. -[Harold Taylor](#)

Printed Matter / Book Post

To



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