



Happenings at NRC for Sorghum, and AICSIP news

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Sorghum as health food – Popularization initiative

A five member medical team from Bhaskara Medical College, & Research Centre, Moinabad, Hyderabad lead by Drs. NV Ramachandra Rao and K Krishnaiah,



Benefits of millets being discussed with panel of Doctors from Bhaskara Medical College

Consultant surgeon, visited NRCS on 31 Oct, 2006. They had a detailed discussion with Director and scientists of NRCS on promotion of Sorghum as a potential health food. They discussed on the benefits due to nutraceutical properties, and lack of gluten content of sorghum. It was felt that there is a need to enhance the already taken initiatives to popularize the sorghum as best food for diabetics. They also discussed means to promote sorghum in the millet-based food products,

weaning foods and fortified foods to extract the total health benefits from sorghum. They pointed out that one of the major concern of using millets for patients is the infection associated with the un-cleaned grains normally sold in the market (molded or not cleaned grain in unhygienically packed materials).

Evaluation of *Roti* quality

Roti taste and quality evaluation is an essential prerequisite for releasing rabi sorghum cultivars. Taste of *roti* from elite stocks of sorghum was evaluated with a trained taste panel, comprising a group of people who,



Tasting panel for roti quality evaluating different quality traits

by tradition, are sorghum consumers. Dr. CV Ratnavathi, senior biochemist organized this at NRCS. Eventually we will screen elite landraces and use them in a breeding program for *roti* quality.

AICSIP NEWS

Crop, and pests status in AICSIP trials during September-October

The rainfall during later part of monsoon was erratic in most parts of country. Heavy floods in Gujarat and Rajasthan damaged sorghum crops. In I and II zone (southern and central region), the AICSIP breeding and agronomy trials are at maturity phase and harvesting is in progress. The aphids infestation recorded in zone-I was manageable; this infestation was due to moisture stress. Stem borer infestation was reported from Parbhani center and it was managed with chemical spray and whorl applications of granules. No significant disease incidence was recorded. However, anthracnose and zonate disease were recorded from Palem centers.

Sowing of late kharif dual-purpose sorghum in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu was delayed due to non-receipt of rains during August. Tamil Nadu is also receiving infrequent rains during the first week of October. Still, the crop at Coimbatore, Erode, Karur,

Salem, Dindigul, Namakkal and Trichy are in good condition. The sowing in southern districts of Tamil Nadu (Madurai, Thirunelveli, Tuticorin and Theni districts) was delayed due to the delay in the onset of north east monsoon.

DUS monitoring team visits Hisar and Pantnagar

CCS HAU, Hisar: The team comprised of Drs. N Seetharama, N Kannababu, VA Tonapi from NRCS, Hyderabad, and Drs. DP Deswal & JC Duhan from CCS HAU, Hisar visited the DUS characterization plot at CCS HAU, Hisar on 9 & 10th October 2006. In general the crop condition and uniformity was good, but was affected due to drought (irrigated late). Therefore, expression of



Dr. DP Deswal(extreme right) explaining the details of DUS forage trials to NRCS team

the genotypes was less than optimum. The Hisar centre expressed problems of conducting DUS trials due to various administrative and technical reasons. Overall, the progress at this centre caused much concern.

GBPUA&T, Pantnagar: The monitoring team members Drs. N Kannababu, VA Tonapi & PK Shrotria have visited the DUS characterization plot at GBPUA&T, Pantnagar on 11 October, 06. Dr. N seetharama visited separately on 18 October, 06. In general, the crop condition and uniformity was very good. Expression of all forage DUS entries was superior than at Hisar Centre. The DUS test centre expressed that there should be provision of permanent technical staff to have continuity. Otherwise, DUS testing at Pantnagar is encouraging.

Joint Monitoring Team visits FLDs.

The Joint Monitoring Team (JMT) comprising Dr. GN Mishra, (Dy Commissioner:Crops, MOA, New Delhi) Chairman, Dr. SV Singh, (Director DMD, Jaipur) and Dr. Chari Appaji, (Sr. Scientist and Convener JMT, NRCS, Hyderabad) visited and monitored the sorghum FLDs at Ranchi, Jammu during 13-19 Oct 06 and again Udaipur during 25-27th Oct 06. The team interacted with the implementing agencies, Ramakrishna Mission, Ranchi, KVK, RS Pura, Jammu, AICSIP centre, Udaipur.

JMT at Ranchi: The team participated in the field day organized by Ramakrishna mission ashram, Ranchi on 17 October 06, at Shoba village and interacted with

farmers. Field visit and pre-harvest farm walks were the part of field-day which was followed by group discussion. The team documented the performance of FLDs in the state. The team was accompanied by Dr. Jaju, Training organizer, KVK, Dr. Yogesh Singh, Birsa agricultural university, Ranchi and Mr. AK Singh, Dept. of Argil. Ranchi. The members of the team had discussion on popularizing sorghum with Mr. Jayram, Director of Agriculture, Jharkhand, Dr. NN Singh Vice-Chancellor, Birsa Agril University, Ranchi and others.

JMT at Jammu: Introduction of improved cultivar SPV 1616 in J&K for the first time was monitored by the team. The team visited 4 farmers' fields where FLDs were laid by KVK, RS pura, Jammu, and interacted with farmers. Dr. Chari collected 10 local sorghum germplasm from these villages. It was observed during the discussion that sorghum is cultivated as for both feed and fodder in the state and occupies an area of about 15000 ha in 5 districts. The average grain yields in the state was 450 kgs/ha. The team was accompanied by Dr. Rakesh Nanda, KVK, RS Pura, Dr. Anand Singh, KVK, RS Pura, Mr. Sandeep Dogra, AEO, Ramgarh.

JMT at Udaipur: In Rajasthan, the team observed the impact of the FLDs organized during the last few years. The variety CSV 17 now has become quite popular in the districts of Ajmir and Pali, while CSV 15 is still popular in Rajsamand, Udaipur, and Chittorgarh. The efforts made by the sorghum group of MPUAT were appreciated by the team. The team visited FLDs in Chittorgarh district and interacted with the farmers and the state department officials. The team was accompanied by Mr. Narender Kumar, Asst. Director, DMD, Jaipur, Dr. Jain and Mr. Brij Mohan, MPUAT, Udaipur

Visitors

Dr. K Lakshmi, K Swarnalata and Sh. K Srivatsa, probationary deputy collectors visited NRCS on 6 October 06 as a part of their training programme. They



Discussions with officials of Vikkis Agrotech on transfer of sweet sorghum cultivation technology

were briefed about the ongoing research activities at NRCS by the Director. Dr. Sashidhar Reddy and the director explained the recent advances in sorghum production technology, utilization and marketing, focusing the state of affairs in Andhra Pradesh with respect to millet cultivation. They were also taken to Biotechnology and pathology labs and to the transgenic research facilities to familiarize them with major research and related public issues.

Vikky's Agro Tech, Hyderabad has now new plans to diversify and expand their horizons to biofuel production. In particular they are interested in growing sweet sorghum to produce alcohol. Dr. P Narayana Chowdary, Director of Research, & Sh. Krishna Yelamanchili, visited NRCS on 31 October 2006. They interacted with the Director, and other scientists viz. Drs. SS Rao and CV Ratnavathi. The Director appraised the group about the new developments in ICAR pertaining to collaborative projects and transfer of technology and between public and private sector.

Sh. Md. Ismail retires

Sh. Md. Ismail, Driver - (T-5), superannuated on 31 October 06, after his long service to the centre. During



Mr. Mohd. Ismail being presented a token gift on his superannuation

the farewell ceremony, staff recollected his services to the organization. A memento from staff recreation club

was also presented by the Director. The staff wished him a happy and healthy retired life.

New Entomologist at Parbhani

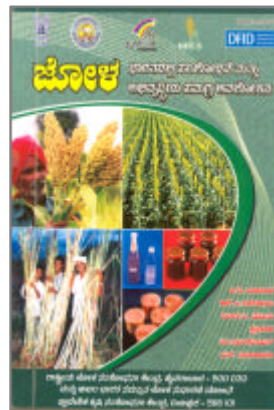
Dr DG Daware, Entomologist has joined AICSIP at Parbhani center on 1 October 06. NRCS welcomes him to the AICSIP family.

New in-charges at ARS, Palem and Tandur

Dr Pooranchand, Sr. Scientist (Breeding) and C Sudha Rani, Scientist (Agronomy) have taken over the charge of the Head of the AICSIP Centres at ARS, Palem and Tandur respectively .

New publications

Technology bulletin in Kannada:



Jola: Bharatadalli samshodhane mattu abhivridhiya samagra avalokana (Kannada)

(Analysis of sorghum research and development in India)

This book analyzes the research and development efforts till date and strategies needed for further development and utilization of sorghum to make this crop more sustainable and profitable to the farmers as well as industries.

For copies contact:

Sorghum Breeder at
Main Sorghum research Centre,
UAS, Dharwad or ARS, Bijapur

Official Tours

S. No	Name of the Official	Place visited	Dates	Purpose
1	N Seetharama, N Kannababu & VA Tonapi	Hisar & Pantnagar,	10-11 Oct, 06	To participate in the monitoring team of DUS testing at Hisar.
2	VR Bhagwat & M Venkateshwarlu	CRS, Solapur	09-11; 15-17 & 22-24 Oct, 06.	To monitor AICSIP Entomology trials and IPM trial.
3	Chari Appaji, P Mukesh, N Bikshapathi, KS Ratnam, & S Joseph	ICRISAT, Patancheru	9 Oct, 06	Representing NRCS on Farmers day of ICRISAT
4	TG Nageshwar Rao, IK Das, HS Talwar, P Prakash & R Prakash	CRS, Solapur	10 Oct, 06.	Sowing of Rabi experiments at CRS Solapur
5	VR Bhagwat, AV Umakanth & R Madhusudhana.	OSN, Warangal	13 Oct, 06	To monitor AICSIP entomology material shoot- fly and stem borer.
6	Chari Appaji	Ranchi, Jammu	13-19 Oct, 06	Participated in the field day at Ranchi and Monitored the sorghum FLDs at Ranchi and Jammu
7	N Seetharama & SS Rao	Kashipur, Pantnagar, Ludhiana	16-19 Oct, 06	To evaluate the sweet sorghum crops planted at India Glycols, Kashipur, Sorghum research at GBPUA&T, Pantnagar and at PAU Ludhiana.
8	TG Nageshwar Rao	MAU, Parbhani	18-19 Oct, 06	To assess the performance of yellow sorghums for their adaptability and disease/ pest resistance and to monitor AICSIP trials
9	B Dayakar Rao	Pune, Mumbai Jaipur	22- 31 Oct, 06	Liaison with private sector based malting and potable alcohol industries at Agarkar Research Institute, Pune, Hindustan Breweries Ltd, Mumbai and DMR &, National Institute of Agri. Management, Jaipur.
10	Chari Appaji	Udaipur	25-27 Oct, 06	Monitored the sorghum FLDs
11	N Seetharama	SVP National Police Academy, Hyderabad	26 Oct, 06	To participate in the "Dikshant Samaroh-2006" addressed by the Hon.'ble Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh
12	TG Nageshwar Rao	Dharwad & Coimbatore	27Oct- 2 Nov, 06	To assess the performance of different sorghum pathology trials and to see the progress of AICSIP trials

Meeting (M)/ Symposia (S)/ Workshop (W)/ Training (T) / Conference (C) attended

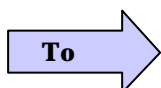
S. No	Name of the official	Participated in	Type	Venue	Date
1	N. Seetharama	To attend the meeting called by the DDG (CS) at NBPGR, New Delhi ; To discuss on post-harvest Technologies (CIPMET, Ludhiana) and starch technology (GND University, Amritsar)	M	New Delhi Ludhiana & Amritsar	8 Oct,06
2	KBRS Visarada	National Seminar on " <i>Patenting in biotechnology</i> " Organized by NRDC & DBT	S	Hyderabad	26 Oct, 06
3	KBRS Visarada	Training cum workshop on " <i>How to draft specification and prosecute Indian patent application</i> " Organized by NRDC	T/W	Hyderabad	27 Oct, 06



Thought for the month

"The most pathetic person in the world is the person who has sight, but no vision." -- **Helen Keller**

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