



Happenings at NRC for Sorghum, and AICSIP news

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Meeting of ICAR-ICRISAT collaborative projects

A meeting on "ICAR-ICRISAT collaborative projects" was held at NRCS on 15 Nov., 2006. The meeting was attended by Drs BV S Reddy, Ashok, L Krishnamurthy, CT Hash, Rajiv Kumar Varshney (ICRISAT), N Seetharama, HS Talwar, S Audilakshmi, B Dayakar Rao, CV Ratnavathi, KBRs Visarada, SV Rao, C Aruna, IK Das (NRCS) and A Padma Raju, former DR, ANGRAU represented an NGO.



Members deliberating on probable collaborative projects

The group met and discussed the scope for making applications for competitive research grants. While welcoming the participants, Director NRCS stated that the discussion may include all possible opportunities for applying for joint proposals. However, the proposals for NAIP may be given due priority.

The group deliberated scope for such joint proposals across different dryland crops, since the underlying advanced technologies are common; such consortia will help to increase efficiency of inputs – capital, human and recurring expenditure. Examples of such technologies were given: Dr. Varshney highlighted recent advances in genomics. Dr. Tom Hash narrated how newer approaches on molecular marker to deal with large random population can revolutionize MAS. Dr. Krishna Murthy suggested that the basic infrastructural facilities for large-scale screening for stress resistance under field conditions could be done under one coalition, increasing cost-effectiveness, and affording large participation of interested scientists. Dr. Padma Raju suggested due care to assess technologies through independent means before rushing for commercialization.

समाचार सारांश

मध्याह्न भोजन के रूप में ज्वार उपमा : अनन्तपुर, महबूदनगर तथा विजयनगरम् जिलों में स्कूल के छात्रों के लिए नागरिक भूति मंत्रालय, आंध्र प्रदेश सरकार के सहयोग से गैर-सरकारी संगठन मध्याह्न भोजन के रूप में ज्वार उपमा को बढ़ावा दे रहे हैं ।

प.स.व. समीक्षा बैठक : रा.ज्वा.अनु.कें. में 7-12 नवंबर 2006 के दौरान प.स.व. (पंचवार्षिक समीक्षा दल) की बैठक हुई ।

उप महानिदेशक द्वारा रा. ज्वा. अनु. कें. का निरीक्षण : डॉ. जी. कल्लू, उप महानिदेशक (आगवानी तथा फसल विज्ञान) ने 27 नवंबर 2006 को रा.ज्वा.अनु.कें. का निरीक्षण किया तथा केंद्र में हो रहे अनुसंधान विकासों की प्रशंसा की ।

महाराष्ट्र से जननद्रव्य संघवन : खरिफ 2006 के दौरान डॉ. एलनगोवन, वैज्ञानिक ने 4-15 नवंबर 2006 के दौरान महाराष्ट्र के मेलघाट जनजातीय क्षेत्रों से 25 जननद्रव्य नमूनों को एकत्र किया ।

रा.ज्वा.अनु.कें. स्थापना दिवस का आयोजन : केंद्र में 16 नवंबर 2006 को बड़े-ही उत्साह के साथ स्थापना दिवस मनाया गया । इस समारोह में वर्तमान उपलब्धियों की समीक्षा की गई तथा भावी प्रस्तावों पर विचार किया गया ।

ज्वार स्टाल : रा.ज्वा.अनु.कें. ने आचार्य एन.जी.रंगा कृषि विश्वविद्यालय में 25-27 नवंबर 2006 के दौरान कृषि विज्ञान केंद्रों पर आयोजित द्वितीय राष्ट्रीय सम्मेलन में तथा राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण विकास संस्थान द्वारा हैदराबाद में 9-12 नवंबर 2006 के दौरान आयोजित क्राफ्ट मेले में ज्वार स्टाल लगाए ।

सतर्कता सप्ताह का आयोजन : केंद्र में 6-12 नवंबर 2006 के दौरान सतर्कता जागरूकता सप्ताह मनाया गया । इस संबंध में परिषद के दिशा-निर्देशों के अनुसार केंद्र के स्टाफ द्वारा 6 नवंबर 2006 को शपथ भी ली गई ।

साम्प्रदायिक सद्भावना अभियान सप्ताह : : केंद्र में 19-25 नवंबर 2006 के दौरान साम्प्रदायिक सद्भावना अभियान चलाया गया तथा 24 नवंबर 2006 को फ्लैग दिवस मानकर स्टाफ द्वारा एकता शपथ ली गई।

तकनीकी कार्मिकों की बैठक : केंद्र के विभिन्न मुद्दों पर चर्चा हेतु 9 तथा 23 नवंबर 2006 को निदेशक व तकनीकी कार्मिकों की क्रमशः 10वीं तथा 11वीं बैठक संपन्न हुई ।

रा. ज्वा. अनु. कें. के मनोरंजन क्लब की बैठक : रा.ज्वा.अनु.कें. के मनोरंजन क्लब की कार्यकारिणी समिति की 7वीं बैठक 13 नवंबर 2006 को तथा वार्षिक साधारण सभा की 3री बैठक 16 नवंबर 2006 को संपन्न हुई ।

Jowar Upma as Mid-day meal

A three member team led by Sh. PJ Thomas, Director of Rural Development Society, a NGO, Wanaparathi, Mahabubnagar district visited NRCS on 20th November 06. The NGO is promoting "Jowar upma" in the "Mid-day meal programme" for the school children in Ananthapur, Mahabubnagar and Vijayanagarm Districts, in collaboration

with the Ministry of Civil Supplies, Government of AP. They are also conducting studies of various grades of Jowar floor and the acceptability. Their plans include study on the impact of *Jowar Roti* on diabetic patients. During the



Discussion with NGOs on inclusion of jowar upma in mid-meal scheme

deliberations, NRCS indicated its strong support to their plans, as NRCS is working with various public and private sector organizations to promote sorghum as health food due to its high fibre, low gluten content and slow digestibility, which are of utmost use to diabetic patients. Drs. B Dayakar Rao and CV Ratnavathi coordinated the visit.

QRT Review meeting

The QRT team review meeting and drafting (last) was held at NRCS during 7-12 Nov. 06. Members included Prof. A Seetharama and Dr. NP Saxena. The team interacted with the research area leaders and reviewed critically the progress while drafting recommendations. Matters related with new strategies and research thrusts, organization and management of AICSIP and NRCS in relation to likely future programme on sorghum were deliberated. Dr. SS Rao, Member-secretary coordinated this event.

DDG inspects NRCS

Dr. G Kalloo, DDG (Hort & CS), visited NRCS on 27 November 2006. Dr Director appraised him about the recent research developments at this centre. He was taken to



DDG inspecting Molecular marker lab

various laboratories, and the transgenic glasshouse. He also had a brief discussion on ongoing research and progress with the scientific fraternity.

NRCS Foundation Day celebrated

The Foundation day programmes was celebrated on 16 Nov. with great enthusiasm and gaiety. The function involved mainly introspection and spirituality sessions. Staff from all categories reviewed "present status" and considered "future prospects" envisaging an action plan for realizing NRCS' vision. The Foundation Day organizing committee selected best ones in: publication (both national and international), poster presented, laboratory, field, training

programme organized and Director presented awards. Sh. AV Rao, AAO spoke on the essence of Dhyanam, which is to harness one's own inner power to keep fit without any physical and psychological problems, enhance concentration, heal diseases, work peacefully and doubling



Foundation day programme in progress

the output. The audio visual session helped to educate the staff about wholesome living. The programme concluded with Tambola organized by Dr. KBRS Visarada and A Annapurna.

Germplasm collection from Maharashtra

Sorghum germplasm collection mission was undertaken by Dr. M Elangovan, Scientist from 4th to 15th Nov. 06, from tribal areas of Melghat region in Maharashtra during kharif 2006. About 25 accessions were collected includes one sorghum halepense accession (Khoga river belt of Satpura hill range), landraces viz., *detha*, *bhad*, *lahya phodi*, *ramgi*, *somgi*, and *nariyal jola* (coconut shaped panicle). The Korukoo's tribe of this region grow *somgi* and *deshi jonna* and cultivate sorghum with lablab, chillies, cotton, redgram, and tomato at the height of 650–870m from MSL. The *bhad jonna* (mango shaped panicles) grow very tall, sweet stalked and *ramgi jonna* have big earhead and very bold and flat seed. These landraces can be utilized in our sweet stalk and dual-purpose sorghum improvement programme.

Sorghum Stalls KVK Mela, ANGRAU, Hyderabad

NRCS organized the sorghum stall in the Second National conference on Krishi Vignan Kendars at ANGRAU,



Visitors at sorghum stall

Hyderabad from 25-27 Nov. 2006. More than 500 dignitaries and participants visited the sorghum stall. The visitors showed interest in the alternate products developed from sorghum grain and stalk. Information on newly developed technologies were disseminated to the farmers and participants.

“Crafts Mela”, NIRD, Hyderabad

NRCS also organized the sorghum stall at the “Crafts Mela” organized by National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD; GoI), at Hyderabad from 9-12 Nov. 2006. More than 200 dignitaries and visitors including Dr. Dr. YS Rajashekar Reddy, Hon. ble Chief Minister of AP and Sh. Raghuvvera Reddy, Hon. ble Agri. Minister (AP) visited the sorghum stall.



Visitors showing keen interest on food products from sorghum

The visitors envisaged keen interest in the newly developed technologies especially on the alternate products from sorghum grain and stalk.

Vigilance week observed

NRCS observed “Vigilance awareness week” from 6-10 November, 2006. This event commenced with an oath-taking ceremony on 6 Nov. as per Council’s guidelines. All staff took a pledge in the national language to eradicate corruption in all



Oath being administered on the eve of vigilance week

spheres of life .

Communal harmony campaign week

NRCS observed the communal harmony campaign week by celebrating the “Ekta week” from 19-25 Nov. , 2006 and Flag Day on 24 Nov., 2006. On Flag Day, National Integration pledge was taken by the staff in three languages.

Meeting with Technical Staff

The 10th (9th Nov.) and 11th (23rd Nov.) meeting of technical staff with the Director was held to discuss various issues including work-plans, inter-disciplinary works and improving work standards. About 17 members participated and the proceeding is posted in the NRCS intranet.

Meetings of the NRCS Recreation Club

The 7th Executive Committee Meeting was held on 13 November, 2006 and 3rd Annual General Body Meeting of NRCS recreation club was held on 16 November, 2006.

Seventh Executive Committee Meeting: Institutes recreation clubs’ 7th Executive Committee Meeting was held on 13 Nov. 2006 to finalize the Foundation day programmes and holding of 3rd Annual General Body meeting of the Recreation Club. The following members were present in the meeting: Dr. N Seetharama - President, Sh. KJ Mathai - Vice President, Sh. HS Ghaywan – Secretary, Mr. D Rambabu – Treasurer, Sh. Ch Suresh Kumar – Executive Member (Administrative staff), Sh. J Narsimha - Executive member (Supporting), Dr. Chari Appaji - Executive member (ARS forum). Special invitees attended were Dr. Dayakar, Sr. Scientist and Sh. NVRN Murthy, AF & AO.

Third Annual General Body Meeting: It was held on 16 Nov. 2006 AM in the Central Court. The meeting was presided over by Dr. N Seetharama - President, Mr. KJ Mathai - Vice-President, Mr. HS Ghaywan – Secretary and Dr. Chari Appaji – Member (ARS Forum). The president of the Club praised the functioning of the Recreation Club at NRCS. He remarked that the club is progressing well and thanked the members of the Club for their active participation in the General Body Meeting. Sh KJ Mathai, Vice-President presented the Annual account of the club and also briefed the progress made by the club and its achievements. Dr. Chari Appaji briefed about the need for recognizing the services rendered by the out-going members. Accordingly, the out-going members viz, Sh. Lakshminarayana, Sh. A Venkateshwara Rao, Sh. Jayaprakash and Smt. VSG Parvathi were honoured by the president.

Meeting (M)/ Workshop (W)/ Training (T) attended

S. No	Name of the official	Participated in	Type	Venue	Date
1	N Kannababu	Special meeting on the project “Preparation for protection of plant varieties & DUS testing through ICAR – SAU system”	M	NBPGR, New Delhi	9 -11 Nov,06
2	B Venkatesh Bhat	National workshop on “Bioinformatic resources for siRNA and miRNA”	W	Institute of Micro-bial Technology Chandigarh	14-17 Nov, 06
3	B Venkatesh Bhat	Training programme on “Cartagena Protocol on Bio-safety: Decisions to Diagnostics”	T	NBPGR, New Delhi.	23-30 Nov, 06
4	A Annapurna	Training programme on “Microbial diversity analysis of extremophiles”	T	NBAIM, Mau Nath Bhanjan, UP	26-30 Nov 06
5	S Audilakshmi		T		
6	Mahesh Kumar	Hindi Translation training course	T	CRIDA, Hyderabad	20 -24 Nov, 06

Official tours

S. No	Name of the Official	Place visited	Dates	Purpose
1	N Seetharama	ICAR, New Delhi	3 - 5 Nov, 06.	To participate in the Directors' conference and Review of Vision document by the Sr. officers.
2	N Seetharama	Deesa	6 -7 Nov, 06	To visit Deesa center of AICSIP and discuss scope for further forage research in this region of Gujarat.
3	IK Das	Solapur and Akola	7-10 Nov, 06	To take observations on field experiments
4	Vilas A Tonapi	Mahabaleshwar	8-12 Nov, 06	For sowing of cold screening experiment
5	N Seetharama	ICAR, New Delhi	10-11 Nov, 06	To attend the review meeting on hybrid research and planning new projects
6	M Elangovan	Melghat region of Maharashtra	13 -16 Nov, 06	To collect sorghum germplasm from tribal areas of Melghat region
7	VR Bhagwat	CRS, Solapur	14 -16 Nov, 06 & 28-30 Nov,06	To monitor AICSIP entomology trials and to check plant population, weeding etc in IPM trial
8	Vilas A Tonapi, AV Umakanth	KSSC, Bellary	21 -25 Nov, 06	To visit sorghum seed production plots of KSSC, Bellary.
9	Chari Appaji	TNAU, Coimbatore, UAS, Dharwad	24 Nov, 1 Dec 06.	To monitor Front line Demonstrations at TN and Karnataka



Thought for the month

Success is a lousy teacher. It seduces smart people into thinking they can't lose.

- BILL GATES

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To



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