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NRCS's vision and strategy to 2020 discussed at ICAR

The NRC for Sorghum's vision and strategy to 2020-Renewal and managing turnaround of sorghum R&D in India has been revised and submitted to the Council. A lengthy discussion on the various chapters presented in

the document was held at the Council which was attended by the Director.

A brief summary of the extracts presented in the above document is as follows:

The purpose of this perspective plan is to document the strategies, road maps on basic, strategic, applied and anticipatory research. The need to ensure global competitiveness of Indian sorghum through enhanced production, value-addition and promotion of alternate uses as a major food, feed, fodder and fuel is an urgent one in the light of recent developments and to further enhance nutritional security, environmental quality and economic prosperity of resource poor dry land farmers. We have therefore revisited the perspective plan on sorghum. Hence, the plan on "Renewal and managing turnaround of Sorghum R&D in India: NRCS's vision and strategy to 2020" is prepared to lay the foundation that determines the nature of the strategy, road map and approximate schedule of delivery on basic, strategic, applied and anticipatory research, in relation to the decisions driven by market forces and on or off-farm production constraints especially in the wake of global trade, and IPR regime.

Young scientist award for Girijashankar

The Indian Science Congress Association (ICSA) awarded the Young Scientist Award in the Plant Sciences section to V Girijashankar, Ph D Research Scholar from the Jawaharlal Nehru Technological

Indian Council of Agricultural Research

Renewal and managing turnaround of Sorghum R&D in India

NRCS's vision and strategy to 2020

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V Girija Shankar receives his citation from Prof. NK Ganguly

University, working under the supervision of Dr. N Seetharama. He received the Award during the Indian Science Congress held between 3 and 5 January, at Ahmedabad, from Prof NK Ganguly, General President of ICSA. He received a citation and cheque for Rs. 5,000. Girijashankar presented a paper on the "Effect of promoters on BT transgene expression in sorghum

[*Sorghum bicolor (L) Moench*]. His paper on the subject has been accepted for publication by *Plant Sciences* (Impart part 1.5) within 3 weeks of submission.

Sweet sorghum seed production

The production of seeds of sweet sorghum variety RSSV 9 was taken up in two villages of Medak district in Andhra Pradesh. The crop was sown in the first week of October at Kollur village, and now it is at physiological maturity stage. It will be harvested within a week's time.



A bountiful crop of RSSV 9 in a seed production plot of a farmer at Kollur

Drs. SS Rao and Ch. Sashidhar Reddy visited the production plots to monitor the genetic purity. The same crop was later sown at Pulgutta village on 6 November 04

and is at soft dough stage.

Republic Day celebrated

The Nations 55th Republic Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm and gaiety on January 26. The director hoisted the National flag and addressed the staff. He reiterated the need to rededicate ourselves with a commitment to reach the new challenges of the modern India.

ICAR South Zone sports meet

The ICAR south zone sports meet was held from 3-7 Jan 05, at Railway Recreation Club grounds, Secunderabad. This meet was organized by DOR,



NRCS sports contingent with Padmashri A Mukesh Kumar, former Captain of Indian Hockey Team



Hyderabad. NRCS Contingent actively participated in many events.

1. Ms. N Kanaka Durga won



Silver medal in 100 m and Bronze medal in 200 m running race events.

Drs. C. Aruna Reddy (2) and KBRs Visarada (3) bagged Silver medal in the Women's' Table tennis event.

DBT funded projects approved

The Chairman, BPRC of DBT approved the network project proposal entitled "*Development and applications of biotechnological tools for millet improvement*". This major project contains 12 sub-projects and covers major thematic areas such as: DNA marker assisted improvement of sorghum, QTL mapping and MAS to improve drought tolerance, downy mildew resistance

AICSIP News

Joint monitoring team for FLD visits Kovilpatti

The joint monitoring team visited Kovilpatti centre and monitored the FLD programme of the centre with Dr. Chari Appaji Sr. scientist as member, and Dr. DR Gurumukhi, Joint Director, Directorate of Millet development, Jaipur as the convener. The team interacted with the farmers on whose farm the FLD programme was laid and collected necessary feed back. The farmers expressed their satisfaction of K-8, cultivar that was demonstrated which yielded over 5 q/ha more grain yield than their local cultivar.

DUS team visits Rahuri

The DUS team consisting of Drs. S Audilakshmi, N Kannababu, N Seetharama visited Rahuri and took



stock of the problems, prospects and practical aspects related to DUS Testing in sorghum.

and stover quality of Pearl-millet and saturating linkage maps of millets and comparative mapping for identifying useful genes or markers for selection.

Farewell to Sh. A Jangaiah

A function was held to bid farewell to Sh. A Jangaiah, SSG IV, on 31 January 2005. Director honored him by wrapping a shawl. A memento from staff recreation club was presented by the Administrative Officer. The entire NRCS family recollected his services to the institute for more than 30 years, since the inception of PIRCOM centre. The staff wished him a happy retired life.



Mr. A Jangaiah expressing his gratitude for the cooperation extended to him by all staff members during his tenure at NRCS

New arrivals at NRCS Library

1. **Why employees don't do what they are supposed to do and what to do about it**
– by *Ferdinand F. Fournies*
2. **A guide for entrepreneurship**
– by *David Oater*

Visitors

Eight trainees from the NPPTI, studying their Post Graduate diploma visited NRCS on 6 January, as part of their training course. They visited museum and pathology labs. Dr. IK Das explained the plant protection aspects and Dr. Sashidhar Reddy coordinated the visit.

Family News

Master **B Surya Tej**, son of Dr. CV Ratnavathi, a student of class IX at St. Paul's High School stood 4th in the quiz competition organized by News in Education (NIE), a society of *Times of India* group and sponsored by *Servo* and *Indian Oil Corporation*. Around 510 students from 60 schools participated in this event.

Meetings / Symposia / Conference/ Training attended

S. No.	Name of the scientist	Particulars	Organized by	Dates
1	Dr. N Kannababu	Training on "Statistical techniques useful for DUS test" to the Nodal Officers of ICAR Institutes for DUS testing organized by ICAR & DAC, MOA, Govt. of India.	NBPGR, New Delhi	10-15, Jan 2005
2	Dr. M. Elangovan	Two-days workshop on "Establishment of the Information Sharing Mechanism for Monitoring the Implementation of Global Plan of Action"	NBPGR, New Delhi,	24-25, Jan 2005

Tours of NRCS scientists

S. No	Name of the Scientist	Place visited	Dates	Purpose
1	Drs. BU Singh, S. Audilakshmi, S. Ravi Kumar, N. Kannababu, TGN Rao	Rahuri, Bijapur, Solapur, Parbhani	17-20 Jan 05	Rabi Monitoring tour
2	Dr N Seetharama	NBPGR, New Delhi	7 - 8, Jan 05	To attend the brainstorming session on "Role of science & society towards PGR management : emerging issues".
3	Dr N Seetharama	Rahuri	18, Jan 05	Rahuri station visit
4	Dr. S. Audilakshmi	Dharwad	25, Jan-05	Monitoring rabi trials
5	Dr. SS Rao	Rahuri & Parbhani	20-22, Jan 05	Monitoring rabi trials
6	Dr. Chari Appaji	Kovilpatti	26-29, Jan 05	Monitoring of FLDs

Forthcoming events at NRCS

- ◆ A Training on **Sorghum DUS testing under PVP legislation** will be held at NRCS, Hyderabad, from 8-10 February , 2005.
- ◆ The **Research Advisory Committee meeting** is scheduled on 14-15 February, 2005.
- ◆ The **Institute Management Committee meeting** is scheduled on 16 February, 2005.
- ◆ An 8 - day model training course on **Alternative uses of sorghum and pearl millet** sponsored by DoE, Govt. of India, is scheduled from 16 –23 February 2005.

Printed matter / Book post

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