



# Happenings at NRC for Sorghum

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### In-house exhibition of research achievements of individual scientists

As a part of the annual evaluation and review process, and to receive critical feedback from the colleagues, most scientists held a display of their work. All exhibits, records, journals and conference papers, reports written during the year and the highlights of plans for 2004-05 were displayed for viewing by all scientists. Suggestions were offered for



Dr. Elangovan, Germplasm scientist, explaining the new germplasm lines collected during the year



Dr. Audilakshmi making a point during the annual review

further improvement of the individual programs by other colleagues on informal basis. We got a great sense of



Dr. SS Rao, stressing on the new findings in physiology

satisfaction from this exercise since it boosts self-confidence of staff by providing an amicable atmosphere for reviving constructive criticism.

### Review of program by SN Shukla, ADG (FFC), and other visitors

On his two day visit to NRC Sorghum during 22- 23 June, Dr SN Shukla, ADG (FFC), reviewed the progress made by different disciplines of sorghum research and visited the laboratories. He expressed satisfaction over the efforts being made by various scientists in different projects and



Dr. SN Shukla, ADG(ICAR) showing keen interest in the initiatives taken in the bioassay of Bt transgenics for stem borer control

especially appreciated the work being done under the projects "Bioassay of Bt transgenics of stem borer", "Phenotypic of RILs of 296 B X IS 18551" and "Bio-control of stem borer". In his address to the scientists on the second day, he emphasized the need for better rapport amongst scientists and administrative staff. He stressed the need for dedicated and selfless efforts to achieve the set targets and mandate of the institute. Later, detailed discussions were held on the approaches to break yield plateau in sorghum. The ongoing work to increase the resistance levels for various biotic and abiotic stresses were reviewed. All the breeders and the scientists from other disciplines gave their

views and contemplated means of achieving the set goals. **Dr ST Borikar**, Prof & Head (Genetics & Plant Breeding), MAU, Parbhani, also participated in the meeting and presented his views on making sorghum production more profitable.

### Review meeting of NATP Project on “Total grain quality management of kharif sorghums”

NATP Project on “*Total grain quality management of kharif sorghums* (TGQM)” was reviewed on 4 June, at NRCS. Dr N Seetharama in his inaugural address urged the group to identify the viable and cost-effective technology for improving total grain quality of kharif sorghum and to make it more user friendly, especially for the small farming communities. Members included scientists, SRFs and technical officers from MAU-Parbhani, PDVK-Akola, UAS-



*The TGQM meet in progress*

Dharwad, IGMRI-Hyderabad and NRCS. They reviewed the work-done and formulated future technical programme.

Keeping in view the fact that the kharif sorghum quality deteriorates due to heavy rains and becomes non-remunerative, new technologies were demonstrated to the farmers for improving kharif grain quality. The group felt that, farmers were significantly benefited from the new technology. It was further decided to fabricate low-cost driers using farm waste as fuel in the districts of Parbhani (Mah), Dharwad (Kar) and Mahboobnagar (AP). Dr Sonni, Prof. of Agri. Engg., MAU-Parbhani presented the design for the low cost drier who further modified it according to the suggestions made by the group. The demonstration of low cost drier will be done on a large scale by inviting farmers in three districts. It was also decided to increase the on-farm demonstration to 40 farmers in the above districts. Congratulations to Dr. Audilakshmi (PI) who organised the meeting successfully.

### Visit of Administrative Review Committee (ICAR)

An Administrative review of NRCS was held on 14 and 15th June led by Sh. Sanjay Gupta, Dy. Sec. (Admn), ICAR. He inspected various records including service books, CCR folders, reservation rosters, asset register, bank



*Sh. Sanjay Gupta ,Dy. Sec. (Admin), ICAR in conversation with the Director and Admn. Officer, Mr. KJ Mathai*

reconciliation statement, outstanding advances, purchase files, etc. A report was prepared by the Director, and follow-up steps have been announced.

### Institute’s Biosafety Committee Meeting

The Institute Biosafety Committee (IBSC) met under the Chairmanship of the Director on 11 June. Dr. V Dashwantha Reddy, Director, CPMB was the DBT nominee. Dr. Nuzhath Fathima, Medical Officer and Members Drs. SL Kaul, TG Nageshwar Rao and PG Padmaja attended it. The committee recommended continuation of all ongoing projects. Dr. SV Rao, Member Secretary organized the above meeting. Final report has been sent to DDG (CS) and to Dr. Ramaiah, Advisor, DBT(GOI).

### Collaboration with Vivo-bio

**Mr. Hari Reddy**, Vice-President, *Vivo biotech Ltd.* Secunderabad, visited NRCS on 8 June 2004. He discussed with us at NRCS on various possibilities for collaboration in the areas of computational biology and genomics. The company offered their propriety software free of cost for possible joint work and NRCS described the possibility for developing applications in plant biology. The visit was reciprocated by the NRCS team and some work on comparative mapping for drought and shoot fly meristems has been initiated.

### Departmental promotions

- ◆ Category –III Assessment committee meeting was held on 16 June 2004 to consider one promotion case from T6 to T7 in Field and Farm Technicians group.
- ◆ A Selection committee meeting was held on 24 June, to consider promotion cases of scientists in three disciplines.

### Transfers

- ◆ Dr B Subbarayudu, Scientist (Sr. Scale) has been transferred to NRCS(CRS), Solapur from NRCS, Hyderabad.
- ◆ Mr. Pramod Kumar, Tech. officer (T6) NRCS Hyderabad, has been transferred to NRCS(CRS), Solapur
- ◆ Dr IK Das, Scientist (Sr. Scale) has been transferred to NRCS Hyderabad from NRCS(CRS), Solapur.

### IJSC and Grievance Cell meeting

The Institute Joint Staff Council met under the Chairmanship of the Director on 29 June. Regarding the common facilities available at this center, the IJSC felt happy and expressed this during the meeting. There were no complaint received from staff to discuss during this meeting.

The Institute Grievance cell met on the same day. This was the first meeting after the formation of the new cell. The general functioning of the cell and the action to be initiated were detailed by the AAO (Establishment).

### Institute’s Linkage programme

Demonstrations are laid down during the kharif season under the linkage programs at different areas through KVK’s. Demonstaions are being conducted in 15 ha area each at KVK, CRIDA in Rangareddy district, KVK, Kaavur,



in Guntur district and OSN Warangal, in Warangal district, and conducted in 5 ha area through AICRP on forages, Rajendranagar, in Ranga Reddy district and through Institute -Village linkage programme involving 10 farmers (One ha. each) in Mehboobnagar district. Linkages were also established for demonstration of the production potential of sorghum with Ramakrishna Mission Ashram, Ranchi and CARI, Port Blair. The dual-purpose sorghum variety CSV 15, bred by NRCS is being demonstrated in all above demonstrations.

## Visits

**Dr. Vilas Tonapi** visited ICRISAT on 15 June for a discussion with Dr RP Thakur, Pr. Scientist (Plant Pathology) on *grain mold project* and the collaborative work in progress since 2000. He also visited the Centre for Plant Molecular Biology of Osmania University on 28 June, and met Dr V Dashwantha Reddy to discuss on the possible project on *seed longevity in millets*. A preliminary project proposal was prepared.

**Drs. S Ravi Kumar, B Subbarayudu & Chari Appaji** visited villages around Karkalpahad, Mehboobnagar district, AP, on 14 June to monitor the on-farm trials. Spraying of NSKE (Neem seed kernel extract) liquid was undertaken at Maisagundi village. The field had low infestation of red hairy caterpillar. The insects caterpillar were seen feeding on sorghum, pigeonpea and weed species on the field boundary. Due to continuous dry period, the crop was



*Drs. Chary Appaji and B Subbarayudu inspecting the infestation of red hairy caterpillar (inset)*

under drought stress in all farmers' fields.

**Drs. S Ravi Kumar, B Subbarayudu & Chari Appaji** visited KVK at Kavoor, in Guntur district, Andhra Pradesh, on 29 June to understand and record the experiences of the farmers who had grown sorghum during last rabi-summer seasons (2003-04). The survey revealed mixed experiences with losses in a low-land situation where sorghum was grown after rice. While good yields ranging from 5 to 10 q per acre under fallow-sorghum rotation were recorded. The team also visited Bapatla Agricultural College to interact and review the experiences of soil scientists in the area of salinity research. The strengths of the group can be fully utilized to develop sorghum genotypes for problem soils.

## Visitors

**Dr. DR Bapat**, former Dir. of Research, MPKV, Rahuri visited NRCS on 25 June. He had brief discussions with Director, Drs CV Ratnavathi and B Dayakar Rao about the sweet sorghum production technology and commercialization. He also visited the crop utilization lab



*Dr. Bapat and scientists discuss the prospects of commercialization of Sweet Sorghum.*

and biotechnology units.

**Eight Extension officers** of Dept. of Agri., Karnataka visited NRCS on 11 June under exchange of extension functioning programme. They were explained the recent advances in sorghum cultivation and management to them.

**A group of 20 farmers** including 3 women visited NRCS on 18 June from Gaddipalli village, Nalgonda District under the training programme conducted by the Arabindo Krishi Vigyan Kendra. The group was led by Sh. B Rami Reddy, Farm Superintendent. Recommended sorghum production technology for grain and fodder cultivation was explained to them by the extension unit.



*Dr. Shashidhar Reddy, Extension scientist, explaining salient features of sorghum production technology to the farmers*

## Trainings / Seminars/ Meetings

**Dr. S Audilakshmi** attended a training programme on "*Leadership and personality development*" conducted by NAARM, Hyderabad during 17-23 June, 2004.

**Drs. BU Singh, C Aruna & R Madhusudhana** participated in the Asian Development Bank (ADB) review meeting on the project entitled "*Rapid crop improvement for poor farmers in the semi arid tropics*" organized by ICRISAT on 15 June, 2004.

**Dr. Chari Appaji** attended workshop on "*Assessment of reasons for farmers suicides in AP and measures to avoid such mishaps*" organized by ANGRAU, Hyd. on 8 June, 2004.

**Mr. Ganesh Babu** an M.Sc. Student from Vellore College, Vellore, Tamil Nadu, was trained in laboratory techniques in biotechnology from 26 May to 25 June, 2004.

## Membership drive for Society for Millets Research

The "Society for Millets Research", was registered under AP Societies Regn. Act, 2001 (Act) with Registrar of societies, RR district, Andhra Pradesh (Regn. No 395/2004). The society was formed with the amalgamation of erstwhile "Sorghum Society" as per the decisions of the general body meeting held at TNAU, Coimbatore on 21 May. This society will be a common platform for researchers, farmers, teachers, policy makers, administrators, industries and students engaged in the endeavour to enhance production, productivity and utilization of millets, covering sorghum, pearl millet and all small millets.

### Aims and objectives :

- ◆ To advance the cause of millets and promote research and development on millets and millet-based cropping systems
- ◆ To disseminate knowledge on millets through lectures, seminars, publications and exchanges
- ◆ To promote alternate and industrial uses of millets, and develop national, international and academia-industry collaboration

### Planned activities for the near future:

- ◆ Conduct seminars and symposia
- ◆ Publication of Journals, bulletins, reports and sponsored monographs on various aspects of millets

### Office bearers:

1. President : Dr. NGP Rao, Former Chairman, ASRB
2. Vice-president : Dr. IS Khairwal, PC (Pearl Millet)
3. General Secretary : Dr. N Seetharama, Director, NRCS
4. Joint Secretary : Dr. KT Krishne Gowda, PC (Small Millets)
5. Treasurer : Dr. Vilas A Tonapi, Sr. Scientist, NRCS
6. Executive members : Dr. BVS Reddy, Pr. Scientist, ICRISAT  
Dr. Y Yogeshwar Rao, President,  
Seedsman Assoc

### Membership fees details:

Category	Subscription fees
Corporate Membership	Rs. 5000/- (one time)
Life Membership	Rs. 2400/- (one time)
Annual Membership	Rs. 200/- (per annum)
Student Membership	Rs. 100/- (per annum)

We request you to become the life member of this society. Please circulate this note in your organization and beyond (to private sector) and encourage them to become members to advance the cause of millets research and development. We specially request corporate to become patrons by donating at least Rs. 15000 or more . They may also sponsor special activities, honors, or fellowships to encourage R&D and commercialisation of these crops.

To subscribe your membership kindly send a DD for requisite amount in favour of "Society for Millets Research" payable at Hyderabad-500030 to Dr N Seetharama, Secretary, Society for Millets Research, NRCS, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad-500030. Phones: 040-24015225, 040-24015349, Fax: 040-240156378

## Popular articles

**Drs. B Subbarayudu, S Ravi Kumar and Chari Appaji** published a popular article in Telugu entitled "*Jonna, saija, raagi pantalanasinche purugulu- Nivarana*" (Insect pests of Jowar, Bajra and Raagi and their protective measures) in an agricultural journal *Annadata*, June, 2004 pp 29-31.

## Dosa from Sorghum flour

The delegates at 34<sup>th</sup> AICSIP group meeting at Coimbatore had a treat of sorghum *dosa* breakfast. The process of making sorghum *dosa* involves soaking whole sorghum grains and blackgram for 6 hours, grinding separately into smooth dough and mixing them in 3 : 2 proportions. After fermentation for 8 hours, the dough can be laid in the form of a thin *dosa* or thick *uttappam* to relish with tasty *chutnies*.



1 :The *dosa* dough;  
2-7: *Uttappams* and *dosas* getting ready;  
8: Delegates relishing *dosa* breakfast

## Thought for the month

***Work joyfully and peacefully, knowing that right thoughts and right efforts inevitably bring about right results.***

**James Allen**

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