



Happenings at NRC for Sorghum and AICSIP news

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Practical course on transgenic sorghums with special reference to *Bt* technology

The first phase of training and practical course on "Transgenic sorghum with special emphasis on *Bt*



Students listening to the inaugural address of the Director, NRCS

technology" was conducted at NRCS from 6 to 21 May 2005. Twenty M. Sc. students from various universities, JNTU, Osmania Univ, Hyderabad Univ, Andhra Univ., and Acharya Nagarjuna Univ. participated in this programme and successfully completed their training course.

The topics covered were: Bacterial transformation, plasmid DNA isolation by different methods; plant transformation through Particle inflow gun, Bio-Rad Helium gun, *Agrobacterium* mediated transformation, genomic DNA isolation, Insect bio-assays, Basta's spray test, basic techniques for tissue culture studies etc. These students will submit their project work reports on their respective assigned projects during the II phase of training course, which is scheduled to be held from July 4 to

31, 2005. Apart from this, they will also get acquainted with PCR and southern blotting



Dr. Ch Shashidhar Reddy, extension officer, explaining recent sorghum production technologies to students

methods. Certificates will be awarded after evaluation of their dissertation. This course was conducted by Dr. KBRIS Visarada and her team.

ICAR-ICRISAT collaborative research planning meeting

The ICAR-ICRISAT collaborative research planning meeting was held at ICRISAT on 30 May 2005. The major avenues for effective collaborative research to strengthen the sorghum R&D in India and related aspects were discussed. Dr. Dyno Keating, DDG of ICRISAT chaired the meeting. Issues on germplasm, training, south-south linkages, wide hybridization, population breeding, and land facilities for NRCS at ICRISAT on long term lease basis were discussed in detail. From NRCS side, Drs. N Seetharama, BU Singh, Vilas Tonapi and M Elangovan participated in the discussion.

NRCS seed stall at *Kisan mela*, Parbhani

NRCS organized the sale of NRCS Produced CSH 16 certified seed in the *Kisan mela* at MAU, Parbhani from 18 to 21 May, 2005. An amount of Rs 60,255/- was generated by selling 927 kg of CSH 16 seed. Farmers from different districts of Maharashtra like Hingoli, Latur, Parbhani, etc. opined that CSH 16 cultivation has been profitable during last year. The NRCS team comprising Dr C. Aruna, Mr K Yadava Rao, Mr E Suresh Kumar and Mr Ajay Kumar Mall from NRCS, and Mr AR Limbore and RM Patil from CRS, Solapur

participated in the *Kisan mela*. Dr. CD Mayee, chairman, ASRB, also visited the sorghum stall and



Dr. CD Mayee, Chairman, ASRB, being explained the salient features of the high yielding sorghum hybrid, CSH 16 by NRCS extension officers at the Kisan mela stall

was briefed about the recently developed sorghum cultivars. NRCS extends sincere thanks to the university officials for extending cooperation for organizing the sale of sorghum seed.

The next sale of the seed will commence in July 2005, just before the monsoon sowings.

Accreditation of NRCS by Osmania University

A seven member delegation comprising Prof. M.



Dr SV Rao, principal scientist, biotechnology, showing tissue culture mutants to the Osmania University team.



Director, NRCS explaining the research achievements of the institute to the Osmania University delegates.

Mutta Reddy, Registrar, Prof. G. Sai Prakash, Dean, Faculty of science, Prof. PB Kavi Kishore,

Head, Dept of Genetics, Prof. Mohan Rao, Prof. T. Padma, Dept of. Genetics and two administrative officers of Osmania University visited NRCS on 10 May 2005 to assess the R&D facilities at NRCS for accreditation as a recognised research centre to provide research guidance to the Ph.D. students. The team expressed immense satisfaction on the lab facilities, modern equipment (particularly in the areas of biotechnology and molecular marker studies), land, and library facilities available at NRCS, including computer network.

Farmers interviewed at Karkalpahad

Drs. S Ravikumar and BS Rayudu visited Karkalpahad village in the Mehboobnagar district on 30 May 2005 to get the feedback from the farmers on their experiences in growing of improved sorghum variety CSV 15 vis-à-vis local cultivar- *Pacha jonna*. The interview with the most experienced farmer Sri Yella Reddy was also videographed. Many farmers expressed their happiness on the performance of cultivar CSV 15.

Anti-terrorism Day observed

The Anti-terrorism Day was observed on 21 May in the institute. Employees taken pledge to eliminate the terrorism from India and to work with more harmony and peace.

New arrivals at NRCS Library

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

- Plant tissue Culture – *Roberta H Smith*
- Cereal Genomics – *edited by PK Gupta*
- Plant biotechnology and the genetic manipulations – *Adrian Slater*
- Cell biology and Genetics - *Starr & Taggart*
- Cellular Microbiology – *Pascale Cossart*
- The hand book of plant genetic mapping – *Khalid*
- Biocatalysts and enzyme technology – *Buchholz Kasche*
- Plant–Microbe interactions and biological control– *Kuykendall and Boland*
- Soil fertility and crop production– *KR Krishna*
- Intensive cropping – *Parihar SS*
- Bioinformatics : Approaches and applications - *Chiranjib Chakraborty*

Publications

The following research papers were published / accepted during this report period:

S. Audilakshmi and C. Aruna (2005). Genetic analysis of physical grain quality characters in sorghum. *Journal of Agricultural Science*. 143, pp 1-7.

N. Kannababu, C. Aruna, S Audilakshmi, SS Rao, and N Seetharama (2005). Combining ability for seed vigour and availability traits in sorghum (*Sorghum bicolor* (L) Moench). Paper accepted and will appear in the *Seed Research* Vol. 33 (1) 2005 issue

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

S. No	Name of the official	Participated in	Type	Venue	Date
1	Drs. Chari Appaji, \ SS Rao, KBRS Visarada, Vilas Tonapi, CV Ratnavathi, B Dayakar Rao & Prabhakar	Seminar cum workshop on "Geological Agricultural Economy "organized by ICAR- CITA.	W	NAARM, Hyderabad	29 April -1 May, 05.
2	Dr. Chari Appaji	IT-Based Personalized Agriculture Extension systems (IT-PEAS)	W	International Institute of Information Technology, Hyderabad.	6 May, 05.
3	Dr. N Seetharama	Forage group meeting	M	UAS, Dharwad	7 May, 05
4	Dr. Chari Appaji	Rural programme advisory committee meeting at AIR	M	AIR, Hyderabad	09 May, 05
5	Drs. N Seetharama & KBRS Visarada	Discussion on draft national biotechnology development strategy of GOI	M	Institute of Public Enterprises (IPE), OU Campus, Hyderabad	12 May 05
6	Dr. N Seetharama	Management change in AICRPs -2005 –meet organized by ICAR/ DMR	M	ICAR, New Delhi	16 -18 May, 05
7	Ms. V V Komala, SRF	Aflatoxin detection using ELISA and management options in Groundnut	T	ICRISAT, Hyderabad	16 -27 May, 05
8	Dr. N Seetharama	ICAR golden jubilee Merit Scholarships – Zone IV	M	NAARM, Hyderabad	19 May, 05.
9	Dr. N Seetharama	Final meet to review NATP research	M	CRIDA, Hyderabad	20-21 May, 05
10	Dr. KBRS Visarada	Agro-biodiversity, Biotechnology, Plant Breeding and Seed sector development	T	IAC, Wageningen, Netherlands.	23 May – 1 July, 05
11	Dr. M Elangovan	Germplasm evaluation and Utilization	W	NBPGR, New Delhi	25 – 29 May, 05
12	Dr. B Dayakar Rao & Mr. HS Gawali	Photoshop and Coral draw applications	T	SP Soft, Hyderabad	25-28 May, 05
13	Drs. N Seetharama, SS Rao, S Ravikumar, BS Rayudu, C Sashidhar Reddy	Rainfed technologies	M	CRIDA, Hyderabad	28 May, 05
14	Drs. N Seetharama, BU Singh, Vilas Tonapi, M Elangovan	Collaborative research programme & planning.	M	ICRISAT, Hyderabad	30 May, 05

Tours

S. No	Name of the Scientist	Place visited	Dates	Purpose
1	Drs. S.Ravi Kumar & BS Rayudu	Karkalpahad village	30 May, 2005	To interview farmers.
2	Dr. Vilas Tonapi	Dharwad & Mahabaleshwar	16 -23 May, 2005	To visit UAS Dharwad and data recording on cold tolerance experiment at Mahabaleshwar.
3	Dr. S Ravikumar & Mr. P Prakash	Chegunta village, RR Dist.	25 May, 05	To identify farmers for the on-farm trials.

Printed Matter / Book Post



Thought for the month

Be who you are and say what you feel because those who mind don't matter and those who matter don't mind.

-Dr. Seuss



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