



Happenings at NRC for Sorghum and AICSIP news

Serial No. 22

Hyderabad ? Solapur ? Warangal

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Two sorghum cultivars identified for release

The first meeting of the Varietal Identification Committee (VIC) for millets was held on 7th July, 2005 at NBPGR, Pusa, New Delhi under the chairmanship of Dr. G. Kalloo, DDG (CS & Hort). The other members were Dr. SN Shukla, ADG (FFC) Dr. NB Singh, ADG (seeds), Dr. BB Singh, Head of the Dept., Genetics, IARI, Dr. AK Singh, NBPGR Dr. N Seetharama, Director, NRCS & Member Secretary, Dr. KT Krishna Gowda, PC, AICSMIP, Bangalore & Member Secretary, and Dr. IS Khairwal, PC, AICPMIP, Jodhpur. The committee critically examined a total of 9 proposals on sorghum for different zones, consisting of five hybrids and one variety.

Following cultivars were identified:

SPV 1616 (dual-purpose variety for Zone I and II): The fodder yield of this variety is significantly higher than the checks CSV 15 and SPV 462. The grain yield and resistance levels are comparable to the checks. The *in vitro* digestibility is also high; therefore, this variety is identified for release for Zone I and II, where the need for new dual purpose variety is highest. This is suitable for the states of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and UP (Bundhelkhand), where both grain and fodder (stover) are important. This variety was developed at NRCS, Hyderabad.

SPH 1398 (JKSH 528 for Zone II only): This hybrid is early and is superior to existing popular early hybrid CSH 14 for grain and fodder yields. It gives about 9% higher grain and 12% higher fodder yield than CSH 14. It is also superior to the recent release CSH 23 for few traits especially for fodder yield. Resistance levels are acceptable, and the slight susceptibility to charcoal rot or midge is not so critical for most target states. Therefore this hybrid is identified for possible release for Zone II, consisting of Northern Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat. This hybrid was developed by JK Seeds, Secunderabad.

Practical training course on transgenic sorghum with special reference to Bt

The Second phase of training and practical course on "Transgenic sorghum with special emphasis on Bt technology" was conducted at NRCS from 4 to 25 July



Dr. Visarada explaining the activities undertaken in the training programme during the valedictory function presided over by Dr. MV Rao

2005. During this phase the students have done laboratory experiments on DNA isolation from leaves and bacteria followed by various PCR analyses. They were assigned with individual project work according to their choice on different topics such as Biorad gun, Particle inflow gun (PIG), *Agrobacterium* mediated transformation, PCR analysis and insect bioassays. The students were given latest literature on different topics and were asked to present them through *Power Point*. These were evaluated by the scientists to impart presentation skills of the students.

The valedictory function was organized on 25 July and certificates were distributed by the Guest of Honor Dr MV Rao, Chairman, BPC, APNL Biotechnology program. Dr N Seetharama, Director addressed the students to strive for excellence in their course of work. Later the students from the training provided their feed back. Dr MV Rao delivered his special message to the students mentioning that talent is manufactured in various universities of the country. There is a need to encourage the fresh breed from traditional universities also. He emphasized the need of the application of science to the development of the country as the marriage of brain and the brawn is the need of the hour. He said that greatness of a nation is due to nature of people who are dedicated to other people needing help to realize their full potential. He encouraged the youth to merge their personal goals with the national goals to make India a great nation. He expressed his excitement to see the enthusiasm, knowledge and attitude of the students for learning the new things. He conveyed his extreme happiness at the dedication and efforts of the NRCS

team consisting of the Director Dr N Seetharama, training coordinator Dr KBRs Visarada, resource persons Dr SV Rao and Dr PG Padmaja and the rest of the members.

Twenty M. Sc students from JNTU, Osmania Univ., Central Univ. (Hyderabad); Andhra Univ. (Visakhapatnam), and Acharya Nagarjuna Univ. (Guntur) participated in this programme and successfully completed their training course. ANGRAU students work for long term as a part of their degree programme.

Lecture delivered

Dr. KBRs Visarada, delivered a lecture in Telugu on "Transgenic crops and biosafety issues" at the Training of trainers workshop on Agri-biotechnology organized by South Asia Biosafety Programme and IPE (BTU) at ICRISAT on 28 Jul 2005.

Visitors

NRCS

21 July 2005: Twenty seven newly recruited ARS scientists of ICAR visited NRCS on 21 July 2005. The purpose of the visit is to expose them to commercialization of new technological innovations, R&D



Trainees being appraised about the recently developed hybrids and varieties

management, and other emerging issues in agriculture, and sorghum in particular. The group also interacted with the scientific community at NRCS. At the outset, Dr. S. Indira, In-charge Director, gave a brief note on the profile of Institute and other projects including All-India Coordinated Sorghum Improvement Project. A video film on sweet sorghum production technology was also exhibited to them. The team also has taken a round to various laboratories, and the museum. This visit was organized by the NAARM, Hyderabad as a part of their foundation course to the 79th Batch. Dr. C. Sashidhar Reddy, Sr. Scientist, NRCS coordinated this visit.

CRS (NRCS), Solapur

15 July 2005: Dr. AL Pharande, Associate Director of Research & Chief Scientist, Dr. AN Deshpande, Soil Scientist and Dr. Khatmal, Agronomist, MPKV, Solapur visited laboratories and fields of CRS, Solapur to know about the ongoing research activities of on rabi sorghum. Dr. MS Raut, Officer-In-charge, CRS, Dr. Prabhakar and

Dr. B Subbarayudu briefed on the ongoing research activities.

16 July 2005: Dr. N Seetharama, Director, NRCS, Hyderabad; Dr. DG Dhandar, Director, Central Institute of Arid Horticulture, Bikaner; Sh. Prabhakar Chandne, President of pomegranate growers association, and Sh. VD Patil, Director of Horticulture, and Dr. PV Firake, Joint Director of Agriculture, Pune, visited the Centre on Rabi Sorghum (NRCS), Solapur in connection with making arrangements for the inauguration of new National Research Centre for Pomegranate at Solapur by Sh. Sharad Pawar, Honorable Union Minister of Agriculture. The inauguration is scheduled to be held on 6 August, 2005. (Now postponed due to heavy rains in Maharashtra.)

20 July 2005: Dr. Mane, Chief Training Organizer, KVK, Solapur visited the CRS (NRCS), Solapur, to discuss about the rabi sorghum production, productivity and its related issues and particularly export potential scenario, steps to enhance the alternate uses in and around Solapur district of Maharashtra. The NRCS scientists at CRS, Dr. MS Raut, Dr. Prabhakar and Dr. BS Rayudu participated in the meeting.

Family news

Miss. V Tejaswini, daughter of Ms. VSG Parvathi, a student of VII standard from Gautam Model School, won a Gold medal in Chess tournament (under 12 yrs. category) by scoring 4 points out of 5 amongst 120 student participating from various schools in the twin cities. This tourney was organized by Magna Chess Academy on 31 July' 2005 at Hyderabad.



New arrivals at NRCS Library

- Stress Physiology – DP Singh
- Plant Pathology – Trigiano
- Plant Breeding Reviews – Janick Julis.
- Plant Breeding Reviews– Kandall R. Lankeg
- Short Protocols in Cell biology – Bonifacino
- Introduction to Polysaccharide Biotechnology – Tombs & Harding
- Pollen Biology & Biotechnology–Shivanna KR
- Genetically Engineering Food –Knut J. Heller.

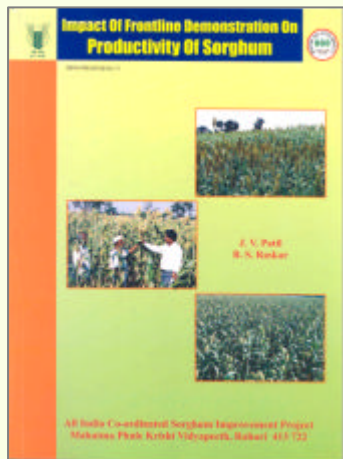
Meetings (M)/ Symposia (S)/ Conference (C)/ Workshops (W)/Training (T) attended

S. No	Name of the official	Participated in		Venue	Date
1.	Drs. Chari Appaji & S. Ravi Kumar	One-day workshop on "Strengthening Research extension linkages", Organized by Dept of Agriculture and Centre for Good Governance.	W	Centre for Good Governance, MCRHRD centre, IAP campus, Hyderabad	1 July, 2005
2	Drs. Vilas A. Tonapi, M Elangovan, KV Raghavendra Rao & Mr. HS Gawali	Training programme on "Multimedia applications development"	T	National Institute of Rural Development, Hyderabad	4-9 July, 05
3	Sh. A Venkateshwar Rao	Training on "Supply chain management".	T	Small Industries Service Institute, Balanagar, Hyderabad	11 -16 July, 2005
4	Dr. KBRS Visarada	The round table meeting on "The potential yield effects of transgenic crops". Under the South Asian Biosafety Program (SABP)-India, organized by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) Washington DC.	M	Institute of Public Enterprises, Hyderabad	13 July, 2005.
5	Dr. N Seetharama	Regional committee meeting [Region -V]	M	Bhubaneswar	21-22 July, 05
6	Dr. Chari Appaji Dr. S Ravikumar Dr. C Sashidhar Reddy	Training on "Training skills for masters"	T	MANAGE, Hyderabad,	25-29, July 05.
7	Dr. N Kannababu	"Management development programme on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)"	T	NAARM, Hyderabad	26-30 July, 2005

Tours

S. No	Name of the Scientist	Place visited	Dates	Purpose
1	Dr. N. Seetharama	ICAR & NBPGR New Delhi	7-8 July 2005	To participate in the 2-day meet to plan for HRD in biotechnology for ICAR scientists. Participate in the Varietal Identification committee meeting held at NPBGR, for millets.
2	Dr. N. Seetharama	ICAR & Office of Min. of Agri, New Delhi	13 July 2005.	To participate in the first meeting of the special committee constituted by ICAR to make recommendations on IPR, costing & sharing technologies, partnership, etc. Meet with the PA of Honorable Agri. Min. to discuss program during the visit of Agri. Minister to Solapur.
3	Dr. N. Seetharama	Bider & CRS, Solapur	15 -16 July 2005	To monitor arrangements for the Inauguration of new National Research Centre for Pomegranate at Solapur by Sh. Sharad Pawar, Honorable Union Minister of Agriculture, on 6 August 2005, and to plan sorghum research with UAS Dharwad and new veterinary university at Bidar.
4	Dr. Chari Appaji	Gujja village, Nalgonda District.	5 & 20 July, 05	Visit to Farmers fields under linkage programme

AICSIP News



Publication from MPKV, Rahuri

The Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri, published a book entitled “**Impact of frontline demonstrations on productivity of sorghum**”. This book encompasses information on front line demonstrations conducted during 1995—2004 under All India Coordinated Sorghum improvement Project (AICSIP). It gives elaborate information on productivity and impact of FLDs. It also gives details on improved production technology pertaining to Maharashtra. This book is compiled and edited by Drs. JV Patil and BS Raskar.

For copies and more information please contact:

Sr. Sorghum Breeder, Mahathma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri - 413 722. (MS)

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Thought for the month

“There is nothing like returning to a place that remains unchanged to find the ways in which you yourself have altered”
- Anonymous



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