



# Happenings at NRC for Sorghum

Serial No. 11

Hyderabad ? Solapur ? Warangal

## In this issue

1. Release of NRCS publication
2. Appreciation for NATP Biodiversity project
3. Upswing in demand of sweet sorghum
4. More interaction with private sector on sweet sorghum
5. Visit of under secretary (Personnel) ICAR
6. New biology journal club
7. New books in our library
8. In house sub-committees
9. Visitors
10. Farewell
11. Visits
12. Trainings/Seminars/Meetings attended

### Release of NRCS publication

Ms. Sashi Mishra, Additional Secretary, DARE and Secretary ICAR released a NRCS Publication entitled



Ms. Sashi Mishra releasing the book as Dr. N. Seetharama and Dr. R.K. Samanta, Director, NAARM, looks on

**“Macro and Micro-level Changes in Consumption of Nutritious Cereals in India”** in the presence of Dr. R.K. Samanta, Director NAARM and dignitaries on 29 July. This book outlines the trends and compares cereal consumption in rural vs. urban areas across district and income groups. The influence of real price of sorghum on its consumption is also elucidated. This publication is a part of the report from the NATP RNPS-6 project made by Dr. B. Dayakar Rao, Sr. Economist.

### Appreciation for NATP Biodiversity project

A three member team from NBPGR, headed by Dr. SK Pareek, Principal Investigator, NATP (Mission Mode – Biodiversity) along with Dr. KS Varaprasad, Officer in-charge, NBPGR-Regional Station, and Dr. KE Prasada Rao, Chairman, Zonal Technical Committee visited NRCS and reviewed the final outcome of the project on



Dr. Elangovan, scientist, explaining the new germplasm lines collected during the year to Drs. SK Pareek, KE Prasad Rao and KS Varaprasad

16 July, 2004.

Comments made by Dr. Pareek are reproduced below:

*“It is a matter of great pleasure to see the excellent performance of NATP (BD) at NRC Sorghum, the MTS, database, and characterization, collection and documentation part of the project. I hope it will be of great use for present and future generations”.*

### Upswing in demand of sweet sorghum seed

Sweet sorghum cultivation is becoming very popular very fast. Its seed is in high demand from various sugar industries located at Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Orissa. More than 13.5 tonnes of good quality seed of SSV 84 was distributed by NRCS. We have also worked with GMR sugar industry to provide 2.75 tonnes of seed under the **seed village concept** at Sankili, Srikakulam District, AP.

Although only SSV 84 is now used on a larger scale, we will soon provide seeds and other cultivars, especially hybrids in the near future, which are awaiting official release by competent authority.

### More interaction with private sector on sweet sorghum

Mr. Jay Uppal, Consultant of Winrock International, visited NRCS on 17 July. He was immensely impressed on the progress achieved in respect of ethanol production from sweet sorghum. He requested us to organize a **short session on recent achievements and results of pilot experiments on ethanol production from sorghum during the proposed international conference to be held at New Delhi during 17,18 September,2004.**

On 19 July, Mr. Ganapathi Raju, Coordinator of their



*Dr. Ratnavathi and the Director explaining Mr Ganapathi Raju, Coordinator, XL Telecom salient features of the sweet sorghum variety SSV 84 for use as a raw material in biofuel*

Ethanol project, visited NRCS and interacted with the Director and other scientists viz. Drs CV Ratnavathi, B Dayakar Rao, Chari Appaji and SS Rao. Director appraised the group about the new developments in ICAR pertaining to collaborative projects and transfer of technology between public and private sector.

Sh. TSC Bose, Director, Gayathri Sugars Limited, Hyderabad visited NRCS on 21 July to educate himself about sweet sorghum and its use in the production of ethanol.

Sh. K. Madhusudan, Chairman and Managing Director of Sree Rayalaseema Green Energy Limited, Kurnool (AP), visited NRCS to study the possibility of sweet sorghum utilization in place of sugarcane molasses in the production of ethanol. The company also have plans to install a rectified spirit plant at Nandyal. The group was impressed by the information provided by this centre and purchased 10 kg of sweet sorghum seed to grow for trial run.

### Visit of Under Secretary (Personnel), ICAR

Sh. Madan Saroop, Under Secretary (Personnel) along with Mr. Jayachandran, Section Officer, from the Council visited the centre on 31 July. They verified the



*Inspection of service books of scientists in progress by ICAR officials*

service books of all scientists to check the correctness of all entries including date of birth, discipline, category, date of joining, promotion dates in connection with maintenance of post based rosters at ICAR.

### New Biology Journal Club

Biotechnologists at NRCS and sister ICAR institutes at Hyderabad and ANGRAU formed a New Biology

Journal Club. The club members proposes to meet every week and one of the members will give a seminar on a recent development or review a journal article describing latest developments. Scientists from other disciplines are also actively participating. The following seminars were organized by this club:

**Seminar 1:** The New Biology Journal Club of NRCS conducted a Seminar on "Map based cloning of Rf1 gene in rice" on 9 July. Dr V Dinesh Kumar, Sr.



*Scientists and students listening in rapt attention to the lecture by Dr. Dinesh, Sr. Scientist, Biotechnology, Directorate of Oilseeds Research*

Scientist, Biotechnology, Directorate of Oil seed Research, Hyderabad was the speaker. Dr R Madhusudhana, Coordinator organized the above seminar.

**Seminar 2:** Sh. D Balakrishna, Scientist, NRCS, delivered a seminar on 16 July on "Molecular and genetic analysis of transgenic plant considering and approaches" (SR Bhat & Srinivasan, Plant Science, 2002, 162: 673-684).

**Seminar 3:** Dr KBRS Visarada, Sr. Scientist (Biotechnology), NRCS, presented a research article on "Effective production of marker-free transgenic strawberry plants using inducible site-specific recombination and a bifunctional selectable marker gene" (JG Schaart, FA Krens, KTB Pelgrom, O Mendes and GJA Rouwendal, Plant Biotechnology Journal, 2004, 2: 233-240)

### New books in our library

#### Windows Series 2003 Environment

by Dam Holme and Orin Thomas

#### Microsoft Office 2003 : Resource Kit

- Microsoft Publication

#### Microsoft Office 2003 in 10 simple steps or less

by Michael Besmoud

**Professional Info path 2003** (2004 Ed.) by Ian Williams & Pierre Greborio

**Microsoft Office Info path 2003: A beginners guide** by David Mc Amis

## Trainings/Seminars/ Meetings attended

S. No	Name of the scientist	Participated in	Venue	Date
1	Dr. SV Rao, SS Rao, KBRS, R Madhusudhana, D Balakrishna, and N Seetharama	A seminar on "Genetic engineering for improving abiotic tolerance in rice with trehalose biosynthetic genes" delivered by Dr Ajay K Garg, from Biotechnology Department, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, USA.	ANGRAU Hyderabad	2 July, 2004
2	Dr N Seetharama	Formulation of DBT projects on millets	Bangalore	23 July, 2004.
3	Drs Vilas Tonapi and M Elangovan	National workshop on IPR and WTO	MAU, Parbhani.	28 July to 1 August, 2004
4	Mr. KJ Mathai, AO	Workshop on "Accounting Reforms"	National Institute of Financial Management, Faridabad	28 July
5	Dr N Seetharama	Management of Research Institutions	NAARM	28-29 July, 2004
6	Sh. V Anjaneyulu, and Sh. V Ravikumar, SRF	Personnel Management Information System Network of ICAR (PERMIS net)	IASRI, New Delhi	23-24 July, 2004

## Official Travels

S. No	Name of the scientist	Place visited	Date	Purpose/comments
1	Dr Vilas Tonapi	UAS, Dharwad	6-8 July, 2004.	Visited as external examiner to conduct qualifying examination for five post-graduate students in seed tech.
2	Dr B Dayakar Rao, Mr. Inaytuddin and Thirumalai Vallavan, RA.	Pune	21 – 24 July	Met the entrepreneurs of private industries and explored prospects of the sweet sorghum in ethanol production Marketing Board

## In house Sub-committees

In compliance with the existing and emerging policies and practices of ICAR, the following sub-committees are formed:

### Project Evaluation & Management (PEM) Cell:

Dr. BU Singh	RAC, Secretary & Chairperson
Dr. C Aruna	SRC, Secretary & Member Dr. IK Das Member
Dr. SS Rao	Member

### IPR and "Marketing Cell":

Dr. N Seetharama	Chairperson
Dr. KBRS Visharada	IPR Coordinator
Dr. B Dayakar Rao	Marketing - Coordinator
Dr. CV Ratnavati	Member
Dr. VA Tonapi	Member
Sh. T Sridharan	Member
Sh. A Venkateshwar Rao	Member Secretary

Contd....

### Hindi Cell:

Dr. S Indira	Chairperson
Mr. Promod Kumar	Member (Solapur)
A Hindi Pandit (to be named, Part time)	Member
Sub-assistant (part-time)	Member

### Revenue generation committee:

Dr. S Audilakshmi	Chairperson
Dr. Chari Appaji	Member
Dr. Kannababu	Member
Dr. B Subbarayudu	Member (Solapur)
Dr. A Ashok Reddy	Member (Warangal)
Mr. HS Ghaywan	Member
Sh. KJ Mathai	Member Secretary

### Farm research committee:

Dr. N Seetharama	Chairperson
Dr. PK Biswas	Member
Dr. MS Raut	Member (Solapur)
Captains for the season	Member
Mr. HS Ghaywan	Member Secretary

### Visitors

A group of 40 farmers from Ganded Mandal, Ranga Reddy district trained under "Agriculture intensification" programme by Farmers training centre Rajendranagar, visited NRCS on 21 July. These farmers were exposed to sorghum production technology of recently released cultivars. The extension unit facilitated the above visit.



Dr. Shashidhar Reddy, Extension scientist, explaining salient features of sorghum production technology to farmers

A group of 31 students and 3 professors from Division of Biotechnology, Majhigharani Institute of Technology and Science (MITS), Rayagada, Orissa visited our centre on 29 July as a part of their study tour. The team was



Dr. KBRS Visarada, Scientist, Biotechnology, explaining the techniques of genetic transformation

led by Dr Jogeshwar Panigrahi, Head of the Division. The group visited Biotechnology and Alternative Uses labs. They also visited the museum and fields. The team was given full exposure knowledge on the intricacies of sorghum production technology and research methodology used by us.

### In house training courses for staff development

Training cum workshop on "**Advanced features of MS office 2003, Outlook express, Network security and retrieval system**"

Course Duration:	3 days (9.00 am to 5pm)
Proposed dates:	9 - 11 September, 2004
Course Directors:	Dr. N Seetharama, Director
Course coordinators:	Dr. B Dayakar Rao, Senior Scientist (Agri. economics) Dr. M Elangovan, Scientist (Economic Botany)

### Training for Seed and Agro Industry

Training cum workshop on "**Biodiversity and Intellectual Property Rights in relation to Agrarian and seed sector reforms in India**" from 17-20 November, 2004.

Course Duration:	4 days (9.00 am to 5pm)
Proposed dates:	17 - 20 November, 2004
Course Directors:	Dr. N Seetharama, Director Dr. Vilas A. Tonapi, Senior Scientist (Seed Technology)
Course coordinators:	Dr. KBRS Visarada, Senior Scientist (Biotechnology) Dr. M Elangovan, Scientist (Economic Botany)

### Farewell to J. Narasing Rao

J Narasing Rao, Technical Assistant T4 who has put 37 years of service to the council, has superannuated from service on 31 July, 2004. In the farewell function Dr Indira, Director in-charge and other staff recalled the dedicated services rendered by him to the centre and wished him for happy, healthy and active retired life.



Dr. Indira, In-charge Director, presenting a memento to Shri. J. Narasing Rao

### Thought for the month

*Everything in this world, every little experience which we undergo or even merely read about is entertained, philosophers tell us to teach us something to hold, equip us for the battle of life.*

Compilation & lay-out by:

Dr. KV Raghavendra Rao, Sh. K Sanath Kumar & Sh. HS Gawali

Edited and published by:

Dr. N Seetharama,  
Director, National Research Centre for Sorghum (NRCS), Rajendranagar, Hyderabad 500 030 (AP).  
Website: [www.nrscsorghum.res.in](http://www.nrscsorghum.res.in)