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**Quinquennial Review Team (QRT) meeting**

The NRCS Quinquennial Review Team met on 30th January 2007 under the chairmanship of Dr. SN Puri, Hon.ble Vice-Chancellor, Central Agricultural University, Imphal and finalized its report. The other distinguished members who participated were: Dr. Rameshwar Singh



*Discussions in progress to finalise QRT report*

Ex. Jt. Director (Research), BPUAT-Pantnagar, Dr. A Seetharam, former PC, AICSMIP, Dr. NP Saxena, Former Sr. Physiologist (ICRISAT), Dr. HS Shetty, Prof. Agri. Botany & Biotechnology, University of Mysore, and Dr. SS Rao, Sr. Scientist, and Member-Secretary. The committee is expected to submit its report shortly.

**Sorghum market promotion strategies**

**Visit to Metro wholesale mart:** The Director, and Drs. B Dayakar Rao and CV Ratnavathi visited M/s Metro wholesale mart, a hugely successful mega supermarket located at Kukatpalli, Hyderabad which is one of the two in India (worldwide 70). They hold discussions to popularize sorghum grain and its byproducts through their outlet. The senior executive of the super market Mr. Santosh Kumar evinced keen interest and requested NRCS to come up with a concrete proposal to supply

**समाचार सरांश**

पंचवार्षिक समीक्षा दल (QRT) की बैठक : राष्ट्रीय ज्वार अनुसंधान केंद्र में 30 जनवरी 2007 को डॉ. एस.एन. पुरी, माननीय कुलपति, केंद्रीय कृषि विश्वविद्यालय, इम्फाल की अध्यक्षता में पंचवार्षिक समीक्षा दल आया ।

**उन्नत ज्वार बाजार संबंधी नीतियों**

मेट्रो होलसेल मार्ट का दौरा : संस्थान के निदेशक तथा डॉ. बी दयाकर राव एवं डॉ. सी. रत्नानती ने कुकटपल्ली, हैदराबाद स्थित अत्यधिक सफल एवं बड़े सुपर मार्केट सर्वश्री मेट्रो होलसेल मार्ट के केंद्रों के माध्यम से ज्वार एवं उसके उत्पादों को लोकप्रिय बनाने के उद्देश्य से वहां के परिष्ठ कार्यकर्ता श्री संतोष कुमार से चर्चा की ।

स्नफकी फुड प्रा. लि. का दौरा : स्नफकी फुड प्रा. लि., महिला उद्यमियों द्वारा मशीन द्वारा बनाई गई रोटियों के प्रसार हेतु पंजीकृत एक लघु पैमाना उद्योग है । राष्ट्रीय ज्वार अनुसंधान केंद्र के दल ने इस कार्य हेतु मुख्यतः ज्वार तथा अन्य बहु-अनाज रोटियों की संभावनाओं के परीक्षणार्थ इसके केंद्र का दौरा किया ।

निगरानी दल द्वारा शादनगर स्थित BSP प्लाट का निरीक्षण : श्री रामचंद्र राव (APSSCA के नामिती), श्री रामचंद्र रेड्डी व श्रीमती विजयलक्ष्मी (APSSDC के नामिती), डॉ. कन्न बाबू, डॉ. एस.एल. कौल, डॉ. वी.ए. थोनपी तथा डॉ. टी.जी. नागेश्वर राव (रा.ज्वा.अनु.कें. के वैज्ञानिक) सम्मिलित निगरानी दल ने 18 जनवरी, 2007 को महबूब नगर जिले में शादनगर के समीप दुसकल ग्राम में 296A तथा 296B प्रजनक बीज उत्पादन क्षेत्रों का निरीक्षण किया । दल ने बीज की फसल को आनुवंशिक रूप से शुद्ध बताया ।

मीठी ज्वार से जैव-ईंधन का उत्पादन : जैव-ईंधन उत्पादन हेतु मीठी ज्वार पर आधारित एथनाल संयंत्र स्थापित करने के उद्देश्य से श्री वसंत कुमार उप महाप्रबंधक (परियोजना), सर्वश्री फूड्स फैट्स एंड फर्टिलाइजर (FFF), हैदराबाद 8 जनवरी 2007 को राष्ट्रीय ज्वार अनुसंधान केंद्र आए ।

डॉ. अशोक गडेवर द्वारा रा.ज्वा.अनु.कें. में कार्यभार ग्रहण : केंद्रीय आलू अनुसंधान संस्थान, शिमला में प्रधान वैज्ञानिक (पादप रोग विज्ञान) के रूप में कार्य कर रहे, डॉ. अशोक गडेवर ने 5 जनवरी 2007 को रा.ज्वा.अनु.कें. में कार्यभार ग्रहण किया ।

केंद्र में स्नातकोत्तर छात्रों का भ्रमण : कृषि वानस्पतिक विभाग, MPKV, राहुरी के स्नातकोत्तर के 10 सदस्यों का दल 5 जनवरी 2007 को रा.ज्वा.अनु.कें. में आया ।

शहीद दिवस : देशभर में 30 जनवरी 2007 को शहीद दिवस मनाया गया । इस अवसर पर उपस्थित स्टाफ सदस्यों ने दो मिनट मौन धारण कर, राष्ट्र के हितार्थ अपने प्राण न्योछावर करने वाली दिवंगत आत्माओं के प्रति श्रद्धांजलि अर्पित की ।

*हिंदी सारानुवाद : डॉ महेश कुमार*

sorghum products on regular basis. Uninterrupted supply of sorghum grain and its other products throughout the year is essential to pen the MoU for which a qualified and reliable consolidation is to be identified.

**Visit to Snaffy Foods Pvt Ltd:** Snaffy Foods Private Limited located at Hyderabad is a small scale enterprise, registered by a woman entrepreneur for the promotion of ready-to-eat, machine-made *chapattis*. NRCS team visited this unit to examine the opportunity to adopt this for making sorghum and multigrain *roties*. There was a demonstration of *chapathi* making machine, automatic kneading, packing machine and other accessories. Mr. Maliikarjuna Rao, the manager of the company narrated the performance of the machine and its other requirements. The machine costs Rs.16 lakhs and can produce 1200 *rotis* per hour. It requires electric power, cooking gas and three persons to operate. These *roties* are supplied to various hostels and hotels commercially. It was decided that a trial run with sorghum and multigrain flour for making *rotis* would be conducted with this machine.

### Monitoring team visit to BSP plot at Shadnagar

The monitoring team comprising Mr. Ramachandra Rao (nominee of APSSCA), Mr. Ramachandra Reddy and Mrs. Vijayalakshmi (nominees of APSSDC), Drs. N Kannababu, SL Kaul, VA Tonapi and TG Nageswara Rao (Scientists from NRCS) visited the breeder seed



*BSP team assessing the purity of seeds at the seed production plots of 296 A & B*

production plots of 296A & 296B at Duskal village near Shadnagar in Mehboobnagar District, on 18 January 2007. The monitoring team declared the seed crop as genetically pure. NRCS organized the seed production through APSSDC.

### NRCS project bags NFBSRA fund

An *ad hoc* research project on “*Induction of apomixis in sorghum by down-regulation of somatic embryogenesis receptor kinase gene in the ovules*” has been approved for funding to NRCS by the Empowered Committee of the National Fund for Basic and Strategic Research in

Agriculture, ICAR, chaired by Dr. CNR Rao, Chairman, Science Advisory Council to the PM, during the meeting held on January 8, 2007 at the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, Bangalore. The project is proposed with NRCS as lead centre in collaboration with CCMB, Hyderabad, and Delhi University for five years. Of the total grant of Rs. 155.5 lakh, Rs. 87.73 lakh is allocated for NRCS. The project was proposed by Dr. B Venkatesh Bhat. Sr. Scientist. *Congratulations to him!*



### Production of biofuel from sweet sorghum

Mr. Vasanth Kumar, Dy. Gen. Manager (projects), M/s. Foods, Fats and Fertilizer (FFF), Hyderabad visited



*Discussions in progress to set up a ethanol plant based on sweet sorghum for biofuel production*

NRCS on 8 Jan 07, on a mission to set up a ethanol plant based on sweet sorghum for biofuel production. The Company is mainly engaged in business of the oil-palm cultivation, manufacture of edible oils and its by-products, bakery shortenings and margarine, specialty fats, commodity trading, garments, power, etc. Dr. Vasanth Kumar sought the technical help from NRCS in establishing sweet-sorghum based distillery in Andhra Pradesh. As per his request, NRCS will identify and explore the suitable areas and seasons to grow sweet sorghum in coastal Andhra and Telangana regions. NRCS may also utilize the expertise of FFF in promoting value added food products from sorghum. This activity was coordinated by Dr. SS Rao, Senior Scientist.

### Dr Ashok Gadewar joins NRCS

Dr Ashok Gadewar (previously Principal Scientist, Central Potato Research Institute, Shimla) joined NRC Sorghum on 5 January 07. To start with, he will work at Solapur campus of NRCS. He joined ARS of ICAR as Scientist S1, and is Principal Scientist since 1998. He





established for the first time two-way virulence shift in *Ralstonia solanacearum* besides antibiotic induced virulence. He is on the editorial board of Indian Phytopathology and Indian Journal of Mycology & Plant Pathology. NRCS welcomes him to the sorghum family.

[ashok\\_gadewar\\_nrcss@nrcoresorghum.res.in](mailto:ashok_gadewar_nrcss@nrcoresorghum.res.in) is his email ID.

### Republic Day celebrated

The Nations 57<sup>th</sup> Republic Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm and gaiety on 26 January. The Director hoisted the National flag and addressed the staff. He reiterated the need to rededicate ourselves with a commitment to reach the challenges of the modern India.

### Martyrs' day observed

January 30 is observed as "Martyrs' day" all over the country. The staff members who were present at the office (though it is a holiday) to facilitate the QRT meeting, observed 2 minutes silence for praying for the souls of Mahatma Gandhi, the Jawans and other martyrs who sacrificed their life for the nation.

### Visit of PG Students

A team of 10 post-graduate students from Dept. of Agricultural Botany, MPKV, Rahuri visited NRCS on 5 January, 2007. They were exposed to different aspects in sorghum such as genetics resources management, application of biotechnological tools in crop



*Students being explained about various value addition products being developed from sorghum grain*

improvement, value-added products and alternate uses including sweet sorghum. Drs. Elangovan, Audilakshmi, Visarada, Ratnavathi and SS Rao have assisted in enlightening the participants on various research activities. Drs Sashidhar Reddy and VR Bhagwat coordinated this visit.

### Official tours

S. No	Name of the Official	Place visited	Dates	Purpose
1	Chari Appaji and VR Bhagwat	World wide chain healthy nutrition club, Hyderabad	3 Jan, 07	To see possible collaboration with nutrition club for popularization of sorghum products as health food.
2	B Venkatesh Bhat	JNCASR, Bangalore	8 Jan, 07	To present a project before the committee for funding through the National fund for basic and strategic research in agriculture.
3	VR Bhagwat, G. Shyam Prasad, HS Talwar, M Venketeswarulu	CRS, Solapur	9 – 12 Jan, 07	To monitor trials and record observations at Mulegaon farm.
4	N Seetharama, Prabhakar, HS Talwar, R Madhusudhana, B Venkatesh Bhat and D Balakrishna	UAS, Dharwad	12 Jan, 07	To participate in the review meeting of DBT network project on biotechnology of millets.
5	N Seetharama	CAU, Imphal	18-22 Jan, 07	To discuss with QRT chairman and to visit ICAR regional station to explore scope for cold-tolerant sorghum in this region.
6	Chari Appaji, HS Talwar, V Ravi Kumar	NRSA, Hyderabad	24 Jan, 07	To explore possible collaboration with NRSA
7	S Audilakshmi, C Aruna & S Ravi Kumar	Adoni & Nandyal	25 Jan, 06	To monitor certified seed production plots
8	N Seetharama	Tandur	27 Jan, 07	To monitor AICSIP rabi trials

## Meeting (M)/ Workshop (W)/ Training (T) attended

S. No	Name of the official	Participated in	Type	Venue	Date
1	P Mukesh, OV Ramana & K Revati	Fast track training on "SQL Server "	T	ORBIT Software training Institute. Hyderabad	20 Dec 06 to 6 Jan, 07
2	Chari Appaji, C Sashidhar Reddy, HS Talwar, M Elangovan, P Mukesh, V Ravi Kumar	National symposium on " <i>Application of space technologies for agricultural Development</i> " organized by A.P. State Remote Sensing Applications Centre (APSRAC) and ICAR.	S	Jubilee Hall, Hyderabad	19 Jan, 07
3	N Seetharama	National Seminar on " <i>Changing global vegetables oil scenario: Issues and challenges before India</i> "	S	DOR, Hyderabad	29 Jan, 06

### Thought for the month

*"It is hard to fail, but it is worse never to have tried to succeed."*

- Theodore Roosevelt

**Printed Matter / Book Post**

To



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