



NEWS LETTER

Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture

July - December, 2008

From the Director's Desk....

Rainfed Agriculture: Redefining Goals to Meet Emerging Challenges

Despite impressive growth during the last four years, Indian agriculture continues to face major challenges posed by continued degradation of natural resources, rising production costs and declining profitability. Climate change has now emerged as a new challenge threatening the food, water and environmental security. The impacts of climate change, particularly the extreme weather events is already becoming evident in terms of increased inter-annual and inter-seasonal variability in rainfall and temperatures leading to fluctuations in availability of water resources and crop yields. Rainfed agriculture is more prone to weather extremes as crop production is entirely dependent on monsoon rainfall. Agriculture in future is likely to be affected by multiple abiotic stresses like droughts, floods, increased salinity and heat stress etc simultaneously.

To address these emerging challenges, we need to redefine our research goals and strategies. Compared to the past, more inter-disciplinary and inter-institutional collaboration is required. Livelihood perspective to agriculture research and extension is another new dimension, which has to be factored in



while developing applied and adaptive research strategies. We need to work in a consortium mode involving partners outside NARS. CRIDA has made a beginning in this direction through the launch of the National Agricultural Innovative Project on Sustainable rural livelihood security,

wherein a consortium of 9 partners are working on a common goal of developing models of technology transfer and upscaling for achieving livelihood security through the application of available technologies in agriculture and allied sectors. We recognize that efficient use of rainwater and maintenance and build up of soil organic matter are the two key components in achieving sustainable and profitable production in rainfed agriculture. Accordingly, CRIDA is giving renewed emphasis on rainwater management and water harvesting including new and innovative ways of managing and sharing water resources to ensure 'more crop for rain drop'. Likewise, the Institute plans a new initiative known as Soil Organic Matter Buildup Research and Extension (SOBRE) wherein the available knowledge base on organic matter build up in rainfed regions will be integrated with the new and innovative means of OM generation being piloted by non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Innovations in upscaling the NRM technologies through convergence with major national programmes like NREGA, RKVY, NHM and NFSM will be another focus area for the institute in the coming years.

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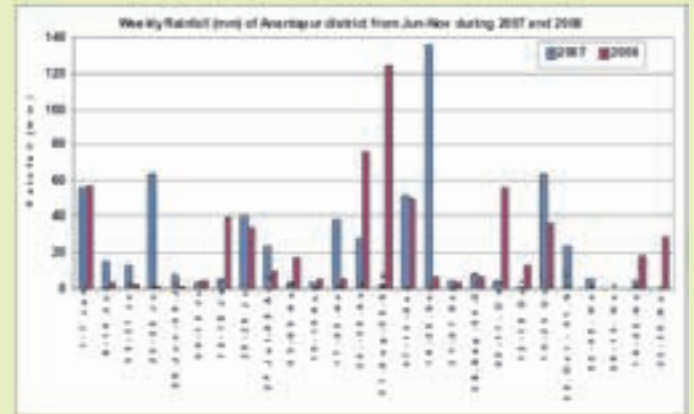
while developing applied and adaptive research strategies. We need to work in a consortium mode involving partners outside NARS. CRIDA has made a beginning in this direction through the launch of the National Agricultural Innovative Project on Sustainable rural livelihood security,

B. VENKATESWARLU
Director, CRIDA

Impact of High Intensity Rainfall Event on Groundnut Yields

Anantpur in Andhra Pradesh is the largest groundnut-growing district with a net sown area of about 9 lakh ha. During kharif, 2008, the crop was grown on 8.48 lakh ha. Most of the sowing was completed between 20th and 27th of July with the onset of monsoon. Some farmers, however, were able to sow the crop in last week of June by utilizing irrigation facilities. Total rainfall and seasonal distribution in relation to various phenophases of the crop directly determines the productivity of groundnut. Though, frequent rains during the vegetative phase of the crop boosted growth and initial vigour of the crop, subsequent high intensity rains during August 2008 coinciding with critical phenophases have caused crop losses. Due to continuous rains in the initial stages, farmers could not take up inter cultivation resulting in profuse weed growth and reduced crop yields. Excessive and continuous moisture during last week of August to first week of September led to poor aeration in root zone during the critical period of flowering & pegging causing lanky growth and less number of pods/plant. The crop sown during last week of July 2008 had 3 flowering peaks, the first around 30 days, the second between 50-60 days and the last between 80-85 days. The incessant heavy rains smothered the first flush resulting in excessive vegetative growth, and the second flush was affected by dry spell. The frequent wet and dry spells created a congenial microenvironment for development and spread of leafspot, rust, stem rot and pest attacks. The end-of-season rains further compounded the situation by creating congenial condition for the continued spread of disease and pests, in situ germination of mature pods and development of pod rot on immature pods.

On the other hand, the June - sown crop, showed a high number of mature pods (10-20 plant⁻¹) and a small number of immature pods (2-4 plant⁻¹) and hanging and bulging out pegs were absent or negligible. This indicated that the intermittent showers facilitated conversion of first flush of flowers into pegs and their penetration in the soil and subsequent good rains supported good pod filling. Among 6 varieties (TMV 2, JL 24, Pollachi Red, ICGV 91114, K6 and Narayani) cultivated by the farmers, TMV 2 (known for its drought tolerance) suffered the maximum loss of yield and Kadiri-6, a newly released variety, the minimum. The observations



Pod filling in early sown (June) crop



Late sown (July) crop affected by extreme rainfall event

revealed that even in chronically drought prone districts like Ananthapur, extreme rainfall events at times can cause crop damage and yield losses pointing to the emerging challenges of climate change.

S. Desai
Principal Scientist (Plant Pathology)

Water Harvesting Technology brings Namdeo, out of Debt Trap

NAIP Component 3 sub project on Sustainable Rural Livelihood security is being implemented in the Seethagondhi cluster villages of in Adilabad district of Andhra Pradesh since 2007. This area receives an average of 1050 mm rainfall annually and has good potential for run-off harvesting. Keeping this in mind, an appropriate location was identified for a dug out pond (17m x 17 m x 4.5 m) involving a group of farmers as stakeholders. Initially there was very strong opposition from Mr. Namdeo and his brothers for loosing a part of his land for locating the pond who were assured that this intervention would help in their farming.



Farm pond with harvested rainwater

Soon after the farm pond was dug (July, 2008), there were good rains leading to complete filling. The rainwater filled to the brim of the pond enthused the brothers. They hired diesel engine to irrigate half acre area where they grew tomatoes. Looking at the water level, the staff of KVK, Adilabad facilitated the release of 2000 fingerlings in the ponds. By the time tomatoes came to harvest, the prices in the market had touched close to Rs. 25/kg. Mr. Namdeo hired local vehicle and went to the market himself to sell tomatoes. He made a good profit of over Rs. 20,000/- through four good harvests. Namdeo could clear all his debts by mid November, there was water still to a depth of two meters. This encouraged the brothers to sow chickpea on one acre land. The fishlings have now grown well and with half of it sold for Rs. 30,000/-. With this, the amount spent in digging the pond has been recovered within the first year with chickpea crop still to be harvested. This raised enthusiasm of the farmers of this area and the generally reluctant tribal farmers have come forward to get farm ponds dug on their lands in convergence with the ongoing NREGS. Overwhelmed by this response, the project has facilitated inclusion of digging work in the



Marketing of tomatoes by Namdeo

NREGS shelf of works. The district administration has accorded its approval to this proposal and sanctioned an amount of Rs. 20.00 lakhs for up scaling this intervention.

S. Dixit
CPI NAIP-SRL Project

Natural Parasitization of Cotton Mealybug

Mealybug is an important emerging pest on cotton with a low but wide spread occurrence observed for the first time during 2007 season in Andhra Pradesh. Field surveys were conducted during 2008 kharif (August to November) in 18 intensively cultivated villages of Warangal district to quantify the extent of infestation and its natural parasitization.



Mealybug infestation on the branches

Initially, mealybug incidence was confined to 15-20 plants (>1 branch infested per acre) during August, which later assumed a more uniform distribution by mid-October with a mean plant infestation of 35% and a range of 21 to 61% across villages. Both Bt- and non Bt- cotton cultivars were similarly infested. Field parasitised mealybugs were identified by the presence of exit hole on mummified bodies of mealybugs.



Field parasitised mealybugs with exit hole on mummified bodies of mealybugs.

Two Hymenopteran parasitoids emerged from field-collected mealybug samples. Solitary endoparasitoid, *Aenasius* sp. (Family Encyrtidae) emerged from reddish brown cocoons by making a round exit hole.



Solitary endoparasitoid, Aenasius sp. emerged from reddish brown cocoons

Another unidentified parasitoid (0.4mm in size) emerged from mummified mealybugs. The extent of natural parasitisation was between 8 to 26% and the dominant parasitoid was the Encyrtid.

The survey revealed that mealybug assumed pest status on cotton in Warangal during *kharif* 2008 season and farmers relied solely on application of 2-4 insecticide sprays for its control. The field survey for the first time reports the extent of natural parasitization of mealybug on cotton in Warangal district. This new information is likely to lead to less reliance on pesticide application as the sole intervention to manage the pests by farmers.

Y.G. Prasad
Principal Scientist (Entomology)

Cost Savings through Mechanized Weed Control in Cotton

Front line demonstrations on Cotton involving 27 farmers of Jalaguda village of Chevella Mandal of Ranga Reddy District in AP were organized to compare manual and mechanized weeding. Through CRIDA manual weeder, the cost savings in labour was up to 50% compared to traditional hand weeding. But by using power weeder (1.5 HP and 5.5 HP) the cost saving in labour was up to 80 to 87.5%.



Demonstration of the operation of 5.5 HP power weeder in cotton

In addition to cost saving, timeliness in weeding was ensured through mechanization. This technology gave major relief to rainfed cotton farmers who are facing acute labor shortage and high cost of labour during the peak season.

M.S. Prasad
Principal Scientist (Agril. Extn.)

Carbon Trading Opportunities in Agriculture and Allied Sectors

The CDM Mechanism under Kyoto protocol so far largely helped the industry. In order to identify opportunities for developing CDM projects in agriculture, a two day workshop was organized at CRIDA on May 8-9, 2008. The workshop was attended by 100 participants drawn from scientists, farmers, private industry, project consultants and NGOs. The important recommendations are to explore innovative carbon trading opportunities in agriculture and allied sectors, to develop location specific methodologies for sustainability of CDM in agriculture and to identify the researchable issues and potential CDM projects with a livelihood perspective, etc.

JVNS Prasad
Sr. Scientist (Agronomy)

Scientific Events

The Biennial Workshop of All India Coordinated Research Project on Agrometeorology (AICRPAM)

The Xth Biennial workshop of AICRPAM was held during 03-05 December 2008 at BCKVV, Mohanpur to review the progress of research and to finalize the technical program for 2009-10. The workshop was inaugurated by Dr. LS Rathore, ADG, IMD. Dr. AK Gogoi, ADG (Agronomy), Dr. B. Venkateswarlu, Director, CRIDA. Dr. JP Gupta, Acting Vice-chancellor of BCKV, Kalyanai and S.K.Sanyal, Director of Research were the guests of honour. Dr. GGSN Rao, Project Coordinator briefly narrated achievements of the project over the 25 years period. Chief Scientists from AICRP for Dryland Agriculture, where both projects (i.e., AICRPDA and AICRPAM) have common centers, scientists from IMD, SAC, PRL, NBPGR and IARI participated in the deliberations of the workshop. The main focus of the deliberations was on convergence among various institutions involved in research for early development of decision support systems for control of key pests/diseases based on long term data generated on crop- pest-weather relation by AICRPAM centers. The project has completed 25 years of its establishment. The project envisages strong collaboration with AICRPDA in solving the key issues related to rainfed agriculture. Human resource development through intensive trainings is one of the major thrust areas identified for strengthening the project.

Climate change research, particularly on identification of vulnerable regions in the country and documentation of the impacts of extreme weather events on crops were other points emphasized at the workshop.



Biennial workshop of AICRPAM in progress at Mohanpur

National Group Meeting of AICRPDA

A National Group Meeting on Rainfed Rice based production System scientists was organized by the All India Coordinated Research Project for Dryland Agriculture (AICRPDA), at Jagdalpur in Chattisgarh during December 16-19, 2008. Forty scientists from different AICRPDA main centres viz., Jorhat, Jagdalpur, Faizabad, Phulbani, Ranchi and Varanasi, ORPs, and the local research stations have attended the meeting. Dr B.Venkateswarlu,. Director, CRIDA, was the chief guest and Dr. A.S.R.A.S. Sastry, Director of Research, IGKV, chaired the inaugural session. Dr. P.K. Mishra, Project Coordinator (Dryland) presented the objectives of the meeting. Director, CRIDA emphasized that the research programme should be focused in rainwater management, apart from two most important research themes based on feed back received from farmers and other stakeholders at the brain storming meetings held at the centers. The results of stakeholders meets were discussed and new researchable issues identified for each center.



National working group meeting on rainfed rice production system at Jagdalpur

The participants visited Takaphal watershed near Jagdalpur where on-farm trials conducted by Jagdalpur centre are in progress.

The participants appreciated the successful interventions on rain water management through on-farm reservoirs, alternate land use systems etc., on a topo-sequence from uplands(badi), mid lands (mal & marhan) and low lands (tikhra and gabbhar). The technology has potential to be upscaled in similar agro ecological situations in eastern India.



Field visit to on-farm trials in Takahpal village

Hindi Fortnight

CRIDA Celebrated Hindi fortnight from 14-29 September, 2008. On this occasion, several competitions were organized such as Hindi English speaking, Hindi elocution, Hindi noting & drafting. A two-day Hindi workshop was organized for scientific, technical & administrative staff. On the concluding day i.e., 29 September, 2008, Dr. GGSN Rao, OIC (Official Language) welcomed the staff and Shri S.R. Yadav, Asst. Director (OL) presented the yearly progress report. The winners of different competitions were awarded with cash prizes and certificates by the Director, CRIDA.



Director awarding certificate to winner (Dr.Kareemulla, Principal Scientist) of elocution competition

IJSC Meeting

The new Institute Joint Staff Council (IJSC) was constituted during August, 2008 with Dr. B. Venkateswarlu, Director, CRIDA as

Chairman, Dr. G. Rajeswara Rao, Principal Scientist as Member Secretary, Dr. G.R. Korwar, Head, DRM, Dr.P.K. Mishra, Project Coordinator, Shri Charless Ekka, SAO & Shri B.D. Sati, F&AO as members from official side. The staff side representatives are Shri P. Yadagiri, Tech. Officer, Shri T. Lakshmaiah, T-4 (from Technical Category) Shri M. Yadaiah, UDC, Shri R.D. Roop Kumar, Assistant (from administrative category) and Shri J. Mallesh, SSG-II and Shri S. Veeraiah, SSG-II (from supporting category). The first meeting of the newly constituted IJSC (XI meeting) was held on 17.10.2008. Issues like filling up of administrative posts as per ICAR norms, providing computers to administrative staff for maintenance of records, provision of clean drinking water to all the staff, payment of honorarium to staff, computer training to administrative staff were discussed and necessary follow up action was emphasized.

Vigilance Awareness Week

As per the guidelines of the Central Vigilance Commission, vigilance awareness week was observed from November 3-7, 2008. The observation of the week commenced with the pledge taking ceremony by all the employees of CRIDA held on November 3, 2008.

IRC (Institute Research Council) Meeting

The mid term IRC meeting was held on November 5th, 2008 under the Chairmanship of Dr. B. Venkateswarlu, Director, CRIDA. The meeting reviewed the progress of institute projects, particularly collection of minimum data sets, aligning the research programme with national priorities and measures to overcome constraints in conducting field experiments and on-farm trials.

National Agricultural Innovation Project

CIC Meetings

The fourth and fifth Consortium Implementation Committee (CIC) meetings were held on July 22, 2008 and October 16, 2008 respectively under the Chairmanship of Director, CRIDA and Consortium Leader (CL). The CL emphasized the implementation of the kharif and rabi action plans. He suggested that we should convert the delay in monsoon into an opportunity and try contingent crops and generate data from farmers fields. The main agenda in the 5th meeting was to discuss Rabi 2008-09 action plan for all the clusters. The achievements in Kharif and the plans for Rabi 2008 were discussed during the meeting centrewise.

Teleconferencing: An Innovation in Interaction of Consortium Partners

A teleconferencing meeting was convened between Dr. V. Balaji, Global Theme Leader, Knowledge Management and Sharing, ICRISAT and CRIDA scientists on 1st August, 2008 using a polycon device, which allows for connecting a telephone line backed up by power connection for amplifying the voice. It also has facility to record the conversation for a duration of two hours. This meeting was also attended by other consortium partners. The conference lasted for 35 minutes and yielded the same results as a face to face conference would have. Besides it saved the valuable time of scientists and precious fuel.

Climate Change Awareness Workshop

A workshop was organized on 16th August, 2008 by ARS, Anantapur at Rekulakunta to generate awareness among farmers about climate change. Over 180 farmers attended the workshop of which over 60 were from NAIP cluster, Pampanur. Farmers were taken around to visit automatic weather station and exposed to various aspects climate and its impacts on agriculture. A quiz was conducted for farmers to assess their understanding of the climate change concept. Mr. Y. Yerriswamy, a farmer from NAIP cluster of Pampanur bagged the first prize in the quiz.

Brainstorming on “Livestock Development for Improved Rural Livelihoods”

A brain storming session on “Livestock Development for improved rural livelihoods” was organized at CRIDA on August 19, 2008 to plan future course of action in livestock related interventions

in the NAIP project villages. The workshop was attended by Dr. N.K. Sanghi, WASSAN, Dr. B. Sudhakar Rao Prof & Head Veterinary Extn, SVVU and scientists from PDP and NRC on meat and JDs, ADs from NAIP clusters viz. Adilabad, Warangal, Khammam and Mahaboobnagar besides CCMTs leaders. Dr. DBV Ramana gave a presentation on different interventions being implemented under NAIP to seek the suggestions and comments from experts for improving the same. The key areas of interventions clusterwise were identified through a consensus.

Project Launch under Component IV

The NAIP project entitled 'Development of Decision support systems for insect pests of major rice and cotton based cropping systems' was launched at CRIDA on November 28-29, 2008 with CRIDA as the lead center and CICR, Nagpur, IARI, New Delhi and DRR, Hyderabad as the cooperating centres.



Launch workshop in progress

The detailed technical program for all centers was finalized. This project will strongly complement our work under AICRPAM on disease pest forecasting and weather advisories.

Inauguration of ICT Kiosks in Anantapur and Nalgonda Clusters

Dr. B. Venkateswarlu, Director, CRIDA and Consortium Leader inaugurated the VRC building cum seed godown at Pampanur project village in Anantapur district on 27.11.2008. Mr. Vidya Sekhar, Additional Director of Horticulture, Dr. Sreenath Dixit, CPI, Dr. K. Veerabhadra Rao, Principal Scientist and Station Head, ARS, Anantapur, other scientists of ARS, B. Shivrudrappa,



VRC Inauguration at Pampanur



Participants going around in community vermi composting and calf rearing unit at Pampanur

other staff of BIRD-AP and farmers of the cluster participated in the inaugural function. The functioning of the kiosk, the content availability and its utilization are explained to the farmers. The vermicompost cum calf rearing unit was formally handed over to women group, which will be run as small enterprise unit for income generation.

In Nalgonda cluster Director, CRIDA and consortium leader inaugurated the touch screen kiosk in the presence of

Dr. G. Gopal Reddy, President and Dr.N.Venkat Reddy, Director, SAIRD at Gaddipalli, Nalgonda. Dr. Sreenath Dixit, CPI, and other CCMT members participated in the function, which was attended by the farmers of the cluster. The multiple uses of the kiosk were explained to farmers by IKISAN officials. This was followed by a visit to the community vermicompost sheds, azolla ponds and vegetable production plots.

Important Events

Field Day on Cotton

Krishi Vigyan Kendra (Ranga Reddy Dt.), CRIDA organized field day on cotton in one of the KVK adopted villages i.e. Thimmareddyguda, Shabad Mandal, Ranga Reddy district on September 22, 2008. In this village, KVK has demonstrated Integrated Pest Management practices in Cotton crop over an area of 50 hectares.

These front line demonstrations (FLD) were sponsored by Central Institute for Cotton Research, (CICR) Coimbatore Centre. The technology demonstrated was use of barrier crops, pheromone traps for Spodoptera and Helicoverpa, Delta Sticky trap for Pink bollworm, Bird perches, Spraying of Neem oil, Spodoptera NPV, topping in Cotton crop etc. Director, CRIDA along with other Scientists and Officers from Zonal Co-ordinating Unit, DAATT Centre, ANGRAU and farmers from neighboring villages visited the

fields and interacted with farmers and obtained feed back on constraints in adoption of IPM and in-situ moisture conservation technologies in cotton.



Director CRIDA addressing farmers on cotton field day

Farmers Day at Gunegal Research Farm

The farmers day was organized at Gunegal Research Farm on September 29, 2008 with a theme of “Contingency Crop planning during low rainfall years”. One thousand farmers from the districts of Ranga Reddy, Nalgonda, Warangal, Adilabad Mahaboob Nagar and Kadapa witnessed the demonstrations of different technologies like water harvesting and its utilization in vegetables and oil seed crops, inter cropping systems (sorghum + pigeon pea), contour cultivation, improved farm implements, productivity enhancement with silt application in red soils, organic cultivation of sesamum and pigeon pea, etc. Exhibition stalls on technologies and inputs were organized by ICRISAT, DOR, and NGOs. Dr P Raghava Reddy, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, ANGRAU was chief guest and while Director, CRIDA presided over the function. Dr. L.G. Giri Rao, Director of Extension, ANGRAU was the guest of honour.



Question and answers session at farmers fair at GRF

Dr KS Reddy, Principal Scientist(SWCE) and OIC, GRF welcomed the farmers. Dr L Giri Rao, Director (Extension), ANGRAU organised the question and answer session to the farmers.



Chief guest visiting the experimental farm

Awareness on Conservation Agriculture

A press conference was organized on November, 25th at CRIDA to generate awareness on conservation agriculture on the eve of the 4th World Congress on Conservation Agriculture scheduled to be held in February 2009 at New Delhi. A special presentation on prospects of conservation agriculture in Andhra Pradesh was made by scientists from ANGRAU. Dr. P.K. Joshi, Director, NCAP, Dr. T.P. Trivedi, Director, DIPA have organized the conference in the presence of Dr. S.M. Virmani, retired ADG, Principal Scientist (ICRISAT) and subject expert.

It was attended by major media representatives and covered well in both print and electronic media.



Press meet in progress



Coverage of press meet on conservation agriculture

HRD Programmes

Model Training Courses

Model training courses on “Impact of Climate Change on Rainfed Agriculture and Adaptation Strategies” and “Integrated Nutrient, Pest & Disease Management in Dryland Crops” were conducted during September 18-25, and October 17-24, 2008 respectively. These are sponsored by Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India. Officials from departments of agriculture, horticulture and animal husbandry of different states participated in the courses. The participants were given insights on impacts of climate change, farm level coping strategies and adoption of IPM, IDM and INM practices.

Capacity Building on Castor Hybrid Seed Production

A one-day training programme on castor hybrid seed production was organized on 23rd October at Telgugudem, Mahabubnagar district under NAIP with the help of Directorate of Oilseeds Research (DOR), Hyderabad. Several farmers from Mahabubnagar and Ranga Reddy clusters were trained in identification of castor parental lines and their management. A field visit was also organized to DOR farm to observe selected parental lines of DCH-177, DCH-519 for their field performance.

Training course on “Effect of Climate Change on Water Productivity: Coping Strategies and Management”

A Training course on “Effect of Climate Change on Water Productivity: Coping Strategies and Management” was organized under the ICAR sponsored scheme “Scaling up of Water Productivity in Agriculture for Livelihoods through Teaching cum Demonstration, Training of Trainers and Farmers” during November 4-17, 2008 by the Transfer of Technology Section of CRIDA. Twenty six participants from Andhra Pradesh state attended the course. The participants were exposed to various aspects of climate change, its impacts on agriculture and adaptation and mitigation strategies such as efficient use of water resources, conservation agriculture, carbon sequestration and soil fertility management.

Winter school on “Technological Advances in Conservation of Natural Resources in Rainfed Agriculture”

A winter school on “Technological Advances in Conservation of

Natural Resources in Rainfed Agriculture” sponsored by ICAR was organized at CRIDA, Hyderabad during Nov 26-Dec 16, 2008. Twenty participants from SAUs and ICAR institutes of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar, Chattishgarh and Uttarkhand attended the school.

The participants were imparted latest skills and knowledge on modeling the impact of climate change, advances in water conservation technologies, resource use efficiency and sustainability in rainfed areas, watershed management, conservation agriculture, mechanization, energy management, bio fuel crops, drought management, ICT in soil and water conservation, remote sensing, nano technology application in soil and water conservation etc.



Inaugural session of the winter school



Trainees exposure to community participation in watershed programmes.

Dr. K.S. Reddy, Principal Scientist (SWCE) was the course director.

Awards and Recognition

Dr. Ch. Srinivasarao, principal scientist (Soil Science) received the **ICRISAT Millennium Science Award for the year 2008** on December 16, 2008 for the outstanding article "Carbon sequestration and improving livelihoods in semiarid tropical India" published in "International Journal of Environmental Studies" and also received a prize from International Plant Nutrition Institute (IPNI), for documenting P deficiency symptoms in chickpea in Inceptisols.



Hyderabad Rose Society Awards

CRIDA Secured the Best Individual as well as Public Institutional Awards for the Best Rosary and Lawns from the Hyderabad Rose Society during 2008. Thirty two prizes were obtained in different classes and categories of roses during the Rose Show held at Hyderabad by the Society during December 13-14, 2008.

Second Best Stall Award at the Regional Agricultural Fair

CRIDA bagged Second Prize among the ICAR Institutes which participated in the Regional Agriculture Fair (Southern Region) during 20-23rd December, 2008 at ANGRAU Campus, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad, organized by Ministry of Agriculture (DAC), New Delhi and ASSOMCHAM. Various dryland technologies were depicted in the CRIDA stall through charts, live specimens and improved farm implements/tools.



CRIDA stall in Southern regional agricultural fair at ANGRAU

Different publications brought out by CRIDA and KVK were displayed and bio-fertilizers and bio pesticides produced by the Integrated Bio-Resource Centre (IBRC) were offered for sale. Very large number of farmers have visited the stall and interacted with the staff.

Forthcoming Events

National Workshop - cum - "Brainstorming on Rainwater Harvesting and reuse through Farm Ponds - Experiences, Issues and Strategies"

Duration : April 21-22, 2009. Last Date : March 31, 2009.

ICAR Training Course on "Agril. Mechanization in Enhancing Water Productivity of Dryland Crops"

Duration : June, 2009. Last Date : May 15, 2009.

For more details please visit www.crida.ernet.in

Personnel Information

New Entrants

The following Senior scientists joined CRIDA during July-December, 2008.

Name	Discipline	Date of joining
Dr. B.M.K. Raju	Agril. Statistics	21.08.2008
Dr. K.A. Gopinath	Agronomy	29.08.2008
Dr. Minakshi Grover	Microbiology	01.09.2008
Dr. G.Venkatesh	Forestry	10.09.2008
Dr. U.S. Saikia	Agril.Meteorology	18.10.2008

Dr. P.K. Mishra joined as Project Coordinator (AICRPDA) on 18.9.2008. He was earlier working as Head, regional station at CSWCRTI, Bellary.



CRIDA welcomes and wishes them success in their endeavors.

Obituary

Shri Kalyan Chakravarthy	CEO, AAI our NAIP partner of Kadapa cluster	20.10.2008
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CRIDA staff expresses their deep condolences to the bereaved family members

Appointments and Promotions

Name	Promoted/ Appointed to	Effective date
Dr. V.S. Rao	In-charge of Head, Division of Crop Science	09.07.2008
Dr. G.R. Maruthi Shankar	Vigilance Officer	08.08.2008
Dr. Susheelendra Desai	OIC, IBRC	06.08.2008
Dr. K. Karemulla	Principal Scientist	20.12.2007
Shri B. Chandra Mohan Reddy	T-9	02.06.2008
Shri S. Srinivasa Reddy	T-7-8	01.01.2007
Smt. A. Girija	T-7-8	01.07.2006
Shri R.D. Rami Reddy	T-9	18.12.2007

Our hearty congratulations to all of them

Retirements

Name	Designation	Date
Shri M. Yadaiah	T-5 (KVK)	31.8.2008
Shri S. Madan Singh	SSG-III	31.8.2008
Shri M. Arokia Swamy	T-5	30.9.2008

Our best wishes to them for happy and peaceful retired life

Cultural and Welfare Activities

CEMACHSL GB Meeting

The general body meeting of the CRIDA Employees Mutually Aided Co-operating Housing Society Limited (CEMACHSL) was held on 6.8.2008. The meet discussed the formalities of registration, enrolment of members and elected the office bearers for one year.

Independence Day Celebration

The Independence Day was celebrated on August 15, 2008 with enthusiasm and gaiety. The director hoisted the flag and addressed the staff of CRIDA. He stressed the need to work with commitment so as to face the new challenges faced by rainfed farming in India.

Vanabhojanam

Vanabhojanam was organized on 22.11.2008 at HRF in which all staff members including RA's/SRF's/ Contractual staff and Casual Labourers (TS) participated actively.

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