



Happenings at NRC for Sorghum

Serial No. 9

Hyderabad ? Solapur ? Warangal

May,

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A session in progress during annual AICSIP meet

Annual sorghum group meeting at TNAU Coimbatore

The 34th Annual sorghum group meeting was conducted at Coimbatore during 20-22 May under



Dr. S Ramaswamy delivering the key note address during the introductory session

the patronage of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University. Dr. C Ramaswamy, Vice-chancellor, TNAU was the



Delegates in apt attention during the proceedings of the meeting

chief guest. A total of 175 participants including most AICSIP centre scientists and those from NRCS,

ICRISAT, private seed industry, non-governmental organizations and the host university enthusiastically participated. Progress reports of various disciplines were presented and discussed thoroughly during the sessions. Presentations on Intellectual Property Rights, Population improvement, International and national sorghum trade, and Seed legislation were also made. Dr. N Seetharama thanked ICAR, TNAU, and all individual participants and guests for making the workshop a success. Follow-up actions are already initiated. Full proceedings are being dispatched separately.

Workshop on "Application of biotechnological tools for millet improvement"

A one-day programme formulation workshop on "Application of biotechnological tools for millet improvement" was conducted at NRCS on 15 May. This meeting was sponsored by the DBT. Major objective of this meeting was to develop a few network projects on millets improvement. A total of 40 participants including Dr VP Gupta, Advisor, DBT, and Dr. RR Sinha, Director, DBT, New Delhi and



Drs. G Pakki Reddy, VP Gupta, N Seetharama and RR Sinha deliberating during the DBT sponsored meeting

other scientific fraternity from ICAR, ICGEB, ICRISAT,



A cross section of the delegates at the meeting on "Application of biotechnological tools for millet improvement"

IPE, APNL project, SAUs and traditional universities actively participated. Minutes of the meeting are being circulated and new network projects will be proposed in June 2004.

Evaluation committee reviewed FLD programme

Dr. JP Tandon, former ADG (ICAR) and Mr. Vijay Kumar, Technical Advisor, New Delhi, constituting evaluation committee on front-line demonstrations, commissioned by Ministry of Agriculture, GOI, New Delhi visited NRCS on 19 May. They reviewed the progress of FLD programme conducted during the period 1998-99 - 2002-03. Dr. Chari Appaji explained the progress and impact of FLDs on sorghum, and submitted detailed documents to the evaluation committee. Dr. SV Rao, In-charge Director, facilitated this review meeting.

Anti-terrorism Day observed

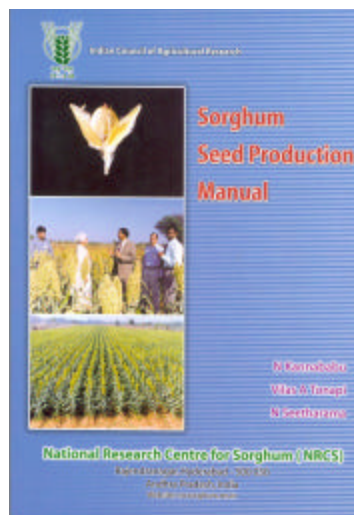
The Anti-terrorism Day was observed on 21 May in the institute. All the staff members attended it under the chairmanship of Dr. SV Rao, in-charge Director, and taken the pledge in Hindi and English, to eradicate terrorism from our motherland.

New publications released

The following publications were released at the 34th annual sorghum group meeting held at Coimbatore during 20-22 May. These publications are available for sale (see below for details).

1. Sorghum seed production manual

This manual provides complete information on sorghum seed production technology including floral biology, anthesis, pollination, maintenance breeding, seed production principles, certification, testing, quality control, Seed Acts of 1966 & 1968 and Draft Seed Bill 2002. The proforma related to breeder seed production and quality control aspects in foundation and hybrid seed production are also annexed. A detailed glossary of the technical terms

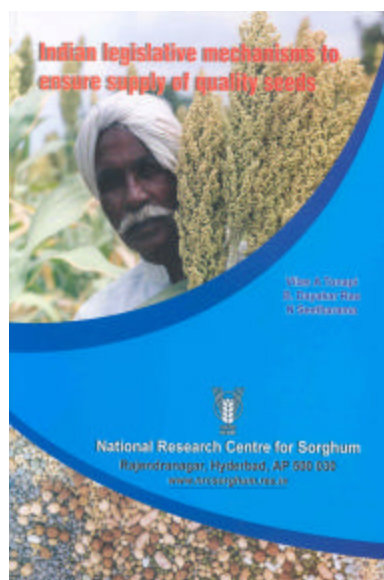


often used is also included.

(Authors: Drs. N Kannababu, Vilas A Tonapi and N Seetharama; Pages: 110; Price: Rs. 200/- + Postage Rs. 25/- extra)

Indian legislation mechanisms to ensure supply of quality seeds

This publication represents synthesis of thinking of various experts from different angles, and analysis



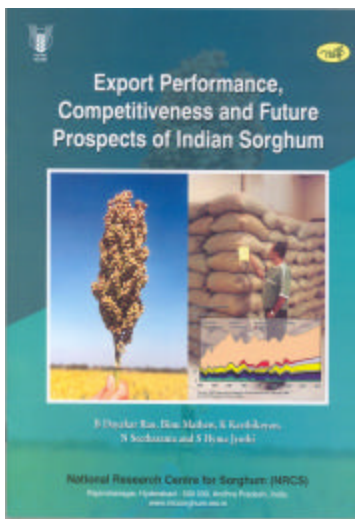
of various issues for the benefit of all involved in seed industry in India. It covers all scientific and legislative issues such as seed systems, quality assurance, history and growth of Indian seed industry, issues during post-WTO era, National seed policy and its implication, protection of plant varieties and

Farmers Right Act 2001, Drafts Seed Bill 2002, plant quarantine order (Regulation of import into India) 2004. A list of seed development corporations, certification agencies and private seed agencies are also annexed.

(Authors: Drs. Vilas A Tonapi, B Dayakar Rao and N seetharama; Pages: 62 ; Price : Rs.100/- + Postage Rs. 25/- extra)

3 Export performance, competitiveness and future prospects of Indian sorghum

A booklet entitled "Export performance, competitiveness and future prospects of Indian sorghum" written by B. Dayakar Rao *et al*, summarizing findings from the NATP projects (RNPS-6 & 7) was released. This 12 page booklet mainly deals with the world sorghum production and trade scenario, analyzing in a nutshell the scope for future export promotion of sorghum. To



make sorghum export competitive, a reduction in per unit cost of production is sought through production efficiency and technological innovations.

(Authors: Drs. B Dayakar Rao, Binu Mathew, K. Karthikeyan, N seetharama and S Hyma Jyothi; Pages: 12 ; Price : Rs. 30/- + Postage Rs. 15/- extra)

Hyderabad.

New arrivals at Library

The following new books are available in our library for reference.

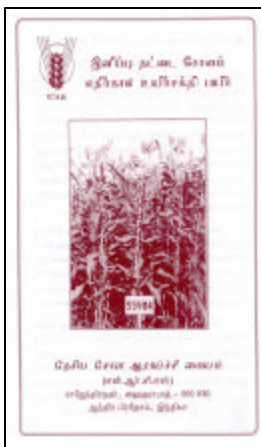
1. **Infopath 2003 - A beginner's Guide**
- by David Mc Amis
2. **Cooking for Diabetics**
- by Satarupa Banerjee

Visitors

Bulletins in Tamil on Sorghum production technology and Sweet sorghum information

For copies of above publications, DD should be drawn in favour of "ICAR UNIT-NRCS, HYDERABAD" and addressed to the Director, NRC for Sorghum, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad-500 030.

A broacher on sorghum production technology in Tamil language entitled "Improved production technologies for higher sorghum production" (*Cholothil athiga magasul pera puthiya sagupadi kurippugal*) authored by M Elangovan *et al* was released by Dr. TS Ravindran, Director, Centre for plant breeding and genetics, TNAU during annual group meeting at Coimbatore. Another on "Sweet stalk sorghum – future bio-energy crop" (*Inippu thattai cholam – Ethrikala uyirsakthi payir*) authored by CV Ratnavathi *et al.*, was also released by the Director. These booklets were translated in Tamil by Dr. M Elangovan, Scientist and Sh. Varanavasiappan, SRF, both from NRCS,



Review of annual performance management and forward planning exercise at NRCS

All scientists met during the first week of April, 2004 for 3 days to review the progress by each scientist during the year and to identify the shortfalls, if any. The contours of programme for 2004-05 were also discussed especially in relation to inter-disciplinary interactions and collaboration with AICSIP scientists. This was followed by filling of new performance evaluation form and review. Scientists also took time to meticulously plan for kharif experiments based on previous results. This time such plans included estimated costs and monitoring mechanisms so that we can get best for the efforts we make. A calendar of activity for kharif is also under publication.

Dr. TS Ravindran, Director, Centre for plant breeding and genetics, TNAU, Coimbatore visited NRCS on 14 May 2004.

Dr. VP Gupta, Advisor, DBT, and **Dr. RR Sinha**, Director, DBT, Min. of Science & Technology, New Delhi visited NRCS on 15 May. Director discussed with them regarding new network projects to be proposed to DBT.

Dr. VS Gautham, Sr. Scientist, JNKVV, Indore visited NRCS on 27 May. He has been appraised of the current research activities at NRCS and provided with the latest available information and literature.

Tours

Dr. VA Tonapi, visited Wheat Rust Research Station, Mahabaleshwar during 26 –30 May, to record the seed-set data for cold tolerance experiment being conducted there.

Meetings/conference/symposia attended

Dr. N Seetharama attended the inaugural session of the “workshop on vegetable crops” at ANGRAU, on 27 May.

Drs. Chari Appaji and **S Ravi Kumar** participated in the 10th working group meeting of *All India Coordinated Research project on Dry land Agriculture* at CRIDA, Hyderabad during 11-12 May 2004. Chari also participated in the meeting on 6 May at Doordarshan, Hyderabad and submitted the list of talks to be delivered by scientists of NRCS for telecast in the *Gram Darshani* programme. Further he attended the Rural Programme Advisory Committee meeting conducted by All India Radio , Hyderabad on 7 May and presented the list of talks to be delivered by scientists of NRCS to the Director, AIR.

Family news

Sh. P Narsimha, SSG II, performed the marriage of his daughter Ms. Maheshwari with Mr. Lingam, on 7 May, 2004.



Sh. S

Officer (T-5) performed the

Lalaiah,
Technical



marriage

of his daughter Ms. Shobha Rani with Mr. Shankaraiah on 13 May 2004.

Many staff attended the above marriages and blessed the couples for a happy married life.



Mr. AD Siddhartha S/o. Ms. Vishala Devender, Technical Officer (T-6) scored 518 marks out of 600 in the SSC examination. NRCS congratulates him for this achievement.

Tips for safe storage of data and economic usage of stationary

- Delete duplicate files, or old versions. Even *.BAK may be deleted after you backup.
- Switch-off your computer if not being used for long, or at least switch-off the monitor, if energy control software does not operate in your machine. Prevent screen burnout, and save electricity. Do not allow hard-disc to be idle for more than 30 min.
- Use paper sparingly, and use draft mode whenever you can and save the toner.

Thought for the month

Intolerance itself is a form of violence and an obstacle to the growth of a true democratic spirit

- Mahatma Gandhi

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