



## Happenings at NRC for Sorghum, and AICSIP news

Serial No. 25

Hyderabad ? Solapur ? Warangal

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### Sorghum field day and World food day celebrated

A **Field Day** for the public and private sector sorghum researchers and an interaction meet with QRT committee for NRCS was organized on 15 October 2005. Scientists from AICSIP centres, ICRISAT, various private organizations, NGOs,



*Dr. S Audilakshmi appraising the recent developments in the kharif sorghum genetic enhancement programme to the participants*

and farmers' representatives along with NRCS scientists participated in the meet. The participants were taken to the new area fields. They were appraised on the details of ongoing experiments about sweet sorghum, genetic enhancement and line improvement. Incessant rains prevented elaborate movements within the fields.

Afternoon session was dedicated to mark the occasion of "**World Food Day**" under the chairmanship of Dr. SN Puri, Vice-Chancellor, Central Agricultural University, Manipur and Chairman, QRT of NRCS. The other QRT members that participated were Drs. NP Saxena (Hyderabad), A. Sitaram (Bangalore), and H. Shekhar Shetty (Mysore). During this session lectures and discussions were organized on various topics encompassing stover quality (Dr. Michael Blummel, ILRI) sorghum situation in the country (Dr. Chari), The status of germplasm collection, characterization, conservation and exchange of germplasm (Dr. Elangovan), future research needs in agronomy (Dr. Ravi Kumar), and management of IPR and operational mechanisms in the light of legislations to usher in a

new era of public-private cooperation and collaboration (Dr. Tonapi). Dr. Dayakar Rao spoke on future of millets in Indian



*Dr. N Seetharama delivering the keynote address*

agriculture and Dr. BVS Reddy of ICRISAT, highlighted the progress made through ICAR-ICRISAT collaborative projects. During the discussion, several points were made to retrieve the importance of the sorghum partly lost because of the poor marketing opportunity and partly because of decreasing consumer preference.

### Meeting on management of mycotoxins

The ICAR's Network project entitled "*Prevention and management of mycotoxins contamination in commercially important agricultural commodities*" was reviewed at NRCS, on 1 October 2005. Dr. MS Basu, Coordinator of the project and Director, NRC for Groundnut, Junagadh chaired. Dr. S. Indira, Director in-charge, NRCS welcomed the group. Other distinguished participants were: Drs. MP Ghewande, Principal Scientist (PI. Pathology) NRCG, Junagadh, CS Reddy, Principal Scientist, DRR, Hyderabad; P Harinath Naidu, Sr. Scientist, P Sudhakar, RARS, Tirupati, T Vijayalakshmi, Scientist (Pathology) RARS, Lam farm, Guntur, RDVJ Prasad Rao, NBPGR, Hyderabad, besides the scientists and other staff of NRCS. Progress of the research work done during the first six months was presented by the respective principal investigators of various crops (viz rice, sorghum, chilly and groundnut). The team finalized the technical programme for the next six months, after in-depth discussions.

### Review of AP-NL Biotech Projects at NRCS

The mid-term evaluation team to review the activities and progress of the Andhra Pradesh Netherlands Biotechnology Projects (AP-NLB) has visited NRCS on 4th October 2005. The team was lead by Dr. Gurudev S Khush - former Breeder, IRRI, Philippines, and the World Food Prize Winner, Dr. S Norman Clark - Member, Professor of Economics & Director of Graduate School of Environmental Studies, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow G4 ONW, UK, Dr. S Nagarajan-Director IARI, and Dr Rakesh Tuli - Member, Scientist-Director Grade, National Botanical Research Institute, Lucknow. Dr. MV Rao, Chairman, AP-NLB, Dr. MLN Rao, Scientific advisor and others from AP-NL project also accompanied the team and participated in the discussion. Director, NRCS formally welcomed the team along with the project leaders Drs. SV Rao



*Dr. KBRS Visarada explaining about the transgenic plants with Bt genes grown in containment facility*

and KBRS Visarada. S. Indira, PG Padmaja, C. Aruna, Mr. Balakrishna and other project personnel also participated in the discussion. Later, the team members visited transgenic glasshouse and stem borer rearing laboratory for insect bioassay. On the whole, the team appreciated the efforts by NRCS group in advancing the transgenic materials. They suggested intensifying the efforts to produce large number of transgenic plants quickly.

### Sweet sorghum fields monitored

The large scale cultivation of sweet sorghum varieties CSV 19SS and SSV 84 have been taken up in about 38 ha. by the farmers from three villages belonging to Yacharam and Ibrahimpatnam mandals in Medak and RR districts of AP. NRCS and Winrock International supported this programme. Dr. SS Rao, Sr. Scientist, NRCS visited these villages along



*Dr SS Rao explaining the useful features of sweet sorghum to the farmers' and Winrock International personnel .*

with Sh. Jayaram, Sh. Ravichander and Sh. Srisailam, of M/s, Winrock international and MV foundation on 7 October, 2005. The variety CSV 19 SS has been planted over 10 ha in the village Manthan Gaurelli, and in 6.2 ha in Chinthapatla village and 2 ha in Kothapalle village. SSV 84 is sown in 1.5 ha area in Manthan Gaurelli. Dr. Rao advised the farmers to take up the planting and cultivation as per recommendations conveyed earlier. The optimal population to be maintained is one lakh plants/ha. Excess plant density leads to low stem girth and lodging. It is heartening to note that these cultivations have been taken up with minimal inputs. Sweet sorghum cultivation with new hybrids and varieties is picking up fast with these farmers.

Mr. SV Kumar, Director, M/s. Rishi distilleries, Patancheru also joined the team to assess the current scenario. He plans to buy-back the cane from farmers for ethanol production. We are

closely following further development. In the coming months Dr. CV Ratnavathi will demonstrate making of syrup and jaggery from sweet sorghum to the farmers.

### Peer review of field trials

All Scientists of NRCS actively participated in the field day and demonstrations during 24 October 2005 at Arboretum and



*Dr. M Elangovan explaining about F<sub>1</sub> plants of the Sweet sorghum germplasm crosses made during rabi 2004-05*

GTC research farms of NRCS. Experiments on Breeding, Germplasm and Entomology were reviewed. The group also made several decisions on conduct of common trials, and improvement to the farm, all of which may be endorsed by next SRC.

### AICSIP News

#### Monitoring team for Zone III states

The kharif monitoring team for Zone III visited Udaipur, Deesa, Mauranipur, Surat and Kanpur centers during 3 -12 October. Dr.TG Nageshwar Rao (NRCS) led the team. Other members were Dr. Dilip Kumar Jain, Asst Breeder, Dr.T.Hussain Entomologist, Dr. Pushpender Singh, Agronomist and Dr.Kusum Mathur, Pathologist of Maharana Pratap University of agriculture and Technology Rajasthan College of Agriculture, Udaipur. All the trials allotted to these AICSIP centers were critically evaluated discipline-wise. This year rainfall was good and the distribution was also uniform. Many centres experienced initial drought immediately after sowing. However, crop was recovered there after due to continuous rains. The detailed monitoring team report is prepared and will be posted soon at NRCS Website.

#### DUS trials of forage sorghums

The monitoring team consisting of Drs. N. Seetharama, S. Audilakshmi, N. Kannababu, (all from NRCS) S Chakraborty (IARI), SK Shrotria (Pantnagar), and DP Deswal (Hisar). They



*The monitoring team at Pantnagar*

visited the DUS characterization trials at Hisar and Pantnagar centres during 18 -19 October 2005. At Hisar, DUS trial conducted with 12 entries and crop was in good condition. At Pantnagar it was conducted with 17 entries. The disease incidence was more in some entries at Pantnagar as compared to Hisar. Formal reports were forwarded to Directorate of Seeds Research, Mau.

### Field Day organized near Udaipur

NRCS and Maharana Pratap University of Agriculture and Technology, Udaipur jointly organized a field day on 4 October 2005 at village Bamanya, located about 65 km away from Udaipur. Around 250 farmers, farm women participated in the field day. Drs. TG Nageshwar Rao, AV Umakanth, and R Madhusudhana from NRCS, Hyderabad and Drs. Vittal Sharma, Kusum Mathur, DK Jain, Hussain, Technical staff and Research Assistants, all from MPUA&T, Udaipur spoke to farmers. The farmers were very pleased with new cultivars introduced in the region. However, they were worried for bird problem in sorghum fields, as sorghum blocks are quite apart in Rajasthan unlike in west central India.

### Monitoring of CSH 16 fields at Parbhani

A team comprising Mr. K Yadava Rao, HS Gawali, E Suresh Kumar, K Sanath Kumar visited Parbhani and other villages to ascertain the spread of CSH 16 cultivar in farmers field and for video coverage of farmers' fields. They also recorded opinion of farmers about this hybrid.

Many farmers expressed their satisfaction on the performance of new cultivars against traditional locals and cultivars developed by the private sector. For further details log on to [www.nrscorsorghum.res.in](http://www.nrscorsorghum.res.in)

### Tree planting

The staff of NRCS actively participated in the tree planting program conducted in the campus on 10 October' 2005.

### Dr. BU Singh retires

Dr. BU Singh, Principal Scientist (Entomology), has superannuated from service on 31 October, 2005.

### Meetings (M) Symposia (S)/ Workshop (W)/ Training (T) attended

S. No	Name of the official	Participated in	Venue	Date
1	N Seetharama	National seminar on Tobacco	ANGRAU, Hyderabad	4 Oct 05
2	N Seetharama	Interactive meeting on "DUS principals & procedures"	NSP, ANGRAU, Hyderabad	22 Oct, 05
3	V Ravikumar, RA	"International conference on environmental management -2005"	JNTU, Hyderabad	27-30 Oct, 05.

### Official Tours

S. No	Name of the Scientist	Place visited	Dates	Purpose
1	Chari Appaji	Warangal and Khammam	2 - 5 Oct, 05	Collecting observations on trials laid at farmers fields
2	IK Das	CRS, Solapur	3 - 6 Oct, 05	Undertaking Rabi sowings
3	AV Umakanth	Udaipur & New Delhi	3 - 6 Oct, 05	Monitoring dual purpose trials and F <sub>3</sub> segregating material.
4	TGN Rao	Udaipur, Deesa, Mauranipur, Surat and Kanpur	3 -12 Oct, 05	Monitoring kharif trials of zone III states.
5	S. Audilakshmi	UAS, Dharwad	6 Oct, 05	Monitoring kharif trials
6	SS Rao	3 villages in Medak & RR districts, AP	7 Oct, 05	Monitoring farmers sweet sorghum fields
7	K Yadava Rao, HS Gawali, E. Suresh Kumar, & K Sanath Kumar	MAU, Parbhani	8 - 11 Oct, 05.	Collection of data and video recording of farmers fields
8	Chari Appaji	ICRISAT, Patancheru	9 Oct, 05	Participated in the farmers day
9	N. Seetharama, S. Audilakshmi & N Kannababu	Hisar & Pantnagar	17 - 19 Oct, 05	Monitoring DUS characterization trials of forage sorghum
10	S. Audilakshmi	Indore, Akola & Parbhani	20 -24 Oct, 05	Monitoring kharif trials
11	S Ravikumar & C Aruna	Nandyal, AP	25 Oct, 05	Monitoring seed production plots
12	AV Umakanth	OSN, Warangal	26 Oct, 05	F <sub>3</sub> segregating material selections

### Family news

Mr. K. Rajesh Babu, son of K. Ravindrababu, Librarian, NRCS, who is a IX standard student, Brilliant Grammar School, participated in the "Brain of Andhra" contest organized by Airtel cellular services through MAA TV, a Telugu TV channel and won Rs. 5000 scholarship. *Congratulations to Rajesh!*



### Thought for the month



*"Never fear shadows. They simply mean that, there is light shining some where near by".*

**-Dr. A P J Abdul Kalam**

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