



Happenings at NRC for Sor-



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In this Issue

1. Institute management committee meets
2. Visit of Parliamentary standing committee
3. Sorghum seed day observed
4. National Seminar on Millets at Jodhpur
5. Sorghum Germplasm day
6. Breeder seed plot inspected
7. e-library consortium
8. Certification of CSH 16
9. Three prizes for NRCS posters
10. Training of Deputy collector
11. New grievance cell established
12. Trainings/Seminars/Meetings
13. Lectures delivered
14. Visitors
15. Revenue generation
16. ICAR merit scholarships to staff children
17. Family news

various ICAR institute represented by Dr IV Subba Rao, former Vice- chancellor, ANGRAU visited NRCS on 27



Dr. IV Subba Rao being explained prospects for promoting sorghum as a commercial crop

Institute Management Committee Meeting

The XI Institute Management Committee (IMC) meeting was held on 29 March under the chairmanship of Dr N Seetharama, Director, NRCS and other distinguished members : Drs DM Hegde (Project Director, DOR), B Mishra (Director, DRR), KPR Vittal (PC, Dryland Project) and S Audilakshmi (Pr. Scientist, NRCS). Sh. B Pandu



The XI IMC meeting in progress on 29 March 2004

Reddy, FAO, CRIDA, was a special invitee to advise on financial matters since the term of regular nominee of the presidium had expired. Sh. T Sridharan, AFAO and Sh. WS Bhat, AAO(E) NRCS also participated.

The agenda items were deliberated at length based on the extensive agenda notes circulated in advance to all members. All the members expressed satisfaction on progress made by the institute, and the plan for the near future.

Visit of Parliamentary standing committee

The parliamentary standing committee on agriculture to evaluate the worthiness of the research carried out by

March. We appraised him of the progress in different disciplines and the facilities at the institute. He stressed the need of hastening the launch of sorghum products on a commercial scale with tie-up with private sector.

AP Sorghum seed day on Women's day at Ippalapalle village, AP

Sorghum seed day was organized on 8 March in '296 A' breeder seed plot at Ippalapalle village, Mahaboobnagar



Women and men farmers discussing intricate aspects of seed production



Dr. Kannababu answering queries on seed production aspects to the inquisitive farmers

district, of AP as per the guidelines from National Seed Project (NSP-Crops) and the Council. We planned this on the World Women's Day. A large numbers of women farmers were specially invited. Sh. S. Babu Rao, Managing Director, APSSDC was the Chief Guest. The representatives from state seed growers association, local farmers, state agricultural department, seed industry and scientists from NRCS participated and discussed on various issues of sorghum seed crop management, seed quality, economics and breeder seed production. An exhibition of the research findings was also held. Congratulations to Dr N Kannababu who did most hard work and organized the event.

National Seminar on Millets at Jodhpur

A national seminar on "Millets research & development: future policy options in India" was held at Mandor, Jodhpur on 11-12 March, to address the current status of research on millets including livestock sustainability, commercialization of value added products and quality seed. This seminar was organized jointly by the three Coordinated crop programmes of ICAR (AICSIP, AICPMIP & AICSMIP). Min.



Dr. Atul Sharma, D C of Jodhpur division examining sorghum products at NRCS stall of alternate uses at Jodhpur

of Agriculture through Director of Millets Development, Jaipur sponsored this meeting. We congratulate the organizing secretary Dr IS Khairwal (PC, Pearl Millet) for efficient conduct of this event. The next event in this series will be held at Hyderabad later this year.

Sorghum Germplasm day

The sorghum germplasm day was organized at NRCS on 23 March in the sorghum genetic resources field of NRCS. A



Dr. Elangovan showing new germplasm lines collected

total of 20 scientists from NRCS and NBPGR regional station participated and selected desirable accessions for their research programme. Dr Elangovan informed the group that his recent germplasm exploration along with Dr Prabhakar covered 4 districts of Maharashtra and a total of 21 accessions were collected. Priority for future germplasm research and service were also discussed.

Breeder seed plots inspected

Inspection of the breeder seed production plots of RS 29 and RS 673 at NRCS was held on 11 February. The monitoring team comprising the members from APSSCA,



Seed certification official with NRCS staff in RS 29 field

NSC, APSSDC, ANGRAU and NRCS, approved the above BSP plots. Dr N. Kannababu, seed scientist, coordinated this inspection.

e-Library consortium of ICAR institutions formed

An inter-institutional meet to establish a consortium to subscribe e-library was held on 5 March. Librarians and scientist in-charge for information services from



Demonstration on e-library consortium meeting

NAARM, DRR, CRIDA and NRC for Oil Palm (NRCOP), Eluru participated in the meeting. Issues relating to databases, economic feasibility and internet connectivity were also deliberated. A presentation on e-library by EBSCO representative Mr. Pratap Das was also part of the meeting. In addition, the presentation on online "Leave Management System (LMS)" developed by NRCS was also made. Director, NRCS chaired the meeting and K Ravindrababu, Librarian, and Dr Vilas A. Tonapi Officer in-charge, Library coordinated. Since then the NRCOP, SBI (Coimbatore), CRIDA and

NRCS formed a league to share costs of e-subscriptions to journals.

Certification of hybrid seed of CSH 16

The members from A P State Seed Certification Agency (APSSCA) and NRCS inspected the certified seed production plot of CSH 16 planted by Mr. Anjanulu and supervised by Dr Audilakshmi and her team at Kollur



The seed certification team from APSSCA in CSH 16 field

village in Medak district, on 17 March 2004. This production was successfully taken up in an area about 2 ha. Drs S Ravikumar and Vilas Tonapi, facilitated the visit of inspection team. Sh. HS Gawali, Multimedia Officer covered the event digitally.

Three prizes for NRCS posters in one month, but we are not complacent

During March, three different posters of NRCS received due recognition in three separate national meetings. The poster entitled "*Total grain quality management of kharif sorghum*" presented by Dr S. Audilakshmi was adjudged for "**Best poster presentation award**" at a national seminar on "*Millet research & development: future policy options in India*" held at Mandor, Jodhpur on 11-12 March (see above). Congratulations to Dr Audilakshmi team.

Another poster entitled "*A simple system to transgenic sorghum using shoot apical meristem*" presented during session on "*Agriculture and Environmental Biotechnology*" during the 6th National symposium - *Biohorizon 2004* held at IIT, New Delhi during 12-13 March organized by Biochemical Engineers & Technologists Association by the students of **Dr KBRS Visarada**, Mr N Sai Kishore and Mr E Pasupatinath, won the **first prize**. NRCS will receive six month free subscription to the journal "*Nature Molecular Cell Biology*" from Nature publishing group. NRCS congratulates competent and dedicated students and the team lead by Dr Visarada for this achievement.

Dr CV Ratnavathi, was awarded a **consolation prize** for the poster entitled "*Developing sorghum as an efficient biomass and bioenergy crop and providing value-addition to the rain-damaged kharif grain*" (RNPS 24) at the National symposium cum exhibition on "*Enhancing productivity and sustainability in rain fed agro-ecosystem*" held during 24–26 March, at ANGRAU, Hyderabad. Our appreciation goes to Rathnavati's team.

However, we realize that it is dangerous to be complacent with these achievements and there is a vast scope to

improve our standards for poster preparation. Therefore, NRCS is planning to conduct a single day training programme on the intricacies of layout, designing, colour scheme, content quality etc. in the near future with the help of professionals.

Training of the Deputy Collector

Sh. Ashok Kumar Naik, Probationary Deputy Collector, participated in a half-day training course at NRCS, on 24 March as a part of his 50-week training programme prescribed by the Govt. of India. Director presented an overview and listed the activities in which civil servants have to interact with the ICAR. Drs Vilas Tonapi and M. Elangovan briefed on the research activities, thrust areas of NRCS and All-India Coordinated sorghum Improvement Programme, and a field visit was also organized. All the NRCS publications and other related literature on sorghum development were also handed over.

New grievance cell established

The election of new committee members for the NRCS Grievance Cell was held on 18 March. The following members were elected unanimously: **Dr SV Rao** (Scientific category); **Sh. Pramod Kumar** (Technical); **Sh. K Sanath Kumar** (Administration) and **Sh. B. Sudarshan** (supporting).

Trainings/ Seminars/ Meetings attended

Dr Vilas A Tonapi : XIX Annual group meeting of National Seeds Project (crops) at Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana, scheduled during 1-3 March, and presented the paper on "*Sorghum: Crop Improvement Review, and suggestions for inter-project linkages*".

Drs S Ravi Kumar and Chari Appaji : Gunigad Research Farm of CRIDA on 3 March to monitor seed production of SSV 84 variety.

Drs N Seetharama, S Ravi Kumar, Chari Appaji, B Dayakar Rao and PK Biswas : in the review meeting of ILRI, ICRISAT, Patancheru on 4 March. This meeting was of stake holders of DFID funded project on enhancing livelihood of poor livestock keepers through increase use of fodder.

Drs S Ravi Kumar and Chari Appaji : SAP meeting of Krishi Vigyan Kendra, CRIDA and presented a paper on "*Available technologies of sorghum ready to be transferred to farmers*" on 5 March at CRIDA, Hyderabad.

Drs N Seetharama, SV Rao and KBRS Visarada : National conference on "*Transgenics in Indian agriculture*" organized by ICAR, NBPGR, and ISPGR held at National Academy of Agricultural Sciences complex New Delhi on 9-10 March.

Drs SL Kaul and Prabhakar : National symposium on "*Harnessing heterosis in crop plants*" at Indian Institute of Vegetable Research, Varanasi from 13-15, March. Dr Mangala Rai, DG was the chief guest. Clear-cut action plan and roadmaps were drawn to explore heterosis in various

crop plants during the deliberations. An active plan for sorghum is drafted and sent to the Council.

Dr IK Das : NBAIM-CAB international UK joint work shop on "Isolation, preservation and conservation of agriculturally important microorganisms and use of potential molecular tools for their identification" and to participate in Brainstorming session on "Opportunities in microbial diversity and role of biological resource centre" and a round-table discussion on "Need for microbial database and networking" held at NBAIM, IARI, New Delhi from 15-19 March, 2004.

Dr M Elangovan : V National workshop on Plant Biodiversity, NATP (MM-BD), NBPGR, New Delhi, 17 – 18 March, 2004 .

Dr N Seetharama : Meeting of ICAR-ICRISAT collaborative project on genetic resources . It was held on 19 March at NBPGR regional station, Hyderabad. Dr BS Dhillon, Director NBPGR New Delhi chaired the meeting. He discussed at length the progress made in the project during last year and technical programme for 2004-05.

Dr N Kanna Babu : Three-day National conference on "Seed: A global perspective" organized by Indian Society of Seed Technology, IARI, at National Agricultural Science Centre during 26-28 March, 2004.

Dr Chari Appaji : "Agri-Clinics and Agribusiness centres" conducted by Participatory Rural Development Initiative society (PRDIS) Hyderabad on 24 March, at PRDIS training centre, Kismatpur, Dist. Rangareddy.

Lectures delivered

Dr SV Rao : "Transformation of sorghum for insect resistance" at the department of Biotechnology, GB Pant University of Agriculture & Technology, Pantnagar on 12 March.

Dr Vilas A Tonapi : "Seed quality assurance and significance of seed standards" at state level training programme on seed testing organized by Seed Technology Research project, ANGRAU, Hyderabad on 26 March.

Visitors

Sh. S Krishna Murthy, Agricultural Extension Officer, Madurai, and **Sh. P Ashok Kumar**, Agricultural Development Officer, Erode of Tamil Nadu visited our Centre on 19 March. They were appraised of the new research and developments and were provided with the latest information, brochures and bulletins.

Revenue generation

Three wrist watches and three jackets, offered by a Zenith computers as free gifts to promote their sales, were auctioned openly in the premises of NRCS on 22 March. An amount Rs. 1020/- was earned and has been credited to the office to support our revenue generation programme.

ICAR merit scholarships to staff children

The Secretary, ICAR has nominated Dr. N Seetharama, Director, NRCS as the Vice-President of the Zonal Scholarship Fund Committee (Zone - IV) under the ICAR Golden merit scholarship scheme. The zone - IV includes the ICAR institutes located in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka, Tamilnadu and Pondicherry. These scholarships are mainly meant to support the meritorious children of the employees of the council, specially those who are in junior grades. Please contact Mr. M Anjaiah for more details.

Family news

Sh. G Sattaiah, Driver (T2), performed the marriage of his



daughter **Ms. Sumalatha** with **Mr. Raju** on 14th March. Many staff attended the marriage and blessed the couple for a happy married life.



Ms. Aparna, daughter of **N Seetharama** scored 70% in II year MBBS exam. She won I prize for tennis and III prize in the elocution contest.

All funds utilized at NRCS

We utilized 100 % AICSIP funds, 99.75% plan funds and 94.25% non-plan allotted to us (pensions and establishment charges were not fully spent). Congratulations to finance and administration staff.

Thought for the month

**Winners don't do different things..
They do things differently**

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