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Tremendous response for sorghum stall at "Kisan-Agri show", Pune

The sorghum stall, set up by the NRC Sorghum at "Kisan



Farmers keenly listening the health benefits of sorghum food products being narrated by T Sarada

Agri Show" received an unprecedented response. The mega agricultural show was organized by Ministry of Agriculture, Maharashtra at Pune during December 17-21, 2008. More than 30,000 farmers, scientists and agriculture officers from various SAUs and state departments including 40 entrepreneurs visited the sorghum stall. The stall organizers appraised farmers about the available high yielding sorghum cultivars, and technologies for production and utilization. The business development potential for millets, especially for sorghum, value-addition, health foods, ethanol production technology, poultry feed, and commercialization were

समाचार सारांश

पुणे में एकिसाना कृषि प्रदर्शनी : रा.ज्वा.अनु.कें. ने कृषि मंत्रालय, महाराष्ट्र द्वारा पुणे में 17-21 दिसंबर 2008 के दौरान आयोजित एकिसान कृषि प्रदर्शनी में ज्वार स्टाल लगाया । 30,000 से अधिक कृषकों तथा राज्य कृषि विश्वविद्यालयों एवं राज्य कृषि विभागों के वैज्ञानिकों व कृषि अधिकारियों ने ज्वार स्टाल का निरीक्षण किया ।

आचार्य एन जी रंगा कृषि विश्वविद्यालय ज्वार मेला : रा.ज्वा.अनु.कें. ने 19-23 दिसंबर 2008 के दौरान स्पॉट्स कॉम्प्लेक्स, आचार्य एन जी रंगा कृषि विश्वविद्यालय में दक्षिण क्षेत्र के लिए आयोजित क्षेत्रीय कृषि मेला 2008 में ज्वार स्टाल लगाया । 1500 से अधिक कृषकों तथा राज्य कृषि विश्वविद्यालयों एवं राज्य कृषि विभागों के वैज्ञानिकों व कृषि अधिकारियों ने उक्त स्टाल का निरीक्षण किया ।

पुरस्कार एवं सम्मान

डॉ. एन सीतारामा को रा.कृ.वि.अ. फ़ेलोशिप : राष्ट्रीय कृषि विज्ञान अकादमी ने डॉ एन सीतारामा, निदेशक, रा.ज्वा.अनु.कें. को प्रतिष्ठापूर्ण रा.कृ.वि.अ. फ़ेलोशिप प्रदान करने के निर्णय लिया है । इस सम्मान के लिए डॉ एन सीतारामा को रा.ज्वा.अनु.कें. परिवार की ओर से हार्दिक बधाई !

डॉ. एस एस राव को पुरस्कार : आई आई टी; मद्रास में 5-6 दिसंबर 08 के दौरान वैकल्पिक ऊर्जा हेतु जैवप्रौद्योगिकी उपयोग पर आयोजित राष्ट्रीय सम्मेलन में डॉ एस एस राव द्वारा पमीठी ज्वार : जैव-एथानाल उत्पादनार्थ वैकल्पिक ऊर्जा फसल पर दिए गए मौखिक प्रस्तुतीकरण को उत्तम प्रस्तुतीकरण के रूप में चुना गया तथा उनके द्वारा प्रस्तुत पोस्टर को उत्तम पोस्टर पुरस्कार प्रदान किया गया । हार्दिक बधाई !

शुद्ध पेयजल की सुविधा : रा.ज्वा.अनु.कें. में शुद्ध पेयजल तथा प्रयोगशाला में शुद्ध जल की आवश्यकताओं को पूरी करने के उद्देश्य से रिवर्स ऑस्मोसिस आधारित जल शुद्धिकरण यंत्र लगाया गया ।

जैव-प्रौद्योगिकी विभाग के प्रमुख्य चुनौती कार्यक्रम की बैठक : रा.ज्वा.अनु.कें. ने 16-17 दिसंबर 2008 के दौरान तिलहन अनुसंधान निदेशालय, हैदराबाद में जैव-प्रौद्योगिकी विभाग द्वारा प्रायोजित फसल की उन्नति हेतु पहले से तैयार चिह्नों के उपयोग पर मुख्य चुनौती कार्यक्रम की द्वितीय समीक्षा बैठक का आयोजन किया । इस बैठक में देश के विभिन्न संगठनों से कुल 22 प्रतिभागियों ने भाग लिया ।

रा.ज्वा.अनु.कें. में संगोष्ठियाँ

नाइट्रीकरण नियंत्रण हेतु आनुवंशिकी नीति : डॉ जी वी सुब्बाराव, वरिष्ठ अनुसंधाता तथा बायोलॉजिकल नाइट्रिफिकेशन इन्वैस्टिगेशन रिसर्च, जे.आई.आर.सी.ए.एस; जापान के समूह प्रमुख ने 8 दिसंबर 2008 को रा.ज्वा.अनु.कें. में नाइट्रीकरण नियंत्रण हेतु आनुवंशिकी नीति पर व्याख्यान दिया ।

चिह्नक (मार्कर) सहायक प्रजनन : डॉ मिनाक्षी सुंदरम्, वैज्ञानिक (व.वे.), चावल अनुसंधान निदेशालय, हैदराबाद ने 20 दिसंबर 2008 को रा.ज्वा.अनु.कें. में मार्कर सहायक प्रजनन : चावल के एक मामले का अध्ययन, विषय पर व्याख्यान दिया ।

आगंतुक : अहमदनगर जिला, महाराष्ट्र से श्री किसन चौधरी के नेतृत्व में 70 कृषक व प्रक्षेत्र महिलाएं तथा जलगाँव जिला, महाराष्ट्र से श्री जी एस शंकर के नेतृत्व में 100 कृषक ने क्रमशः 17 व 18 दिसंबर 2008 को रा.ज्वा.अनु.कें. के रबी ज्वार केंद्र, सोलापुर का दौरा किया ।

संस्थान की सामान्य बैठकें : संस्थान में 12 दिसंबर 2008 को संस्थान के संयुक्त कर्मचारी परिषद, कार्य-स्थल पर लैंगिक दोहन रोकथाम समिति, शिकायत कक्ष तथा राजभाषा कार्यान्वयन समिति की बैठकों का आयोजन किया गया ।

हिंदी सारानुवाद : डॉ. महेश कुमार



Keen interest shown by future entrepreneurs to know the technology developed on sorghum value-addition

discussed with the entrepreneurs. The relevant literature in Hindi and Marathi was distributed. Drs. B Dayakar Rao, Chari Appaji represented NRCS. Mr. Pramod Kumar Mr. K Ravindrababu, Ms. T Sarada, Ms. Kiranmai and Mr. Ashok actively participated in organizing the stall and interacted with visitors.

Sorghum stall at regional agricultural fair, Hyderabad

NRCS set up a "Sorghum stall" at Regional Agricultural



Mrs. A Annapurna explaining farmers about the newly developed Sorghum cultivars (above) and entrepreneurs discussing commercialization prospects (below)



Fair 2008 for southern zone at sports complex, ANGRAU, Hyderabad during 19-23 December, 08. More than 1500 visitors including farmers, scientists, agriculture officers, progressive farmers, farm-women groups from NGOs, visited and shown keen interest in the newly developed cultivars, food products, and other innovative products developed from sorghum grain and stalk. The importance of sorghum as health and nutritious food was explained to the visitors and relevant literature in Hindi and Telugu was distributed. There was a heavy demand for the sorghum food products sold at the stall. Dr. Ch, Sashidhar Reddy and Ms. A Annapurna organized the stall with the help of Mr. C Narsimha and Mr. Sandeep.

Awards and Honors

NAAS fellowship to Dr. N Seetharama



In a communication from Dr. Mangala Rai, President, National Academy of Agricultural Sciences informed that the NAAS has decided to award its prestigious fellowship to Dr. N Seetharama. The NAAS, established in 1990, focuses on the broad field of agricultural sciences and interface between agriculture and agro-industry. The Academy accords recognition to scientists at various levels, and encourages cutting-edge research in different fields of agricultural sciences. *The entire NRCS family congratulates Dr. Seetharama for this honour conferred on him.*

Honour for Dr. SS Rao



The oral presentation on the topic "Sweet sorghum: An alternative energy crop for bioethanol production" delivered by Dr. SS Rao, Principal Scientist, was adjudged "Best presentation" at the National conference on Biotechnological Approach to Alternate Energy, during December 5-6, 2008 held at IIT Madras, Chennai. He also received best poster award for the poster displayed on the same topic and Rs. 5000/- as the prize money. *Congratulations to Dr. SS Rao for the award and HS Gawali, NRCS Communicator for preparing the poster.*

DBT's "Grand Challenge Programme" meeting

NRCS along with DOR organized the second review



The meeting in progress

meeting of the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) sponsored grand challenge programme on “*Utilizing already developed markers for crop improvement*” at Directorate of Oilseeds Research (DOR), Hyderabad during December 16-17, 2008. Dr. PK Gupta headed the expert committee with 15 other project review members. Dr. DM Hegde, Director, DOR welcomed all the participants. Drs. R Madhusudhana and Monika Dalal coordinated the meeting. More than fourteen scientists from NRCS and DOR, and research scholars also observed the proceedings to update themselves in this applied area of research and to learn how to propose defend grant proposals.

New purified drinking water facility at NRCS

The NRCS has installed a reverse osmosis based water purifying system to cater the need of safe drinking water for its employees as well as to meet the laboratory



New RO based water purifying plant at NRCS

requirements. Reverse osmosis is a membrane separation process in which feed water flows along the 0.0001 micron semi-permeable membrane surface under pressure. RO systems effectively remove dissolved salts and microorganisms from drinking water. At NRCS the microbial contamination, if any, is monitored at regular intervals. Twice a year, we will also get a complete analysis of drinking water through the authentic water testing laboratory located at the state’s fever hospital.

Seminars at NRCS

Genetic strategy to control nitrification

Dr GV Subbarao, senior researcher and group leader of



Dr. GV Subbarao delivering lecture on biological nitrification

Biological Nitrification Inhibition research, JIRCAS, Japan, delivered a seminar on December 8, 2008 at the NRC for Sorghum on the topic, “*Is there a genetic strategy to control nitrification and nitrous oxide emissions from agricultural systems? - Role of Biological Nitrification Inhibition*”. He explained that BNI compound release from sorghum roots is a physiologically active process and is stimulated by the presence of NH_4^+ . This release of BNI compounds increases with growth stage. Dr Subbarao and his colleagues had identified and purified an active constituent called methyl (3-4 hydroxyphenyl) propionate, which is the first compound purified from the root exudates. This is an important step towards better understanding BNI in sorghum. Dr HS Talwar, Senior scientist organized the seminar, and may develop a joint project with the Japanese in future through bilateral options between India and Japan.

Marker assisted breeding

Dr Minakshi Sundaram, Scientist from Directorate of Rice Research, Hyderabad delivered a lecture on “*Marker assisted breeding: A case study of Rice*” at



Dr. Minakshi Sundaram, answering queries from audience

NRCS on December 20, 2008. The topic dealt with possible schemes for MAS, and pyramiding largely drawing from the experience on rice. A lively discussion followed on the opportunities for ICAR scientists at Hyderabad to excel in this area. NRCS, has already an action plan for MAS, and these efforts will intensify with greater support during XI plan.

Other in-house seminars

On December 6, 2008 Dr. SV Rao, Principal Scientist delivered a seminar on “*Inter-specific hybridization in sorghum*”, Dr. KBRS Visarada, spoke on “*Possibility for generating haploids in sorghum*” and on December 12, 2008 Mr. D Balakrishna, Scientist (SS) delivered a lecture on “*Sorghum Bt transgenic work at sorghum*”. These seminars were organized under the regular institutional seminar series, and coordinated by Dr. VR Bhagwat.

Dr Kalaisekar, Sr. Entomologist, joins NRCS

Dr. Kalaisekar, previously scientist at ICAR Research Complex for NEH region, Umiam, Meghalaya joined at NRC for Sorghum as Senior Scientist (Ag.



Entomology) on December 11, 2008. His immediate responsibility will be to study insect problems in sweet sorghum, and to develop IPM package. He will also continue his work on insect systematics and help all local ICAR centres. His e-mail id is: kalaisekar@nrcoresorghum.res.in. *The sorghum family welcomes Dr Kalaisekar.*

Lecture delivered at International training programme

Dr. KBRS Visarada delivered an invited lecture entitled "IPRs in agricultural biotechnology" at the 6th International training programme on "Basics with molecular markers and transgenic techniques for crop improvement" held at UAS, Bangalore on December 26, 2008.

Rabi sorghum farmer groups visit NRCS - Solapur centre

Mr. Kisan Choudhary, Organizing secretary, Ramling Credit Society, Ahmednagar district, Maharashtra along



Farmers from Ahmednagar district, Maharashtra

with 70 farmers and farm women visited CRS Solapur on 17 December 2008. Further, 100 farmers led by Mr. G S Shankar from Jalgaon district, Maharashtra visited CRS Solapur as part of their agricultural study tour on 18 December 08.

NRCS team at Solapur, explained to above groups the research activities at the centre and the possibilities of better sorghum production in Maharashtra. The farmers also visited the experimental plots where recently released varieties have been demonstrated. These visits at Centre on Rabi Sorghum (NRCS) were coordinated by Dr. MS Raut, Dr. Chari Appaji, Mr. DM Bahadure and Mr. AR Limbore.

Honesty of MR. Jayaprakash appreciated

Dr. B.M. Prasanna, ICAR National Fellow, Division of Genetics, IARI, New Delhi found shortage of Rs. 900/- from the money received towards reimbursement of TA & DA from NRCS only after returning to Delhi. However, B Jayaprakash, cashier of NRCS found Rs. 900 extra in the cash box and informed Dr. Prasanna of the same. *Mr. Jayaprakash - your honesty*



and good sense of public service is highly appreciated.

Institute's common meetings

Institute Joint Staff Council (IJSC)

The XV Institute Joint Staff Council Meeting was held on 12 December, 2008 in the Committee Room. The following staff members were present in the meeting: Official side: Dr. N Seetharama – Director & Chairman, Drs. SV Rao, TGN Rao, G Shyam Prasad, PG Padmaja, Mr. WS Bhat –Members and Mr. KJ Mathai – Member Secretary; Staff side: Sh. B Sudarshan – Secretary (Staff side), Sh. K Sanath Kumar – Member (CJSC), Sh. AV Rao- Member (Administration), Sh. P Prakash, Sh. G Ramulu – Members (Technical) and Sh. Shankar–Members (Supporting). The Member-Secretary presented the action taken report on agenda items. The progress was discussed by the members.

Committee on prevention of sexual harassment at work place

The meeting of "Committee on prevention of sexual harassment at work place" was held on the 12 December, 2008. The following staff members were present in the meeting: Drs. Surekha, Sr. Scientist, DRR, (External member), KBRS Visarada, PG Padmaja, (Members) and Mr. KJ Mathai (Member-Secretary).

Institute Grievance cell (IGC)

The Institute Grievance Cell Meeting was held on 12 December, 2008. The following members were present in the meeting: Official side: Dr. N Seetharama - Chairman, Sh. KJ Mathai, WS Bhat - Members, – Sh. A Venkateshwara Rao, Member-Secretary; Staff side: Dr. VA Tonapi – Member (Scientific), Sh. K Sanath Kumar – Member (Admn), Sh. B Sudharshan – Member (Supporting staff). The committee has reviewed the Action Taken Report submitted by the Member-Secretary. There was no grievance to discuss, so all discussed on proactive measures to increase work efficiency.

Meeting with Technical staff

The technical staff meetings were held on 20 and 24 the December 2008, to discuss various issues including the system of periodic performance appraisals and review of work-plans. A total of 26 staff members participated during the deliberations. Dr. TGN Rao, coordinator and liaison officer also participated during the deliberations. The proceedings of the meeting are posted in the NRCS intranet.

Publications

Das IK, Indira S, Annapurna A, Prabhakar and Seetharama, N. 2008. Biocontrol of charcoal rot in sorghum by fluorescent pseudomonads associated with rhizosphere. **Crop Protection**, 27 (2008) 1407-1414.

Das IK, Bandamaravuri Kishore Babu, Alok K Srivastava, Sudheer Kumar and Dilip K Arora.(2008). Ecology biology and management of *Macrophomina phaseolina*: an overview. *In: Agriculturally Important Microorganisms* (Vol 1), eds. George G Khachatourians, Dilip K Arora, T. P. Rajendran and Alok

AICSIP News

Submission of plant variety applications

The following AICSIP centres have submitted the plant variety applications for registration with Plant Authority, New Delhi, through NRCS:

ANGRAU – Palem (1 application), MAU Parbhani (2), MPKV Rahuri (5), BPUA&T – Pantnagar (1) and TNAU-Coimbatore (6)

These applications are submitted to the Director, NBPGR on 23 Dec, 08. Dr. M Elangovan coordinated this task.

AGM 09 at Indore planned

It is proposed that the 39th Sorghum Annual Group Meetings to be held at College of Agriculture, Rajmata Vijayaraje Scindia Krishi Vishva Vidyalaya, Indore, Madhya Pradesh from 26-28 February, 2009. The council approached for the permission About 200 participants, including those from ICAR, SAUs, ICRISAT, NGOs, State Seed Certification agencies, Private Sector and the host university are expected to attend this meet, for which preparations are going on briskly.



Drs. Nazam Ali and DN Yadav associate professor along with under graduate students of B.Sc (Ag) from Agriculture College, SVBPVAT, Meerut (UP) visited NRCS on Dec. 30, 2008. The purpose of the visit was to expose them to new production and protection technologies, farm management, and other issues in agriculture. Ch Shashidhar Reddy explained the team about the production and protection technologies and the recent advances in sorghum research. The students were taken to various labs and they were impressed with the role of sorghum as a health food crop.

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

S. No	Name of the Official	Participated in	Type	Venue	Dates
1	N Seetharama & M Elangovan	"Protection of geographical indications in India and the United States: A Road-show for products of Natural, Manufactured and Agricultural Products" organized by United states patent and trademark office and NRDC, New Delhi	W	Katriya De Royal Hotel, Hyderabad	1 Dec. 08
2	K Revati	Training programme on " Web standards, Technologies and standardization" under Agro-Web project	T	NAARM, Hyderabad	3-12 Dec, 08
3	SS Rao	National conference on "Biotechnological Approaches to Alternate Energy (BAAI)"	C	IIT Madras, Chennai	5-6 Dec, 08
4	VSG Parvathi & D Rambabu	Training on "NAIP - financial management system"	T	NAARM, Hyderabad	12-13 Dec, 08
5	N Seetharama, B Venkatesh Bhat, C Aruna, S Rakshit R Madhusudha, Monika Dalal & Research scholars	DBT's "Grand Challenge Programme" meeting	M	DOR, Hyderabad	16-17 Dec, 08
6	VA Tonapi	National Seed Congress 2008	C	GKVK, Bangalore	22-23 Dec, 08

Official Tours

S. No	Name of the Official	Place Visited	Dates	Purpose
1	Ch Sashidhar Reddy	Parbhani District	2-7 Dec, 08	To visit the farmer fields for guidance along with ITC Officials.
2	B Subbarayudu	CRS, Solapur	2 Dec 08	To monitor shoot bug population F6's pre-breeding material
3	HS Talwar	RARS, Tandur	3 Dec, 08	To monitor drought tolerant (QTL) trials
4	KBRS Visarada	UAS, Bangalore	11 Dec, 08	To deliver an invited lecture
5	B Dayakar Rao, Chari Appaji, Pramod Kumar, K Ravindrababu, T Sarada, Kiranmai & Ashok	Pune	17-21 Dec, 08	To organize sorghum stall at Agricultural fair
6	VA Tonapi	NBFGR, Lucknow	18-20 Dec, 08	To deliver a series of invited lectures on data books management for IP in ICAR organized workshop
7	B Subbarayudu, Rajendra Chapke & JS Mishra	Tenali, Guntur District.	21-23 Dec, 08	To carryout sowing s in rice- fallows under zero tillage condition in Guntur district, AP.
8	N Seetharama	New Delhi	23 Dec,08	To consult DDG (CS), NAIP officials and PIM cell on official matters

Thought for the month



"An ounce of practice is worth more than tons of preaching"...

- Mahatma Gandhi

Printed Matter / Book Post

To



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