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Training-cum-Workshop on "Biodiversity & IPR in relation to Agrarian and seed sector reforms in India"

A four-day training-cum-learning workshop on "Biodiversity and Intellectual Property Rights in relation to Agrarian and Seed sector reforms in India" was organized for the benefit of



Dr. R K Samanta, Director, NAARM, delivering the inaugural address



Participants deliberating on IPR issues in one of the sessions

seed and agro-industry at NRCS from 17 - 20 November, 2004. A total of 30 delegates representing from private and public sector seed companies, seed certification agency and agricultural universities participated in the meeting. The event was inaugurated by Dr. VC Vivekanandan, Coordinator, NALSAR university and Dr. RK Samanta, Director, NAARM, Hyderabad presided. Two publications- namely "Legislative mechanisms for conserving biodiversity and protection of IPR in India" and "Sorghum Germplasm Characterization and Evaluation" were released on the occasion by the visiting dignitaries.

Topics covered were: Changing context of IPR, patent/ trade mark / copyright acts, WTO and AOA on agrarian development and seed sector reforms in India, role of the State – policy-making, regulatory issues, research institutions and private sector R & D in the changing context, Implications of privatization of R&D on international trade, social relations, dynamics of interrelations between peasantry on one hand and state and the market on the other, Implications of Indian legislative mechanisms – biodiversity, seed policy, seed laws, farmers rights and plant variety protection: risk and safety issues, geographical indications and traditional agricultural knowledge of the peasantry and rural communities and International and Civil society organizations' response to Indian legislations and IPR mechanisms. The emerging recommendations and proceedings will be circulated shortly. The publications released are available for sale. (See our website)

The valedictory address was delivered by Dr. EA Siddiq, Former DDG (CS), ICAR. This course was coordinated by Drs. Vilas A. Tonapi, M Elangovan and R Kalpana Sastry.

Novel technique to induce flowering in sorghum x sugarcane hybrids

NRCS received 10 plants of the inter-generic hybrid *Sorghum bicolor* X *Saccharum officinarum* (ICSA 56 x IJ 76-316) (2n =124) from the SBI, Coimbatore. Various experiments were conducted involving treatment with plant hormones, and chemicals to induce flowering. Normally, sugarcane and its hybrids flower at Coimbatore climatic conditions. Considering this specificity of climate the photo-periodic and hormonal treatments were given to induce flowering at this centre. Three plants of the hybrid that have received these treatments produced panicles. The treatments have lengthened nodes and made the plants tall with a number of leaves. By this technique the plants attained more than three times the normal height (3m tall) and started flowering. The control (1m tall) plants did not flower. The flowering hybrids were used for back-crossing with Sorghum.



Visit of delegation from Ethiopia

A five member delegation comprising Mr. Sewagegn Tariku, Crop Breeder, Mr. Bayeh Berihun, Horticulturist, Mr. Daniel

Tilahun, Extensionist, Mr. Yirga Alemu, Natural Resources Division, and Mr. Muluneh Nigatu, Development Officer from



Ethiopian visitors being appraised of latest developments in sweet and alternate uses of sorghum

AMAREW project, Ethiopia visited NRCS on 4 November as a part of their study tour to India.

NRCS hosts briefed the members on the mandate and achievements of the centre in a nutshell, and showed the samples of different cultivars in museum. The team was provided with latest information, brochures and bulletins. The team also visited standing crop areas, biotechnology units, and the new stem borer laboratory where transgenics are screened for borer resistance.

Inspection of BSP plots

The breeder seed production plots of CS 3541 & C 43 at NRCS organized by Dr. N Kannababu, Seed Scientist, were



Breeder seed monitoring team ascertaining genetic purity in CS 3541 seed production plot

inspected by the monitoring team comprising Mr. N Rajendraprasad, Chief Seed Certification Officer, APSSCA, Mr. B Ashok Reddy, Chief Seed Production Manager, APSSDC, Dr. R Ankaiah, Principal Scientist (Seed production), Dr. Radhakrishna, Sr. Breeder, Dr. Basheeruddin, from NSP, ANGRAU and Dr. Chari Appaji, Sr. Scientist and Aruna C Reddy, Sr. Scientist, NRCS on 30 November. The monitoring team appreciated the efforts for excellent maintenance of the genetic purity, best seed-set and crop expression.

Vigilance awareness week observed

The institute observed "Vigilance Awareness Week" from 1 Nov 04 to 6 Nov 04. This week commenced with a pledge on 1 Nov 04. All employees took oath in Hindi and English to fight against corruption. Director, in his address stressed the need to eradicate corruption in all spheres of life. He also reiterated

that the staff must be more vigilant, improve work culture and act without fear and favour.

National integration week

National Integration week was observed during 19-25 Nov 2004, to commemorate the birth anniversary of late Prime Minister Ms. Indira Gandhi. All employees took oath to work with dedication to preserve and strengthen the freedom and integrity of the nation.

AICSIP NEWS

Demonstration of the community drier

Demonstration of the community drier and a farmers' rally was held at Parbhani, on 2 Nov under the NATP project "Total grain



Demonstration of indigenously developed community drier for total grain quality management of kharif sorghum

quality management of kharif sorghum" (RNPS 23). Dr C.D. Mayee, Agril. Comm., New Delhi was the chief guest and Drs VM Pawar, Vice-Chancellor, MAU, N Seetharama, Director NRCS, PR More, Dir. of Research, MAU, B Venkateswarlu, CRIDA, MB Misal, Soni and PB Solunke, MAU participated. About 300 farmers from Maharashtra, Karnataka and AP attended the demo. Most of the farmers showed keen interest. They envisaged interest in having a similar drier in their respective districts. The VC emphasized the need for installing such community driers, at least one in each district. The message of harvesting at physiological maturity and drying to prevent grain molds during monsoon was effectively conveyed. Drs. S Audilakshmi, S Indira and C Aruna from NRCS, are key personnel who organized this event in association with the project associates from different SAUs in this programme.

Dr MY Kamatar honoured

Dr. MY Kamatar, Sr. Sorghum Breeder and I/c AICSIP centre, UAS, Dharwad was awarded Karnataka Rajyostava award in recognition of his contributions to agriculture in Karnataka.

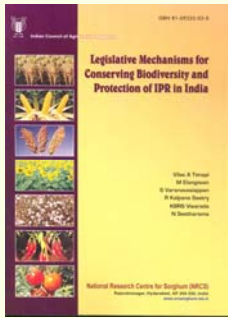


Dr MY Kamatar being honoured with Karnataka Rajyostava award

Publications

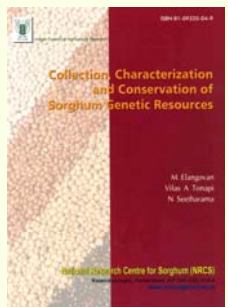
Legislative mechanisms for conserving biodiversity and protection of IPR in India (ISBN: 81-09335-03-0)

There is a well-established statutory, administrative and judicial framework to safeguard intellectual property rights in India, whether they relate to patents, trademarks, copyright or industrial designs. This publication is a compilation of all the Intellectual Property laws and legislative mechanisms in India. The objective of this publication is to make the reader aware about the legislative mechanisms for conserving biodiversity and protection of intellectual property rights in India.



Authors: Vilas A Tonapi, M Elangovan, S Varanavasiappan, R Kalpana Sastry, KBRS Visarada and N Seetharama (No. of Pages: 649; Price: 500 + postage Rs. 50/-)

Sorghum germplasm characterization and evaluation manual (ISBN: 81-09335-04-9)



This manual is a compendium of range of aspects that is needed to be considered to characterize, evaluate and document the new accessions to serve as an information resource to a broader scientific community, providing relatively independent data sets to meet the unique needs.

Authors: M Elangovan, Vilas A. Tonapi and N Seetharama (No. of Pages: 43; Price: 100 + postage Rs. 25/-)

For ordering the above books a DD drawn in favour of "ICAR unit NRCS", payable at **Hyderabad** may be sent.

Radio talk

Dr. SV Rao, Principal Scientist, Biotechnology, was interviewed by the All India Radio, Hyderabad on the topic "Research work in Sorghum being carried out at NRCS" in Telugu. The same was broadcasted on 20 Nov 2004 by the AIR, Hyderabad "A" between 8.30 PM - 8-45 PM in the category of "Current scientific research". This is part one in the series and part two will be recorded shortly for broadcasting.

Visitors

A total of 35 farmers, one World Bank consultant and 3



Farmers being appraised of the alternate and industrial uses of sorghum

Agricultural Extension Officers visited NRCS on 18 November. The team was led by Assistant Director of Agriculture, Farmers Training Centre, Kortikal village, Munugode Mandal, Nalgonda Dist. Dr. Sashidhar Reddy and Dr. CV Ratnavathi explained the visitors regarding improved sorghum production technology for grain and fodder cultivation and alternative uses of sorghum.

Year of Scientific awareness

Children from Keys high school, Secunderabad, visited NRCS on 18 November under the programmes "Year of scientific awareness". They were appraised about the latest biotechnological methods and Sweet sorghum and other alternate uses of sorghum. These children exhibited the samples of sweet sorghum and other products, collected from NRCS, at the District Science fare. The sorghum stall attracted large crowd. "The Times of India" carried out a special bulletin highlighting the various applications of sorghum for food and other alternate and industrial uses.

Review of NATP projects by World Bank team

Two NATP projects of NRCS – "Management of total grain quality in sorghum" (RNPS -23) and "Developing sorghum as a biomass and bio energy crop and use of rain damaged kharif



Discussions in progress with the World Bank team

grain to create industrial demand" (RNPS-24) were reviewed by World Bank team at, CRIDA, Santoshnagar. PIs of the projects, Drs. S. Audilakshmi and CV Ratnavati presented the progress of the projects to the World Bank officials.

Lectures Delivered

Dr. Vilas A Tonapi delivered lecture on "Implications of IPR vis-a-vis Indian Agriculture" at National training on DUS testing organized by Seed Technology Research project, ANGRAU, Hyderabad on 19 Nov 2004.

Mr. KJ Mathai, AO, NRCS delivered a guest lecture on "General conditions of service establishment matters" to the ICAR employees undergoing training at NAARM on 30 Nov. 2004.

Family News

Sh. M.Venkateswarlu, T4, performed his son Mr. Uday Bhaskar's marriage with Ms. Suhasini on 19 Nov 04. Most of the staff members attended the marriage and blessed the couple for happy married life.

Meetings / Symposia/ Conference/ Training attended

S. No	Name of the official	Participated in	Venue	Date
1	Dr VA Tonapi	Participated in the meeting and expert group on seeds.	New Delhi	1-10 Nov, 04
2	Dr CV Ratnavathi	Meeting on "Mycotoxin Network Project".	New Delhi	7 - 9 Nov, 04
3	Dr N Seetharama	BSPC meeting of DBT	New Delhi	9 -10 Nov, 04
4	Dr S Ravi kumar	National Seminar on 'Micro enterprises promotion in rural India'	IIT, New Delhi	18 -19 Nov, 04
5	Drs S Indira, CV Ratnavathi, C Aruna & PG Padmaja	Symposium on "Women in Science" organized by Academy for science & technology in collaboration with BM Birla Science Centre	BM Birla Science Museum, Hyderabad	19 Nov, 04
6	Dr N Seetharama Mr D Balakrishna	Attended a guest lecture "Insect and herbicide tolerant crop traits" by Dr. John Purcel, from Monsanto.	ANGRAU, Hyderabad	24 Nov, 04
7	Dr N Seetharama	Meeting of the working group for biotech policy.	Hotel Viceroy Hyderabad	22 Nov, 04
8	Dr N Kannababu	Training programme on "Principles and procedures of DUS testing" for Nodal officers of DUS Testing in South India.	ANGRAU, Hyderabad	16 - 21Nov, 04.
9	Mr V Ravi Kumar, SRF	Attended the national seminar on "Impact on watershed management: conceptual and methodological issues "	WTC, TNAU, Coimbatore	22 - 27 Nov, 04

Tours

S. No	Name of the Scientist	Place visited	Dates	Purpose
1	Dr N Seetharama	Coimbatore	26 – 28 Nov, 04	Monitoring of AICSIP trials, FLDs, and visit to Bannari Amman sugar factory to discuss sweet sorghum utilization.

Thought for the month

Once in a century a man may be ruined or made insufferable by praise. But surely once in a minute something generous dies for want of it.

John Masefield

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