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National meeting on multi-cut forage

One day national meeting on multi-cut forage was held at Directorate of Maize Research (DMR), IARI Campus, New Delhi on 2 March 2005. The program is basically organized by NRC Sorghum, Hyderabad at New Delhi. DDG (CS) and ADG (FFC) and also the Director of DMR, New Delhi participated. Many suggestions for the development and improvement of strategic plan on sorghum. Technical program was drafted by Dr. RPS Grewal, CCSHAU, Hisar, for the year 2005-06.

G. Kalloo, DDG (CS & Hort) visit to NRCS

Dr. G Kalloo visited Sorghum nursery and GTC areas of NRCS on Monday, March, 2005. Drs. S Audilakshmi, A Umakanth and PK Biswas explained the on-going



DDG in conversation with NRCS Scientists at GTC field

research to him. Overall, the DDG was quite satisfied with the progress. Further discussion on our breeding projects was held on 8 March between the Director and the DDG for about 30 minutes.

Sorghum stall at *Kisan Mela*, Jagitial.

NRCS exhibited a stall at the *Kisan Mela*, organized by the Regional Agricultural Research Station, Polasa, near Jagitial in Karimnagar District of AP, on 25 March. Mr. M Satyanarayana Rao, Hon'ble Minister of Endowments, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, Members of board managements, ANGRAU officials, scientists from various research stations, farmers and farm women and men farmers visited our sorghum stall where we displayed photos of farmer's sweet sorghum fields at Chittoor, and samples of sorghum byproducts. Dr. Ch. Sashidhar Reddy explained the visitors about recent developments in sorghum improvement, alternate uses and industrial utilization. Information pamphlets in Telugu specially prepared for the meeting were distributed to the farmers.

Field day and Interaction meet

Field day and an interaction meet was organized for private institutions at NRCS on 19 March, 2005 NRCS scientific staff and scientists from seven private organization participated in the field day and the meet. In



in sorghum field

the morning session, the experiments on A₂ cytoplasm, A₂ restorer development and rabi hybrids (by Dr. Kaul), A₁ MS and R lines, derivatives having new germplasm showing improved quality and yield traits (Dr. Audilakshmi), F₃ and F₄ derivatives of crosses between elite and shoot fly resistant sources (Dr. Aruna), Dual purpose derivatives with improved stover quality and A₃ and A₄ based hybrids (Dr. Umakanth), sweet sorghum and high protein and yellow endosperm, and rabi germplasm (Dr. Elangovan), and experiments on production management of sweet sorghum (Drs. S.S. Rao and CV Ratnavathi) were shown in the fields. The genetic material was appreciated and some concrete suggestions for improvement were given by the visitors.

In the afternoon, new strategies, future thrust on sorghum research were discussed during interaction session. There was a suggestion from private organizations that NRCS should concentrate on breeding for both early duration (for intercropping) and late materials to avoid grain moulds. The selection criteria for advancing the genotypes in multilocation trial were presented by the Director, Dr. N. Seetharama. The suggestion that criteria be fixed in a year in advance with minimal changes in the subsequent years, was agreed to.

Meeting with DG and staff of ILRI at ICRISAT

Director, NRCS participated in the meeting with the DG and other staff of ILRI at ICRISAT on 4 March 2005, where the the work under ILRI's program was reviewed. NRCS involvement under this program is mainly in the area of sorghum stover quality. Recently ICAR has signed an agreement with ILRI. One of the important areas for official collaboration is on food & fodder crops, where sorghum has been identified as the significant crop. NRCS will make extensive use of lab facilities available at ILRI lab, ICRISAT.

Seed day at Breeder seed production plots

The seed day was organized on 11 March, 2005 at 296 A and 296 B breeder seed production plots at NRCS by



Dr. N. Kannababu. The scientific fraternity of various disciplines participated in this seed day and discussed the on issues of genetic purity and seed setting.

Sweet sorghum germplasm day

Sweet sorghum germplasm day organized on 5th March 2005 at demonstration plot, NRCS. A total of 20 scientists were attended and selected their desirable sweet sorghum germplasm lines

Meeting of Society for Millet Research

Second executive council meeting of Society for Millet Research was held on 28 March at NRCS. The council under the chairmanship of Dr. NGP Rao discussed on the draft constitution and by laws for its finalization. The council also deliberated on proposed logo of the society, inaugural function of the society and souvenir to be

brought out during that occasion.

BSP monitoring team visit

The monitoring team comprising of Mr. N Rajendra Prasad, chief seed certification officer, APSSCA, Mr. B.



Ashok Reddy, Chief seed production manager, APSSDC, Sr. S. Pooranchand, Sr. Scientist, RARS, Palem, Dr. SL Kaul, Pr. Scientist visited for inspection of 296 A & 296B BSP plots at NRCS on 5 March. The monitoring team appreciated the genetic purity, best seed set and crop expression. Dr. N. Kannababu conducted the seed production programme and organized the monitoring team visit.

Monitoring team visit of CSH 16 seed multiplication plots

The senior seed certification officer (SSCO), APPSC and his team from Gadwal visited the CSH 16 seed production plots at Lingareddyguda village of Shadnagar on 28th February 2005. The monitoring team appreciated the genetic purity, best seed set and crop expression. Drs. S. Audilakshmi and C Aruna coordinated the visit. Further, there will be another national meeting at New Delhi on 13 April, 2005 to deliberate on policy matters.

Appreciation for sorghum team

The brief presentation on Sweet sorghum as biofuel, made by the Director, NRCS at the one day brainstorming session on "Alternate Fuels" organized at Administrative Staff college of India, Hyderabad received much appreciation from the audience. The meet was held on 16 March and many dignitaries from across the country participated. Drs. CV Ratnavathi and B. Dayakar Rao from NRCS also participated in the deliberations.

Radio talk

Dr. N Kannababu, Scientist (Sr. Scale), delivered a radio talk on "Hybrid jonna vitthanothpathi – melukuvalu" (Hybrid seed production in sorghum – Techniques) through All India Radio on 8 March, 2005

AICSIP News

New hybrids / Varieties released

The following crop varieties have been identified for the nationwide release at the meeting held by the central sub committee on crop standards, notification and release of varieties on 21 March 2005. However, the notification is awaited from Ministry of Agriculture.

Rabi variety -	CSV 18 (SPV 1595) Developed by Parbhani
Sweet sorghum -	CSV 19 SS (RSSV 9) Developed by Akola
Multi-cut forage -	CSH 20 MF (UPMCH 1101) Developed by Pantnagar

NRCS congratulates the above centres, all the persons who involved directly and indirectly and contributed their best in this progression.

Technical staff meeting

The fifth meeting of technical staff with the Director was held on March 31, 2005. Many issues pertaining to the welfare of the technical staff were discussed in detail. Staff members extended their gratitude for the continued support and welfare measures initiated by the director.

Visitors

Ten Agricultural officers from Department of Agriculture, Haryana State visited NRCS on 17 March, as part of their educational tour to Hyderabad. They visited Museum, Pathology labs and they were appraised about the new production and protection technologies. Dr. Sashidhar Reddy coordinated the visit.

Women's day Observed

On the eve of International women's day on 8 March, it was observed by the NRCS women scientists. They visited old age home ("Aramghar"- for men and women) at Sivrampalli, Hyderabad. Fruits and clothes were distributed to the senior citizens and they spent some time with them. The team was lead by Dr. S Indira, Principal Scientist.

Meetings / Symposia / Conference/ Training attended

S. No	Name of the official	Participated in	Venue	Date
1.	Dr. CV Ratnavathi	National seminar on "Food safety and quality control in India"	ANGRAU, Hyderabad	2-4 March 2005
2	Dr. M. Elangovan	Regional Training Programme for the "Stakeholders identified for Southern Zone under the Global Plan of Action (GPA) for PGRFA"	NBPGR (RS), Hyderabad.	7- 8 March, 2005
3	Dr. M. Elangovan	One day symposium on "Advances in Plant Sciences, and delivered the keynote address on GIS - for Biodiversity Mapping".	American College, Madurai	11 March, 2005
4	Dr. S. Indira	National conference on "Biopiracy - a threat to national wealth of biological resources" organized by the Department of Botany, Osmania University.	Osmania University, Hyderabad	22 March, 2005
5	Dr. B. Dayakar Rao	Training and sensitization on establishment of PEM cells at various ICAR institutes	NCAP, New Delhi	17 -18 March, 2005
6	Dr. KV Raghavendra Rao	National workshop cum training programme on "Role of Bioinformatics in Agriculture"	Central Research Institute for Jute and Allied Fibres, Kolkata.	19 -24 March, 2005
7	Drs. S Ravikumar, R Madhusudhana & Mr. Ravindra babu	One day training programme on "Web of science - Literature search"	NAARM, Hyderabad	21 March, 2005
8	Dr.SS Rao	Workshop on "Molecular breeding for improving traits associated with drought tolerance".	UAS, Bangalore,	25-27 March, 2005

Tours of NRCS scientists

S. No	Name of the Scientist	Place visited	Dates	Purpose
1	Dr. SS Rao	Perumallapalle and Chittoor, AP	3- 5 March, 2005	To evaluate the sweet sorghum trials and crop in the farmers' field
2	Dr. AV Umakanth	CRS, Solapur	3 - 5 March , 2005	To carry out selections in segregating generations and monitor the hybrids performance under the NATP-MM project.
3	Drs. S.Audilakshmi & C. Aruna	Lingareddyguda, Mehboobnagar Dist. AP.	4 & 15 March, 2005	To take up harvesting of CSH 16 seed multiplication plots.
4	Sh. KJ Mathai, AO.	OSN, Warangal	21 March, 2005	To pursue the "Land Lease Deed Agreement" of OSN, at MRO office, Warangal and incorporating it in the permanent revenue records of the State Govt. for official purposes.
5	Dr. N Seetharama	New Delhi	22 March, 2005	To participate in the 40th meeting of Central sub-committee of crop-standards notification and release of varieties
6	Dr. Vilas Tonapi	Wheat rust research station, Mahabaleshwar; KSSC, Bellary & UAS, Dharwad	7-14 March, 2005	To record data on cold tolerance; synchrony experiments and visit seed production plots.
7	Dr. SS Rao	ZARS, UAS Mandya.	28 March, 2005	To monitor SSV 84 seed production field at Mandya

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