



# NICRA News

## Monthly e-Newsletter



### on Climate Resilient Agricultural Technology Demonstrations across the Country

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Map not to scale



[www.nicra-icar.in](http://www.nicra-icar.in)



### Message

I am happy to release the first issue of CRA News, the Monthly Newsletter on Climate Resilient Agriculture Technology Demonstrations across the country. I am confident that this newsletter, will prove to be a useful learning platform for all the 100 NICRA-KVKs. I urge all the coordinators to share their learnings with other KVKs so that it will be an enriching experience for all stakeholders. This initiative is a part of our endeavour to share knowledge related to climate resilient agriculture within and across different agro ecological settings of the country. I wish this effort all success.

A.K.Singh  
Deputy Director General (NRM)  
ICAR



### Message

As part of our initiative to exchange and enrich the knowledge base about the climate resilient agricultural practices, we have commenced an e-newsletter series. The e-newsletter intends to bring out the experiences of KVKs while implementing climate resilient agricultural interventions. Besides, it will also highlight what works and what does not in the climate variability scenario. This monthly e-newsletter will be circulated to a large number of organizations and individuals besides the KVKs who are interested in climate resilient agriculture. Thus, it is an initiative of knowledge sharing and learning within and outside the NICRA-KVK network. The success of CRA news depends on how proactively each of the NICRA-KVKs brings up its experiences on this forum. I request all the NICRA-KVKs to make use of this forum and share their experiences with a larger audience across the country.

B.Venkateswarlu  
Director  
CRIDA

## From across the KVKs

We are pleased to bring out the first issue of CRA News the monthly newsletter Climate Resilient Agricultural Technology Demonstrations across the country. This newsletter will offer a platform for all of us to share our experiences in applying currently available technologies for coping with climate variability. As you are all aware, the technology demonstration component of the National Initiative on Climate Resilient Agriculture is covering 100 KVKs in 8 zones, ToT divisions of 7 core ICAR institutes and 23 centers of All India Coordinated Research Project on Dryland Agriculture network. Under this component, an integrated package of proven technologies are being demonstrated in one village panchayat in each district for adaptation and mitigation of crop and livestock production systems to climate variability based on available technologies.



The interventions are being covered in the following four modules viz., Natural resources, Crop Production, Livestock and Fisheries, Institutional Interventions. The detailed process adopted in this project and the zone wise profile of selected districts and their climatic vulnerabilities are available on url <http://nicra-icar.in/nicrarevised/index.php/en/techn-dem>.

The project was formally launched by the Hon'ble Union Minister for Agriculture & Food Processing Industries Shri Sharad Pawarji on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2011. In the ensuing months technical programmes for KVKs faced with different climatic variability challenges were finalized through a series of consultative workshops. The technical programmes so designed are being grounded in selected village sites since kharif 2011. Over 50 KVKs have conducted formal launch events by involving different stakeholders.

This project has adopted a unique and holistic approach to cope with climate variability issues. Therefore, a systematic benchmark is being established by undertaking survey for collecting information from the grassroots level. Information on organic inventory of the villages, soil sampling reports, rainwater harvesting infrastructure are being collected and systematically analysed for obtaining a systems perspective of the challenges.

As we go along, we shall share with you more information on the learnings and the progress at different sites. We wish to invite you to make use of this platform to help the country become more climate resilient in the years to come. In this newsletter, we are presenting the information on the following heads. Project launch workshops; Climate resilient interventions; Photo gallery; Feedback; Announcements. We request you to send in your feedback regarding the presentation and outlay of the newsletter so that together we can make it not only interesting to read but also more informative and useful.

Sreenath Dixit  
Coordinator

## Project Launch Events

### KVK Namakkal, Tamilnadu

National Initiative on Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA) project was launched at Vadavathur village, Erumapatti block, Namakkal district on 30.07.2011. Dr.S.Ayyappan, Secretary (DARE) and Director General, ICAR launched the project in the presence of Dr.R.Prabakaran, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, TANUVAS, Chennai, Dr.P.Murugesu Boopathi, Vice-Chancellor, TNAU, Coimbatore, Namakkal District Collector Thiru.J. Kumara Gurubaran Dr.M.M.Pandey, D.D.G.(Agril. Engg.). Smt.R.Santhi, M.L.A, Sendamangalam, Dr. Shalander Kumar, Principal Scientist & Coordinator, NICRA project, Hyderabad, Dr.S.Prabhukumar, Zonal Project Director (Zone VIII), ICAR, Bangalore were also present. Block level officers of the Department of Agriculture, Officers of the District Collectorate and Panchayatraj Institution representatives also participated in the event. Almost all the households of the village participated in the launch program. A series of activities were conducted as part of the launch project. viz., Inauguration of manually operated weather station, Initiation of NRM structures, Planting of fodder slips, Inauguration of Artificial Insemination centre, Inauguration of shade net nursery



Inauguration of exhibition centre



Inauguration of shade net



Participants interacting with dignitaries



Introduction of Tellicherry rams & ewes

## Climate variability awareness campaign, KVK Villupuram, Tamilnadu

NICRA village level awareness campaign was organized on 16-09-2011 at Kattusiviri village near KVK Tindivanam, Villupuram, Tamil Nadu. The campaign was inaugurated by Dr. P. Murugesu Boopathi, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of TNAU. The Joint Director of Agriculture, Deputy Director (Horticulture), Deputy Director (Farmers Training Centre), Deputy Director (Planning and Monitoring), Assistant Executive Engineer (Department of Agril. Engineering), Block level officers of the Department of Agriculture, Officers of the District Collectorate and Panchayataraj Institution representatives, and almost all the households of the village participated in the campaign.

A series of activities were conducted as part of the launch of campaign including initiation of vermi compost production unit, planting of fodder slips, initiation of farm pond digging, inauguration of village climate resilience resource center, tree planting by school children and inauguration of exhibition (custom hiring, farm machineries and Implements, inputs, models of the various coping strategies and livestock). Dr. N. Sathiah, Programme Coordinator and his colleagues of the KVK organized the event.



Inauguration of the automatic weather station



Village climate resilience resource



A section of the participants



Initiation of farm pond digging station

## Climate Resilient Interventions

### **New Ragi Variety helps farmers cope with drought in D Nagenhalli,**

A field day was organised on 4<sup>th</sup> oct. 2011 at D.Nagenhalli, NICRA village under KVK Tumkur, Karnataka to create awareness about the performance of drought tolerant finger millet cv ML-365. The variety is promoted in the village in about 20 ha, where the performance was significantly superior over its local counter parts. Dr. Shailaja Hittalamani, Professor and Head, Dept. of Plant Breeding, UAS, Bangalore who has developed the variety was present to discuss with the farmers and get their feedback. Others who participated included Shri. Kumar Nagaraja, member, ICAR, Governing Council, Drs. Sreenath Dixit, Coordinator, NICRA TDC, L. B. Naik, Principal Scientist and Programme Coordinator, KVK, Tumkur and staff of the KVK. Over 60 farmers attended the field day and personally visited the finger millet field and appreciated its performance. While the local variety was wilting due to moisture stress, ML-365 was full of fingers with grains in milky stage. The farmers who are cultivating ML-365 promised to retain the harvest and share it with their fellow farmers as seed material. The field day brought out the drought tolerant characteristics of ML-365 very vividly to farmers.



Dr. Shailaja Hittalamani discussing with farmers on field of ragi; Local ragi variety unable to withstand drought (inset)



A farmer sharing his experiences

## Rice Day at Barapani to create awareness on climate coping strategies

The ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region celebrated 'Rice Day 2011' on 17 October 2011 under the theme 'Improved rice production technologies to cope with climate variability. "Rice is the principal food crop of the North Eastern Region. The region is suffering from 1.77 million tonnes deficit. The 'rice day" is an attempt to make farmers aware about quality seeds, improved technologies and balanced nutrients for making productivity higher despite aberrant weather", said Dr. SV Nagchan, Director ICAR Research Complex, Barapani, Meghalaya. "The rice day prominently focused on adaptation and mitigation measures to climate change, management practices like system of rice intensification (SRI), integrated crop management (ICM), direct seeding, and conservation agriculture (reduced tillage, residual management and crop diversification)", said Dr. G.C. Munda, Head of the natural resource management division at the ICAR Complex. The farmers tried to know how to grow more suitable rice varieties, which could tolerate drought, floods and other climatic problems. The weather in the region is showing aberrant conditions in the recent past; especially rainfall patterns have witnessed markable changes for example, the drought of 2009 and excess rainfall of 2010-11. Explaining suitable varieties for various altitudes, scientists informed that short duration suitable upland rice varieties are IURON 514, Bhalum-1-2-3-4, while vivek Dhan-82, VL Dhan 61 are effective for lowland in the region. To fight against the early season drought, modified mat nursery followed by SRI was found to be effective; mid season drought can be tackled through rainwater harvesting schemes such as *jalkund*.



## Drought tolerant Arhar for Uttarkashi

Arhar Diwas (pigeonpea day) was organised on 19th Oct. 2011 at Dunda, NICRA village under KVK Chinyalisaur, Uttarkashi to create awareness about the performance of drought tolerant pPigeonpea (Arhar) cultivar V L Arhar -1. The variety is promoted in the village on a large scale, where the performance of the variety is significantly superior over its local counterparts. Dr V K Sachan Programme coordinator and PI of the project facilitated the discussion about Arhar cultivation and its importance particularly to cope with climate variability farmers.

Mr. Dinesh Kumar Chief Agriculture Officer of Uttarkashi district participated in the field day as the chief guest and visited the arhar fields along with farmers and appreciated its performance. The farmers who are cultivating V L Arhar -1 promised to retain the harvest and share it with their fellow farmers as seed material. Over 200 farmers attended the field day.



## Photo Gallery



Secretary, DARE & DG, ICAR interacting (left); DDG (Extn.) addressing during launch workshop, Uttarkashi



World Food day celebrated (KVK, Kolar)



Custom hiring of implements inaugurated (left); DDG (Extn.) addressing the gathering during Launch workshop, Baramati



## Feedback

*After the new varieties of the ragi have been introduced, there is no dearth of food in the house. Earlier we used to cultivate local types which used to yield 5-6 bags only and that was not sufficient for the family even for 6 months. Then the families used to be large with 8-10 members and send 1-2 members of the family to large farmers as labours in return to 1-2 bags of ragi per year. Now with short duration varieties, we are able to harvest more ragi and much earlier. With this, we are not only able to meet the family requirement but also sell surplus in the market. I am sure ML-365 will help us to face the recent decline in ragi yields in our village.*

P.Boraiah, smallholder farmer, D.Nagenahalli, Tumkur, Karnataka

## Announcements

We invite short write-ups (not more than 200 words) with good quality photos (not more than two in JPEG format) from the KVKs on any interesting outcome of the project so far. It may be on why some interventions worked and why some did not. We also encourage you to report those that did not work. In fact such learnings will be more useful to our colleagues. From the next issue onwards we will recognize the best write-up and feature it in a box under the “**Best Write-up**” heading. So send in your write-ups and photographs! to [coord.nicra@gmail.com](mailto:coord.nicra@gmail.com)

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