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किसानों का हमसफर
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Agrisearch with a human touch



NEWS LETTER

Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture

July - December, 2010



From the Director's Desk

The challenges of technology upscaling

Returns from agricultural research are realized only when improved technologies are adopted by the farmers. There are numerous examples of excellent technologies that work well at the research farms, on farmers' fields, or in a whole village but fail to move beyond. For successful upscaling, besides technology it self, large number of other factors like farmers' resources, land holding, market prices, institutional support and Government policies come into play. Technologies related to improved seed, agro-chemicals, machinery and irrigation are adopted more quickly, but natural resource management practices like soil and water management, cropping systems and any integrated crop management practices are more difficult to be upscaled. As we move into the 21st century, the sustainability of agriculture depends on how we manage our natural resources efficiently. Though it is challenging, we need to devise ways and means of upscaling the system based technologies.

Innovations in technology transfer through working with communities is one of the approaches to overcome this problem. Under National Agricultural Innovation Project (NAIP), CRIDA has attempted technology upscaling in 8 village clusters of Andhra Pradesh in the livelihood security project. Our experience so far indicates that for successful upscaling of system based technologies, it is important to pay attention to village level institutions and support systems in addition to the technology itself. For example, CRIDA has successfully implemented ground water sharing innovation in Ranga Reddy district of Andhra Pradesh where by building necessary institutional mechanism, the cropping intensity was increased, water productivity enhanced and fallow lands brought under cultivation. Like-wise, several other innovations were introduced for upscaling technologies related to varietal adoption, farm machinery and livestock production. We need to mainstream such approaches into our formal research system.

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NEW RESEARCH INITIATIVES

National Initiative on Climate Resilient Agriculture

ICAR has initiated a new scheme, National Initiative on Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA) which is approved by the Cabinet on 15 December, 2010 with an outlay Rs.200 crores for 2010-11 and 150 crores for 2011-12. This scheme has three components, i.e. (i) strategic research on adaptation and mitigation on important grain and horticulture crops critical for food security, livestock and fisheries, (ii) technology demonstration in 100 most vulnerable districts on best bet practices to cope with current climate variability and (iii) capacity building of different stakeholders (scientists, policy makers, extension staff and farmers) on climate change.

The distinctive features of the scheme are:

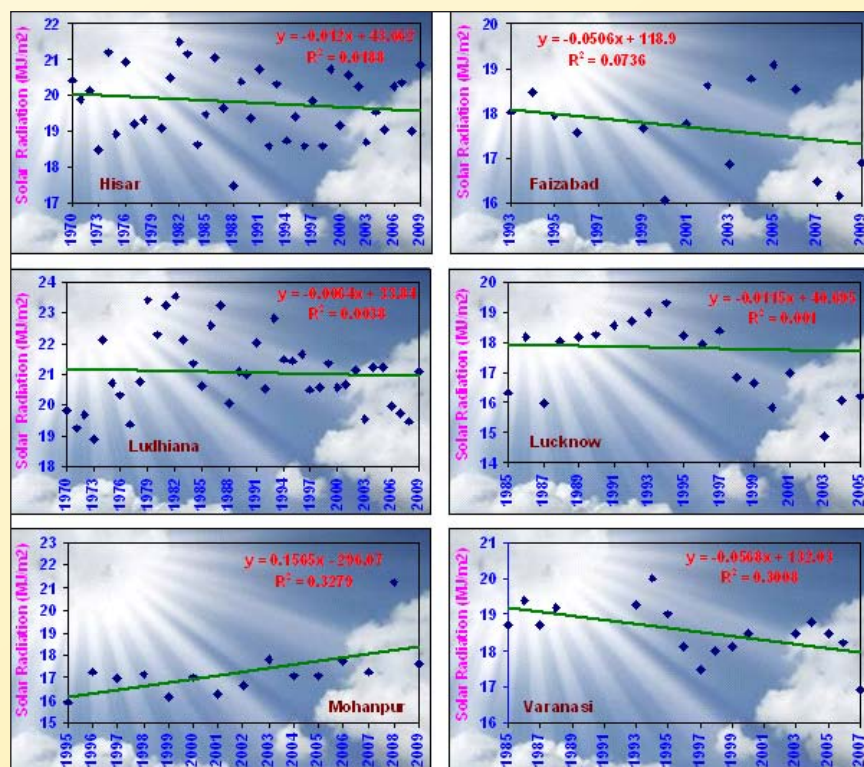
- Critical assessment of different crops/zones in the country for vulnerability to climatic stresses and extreme events, in particular, intra seasonal variability of rainfall.
- Installation of the state-of-the-art equipment like flux towers for measurement of green house gases in large field areas to understand the impact of management practices on emissions.
- Rapid and large scale screening of crop germplasm including wild relatives for drought and heat tolerance through phenomics

platforms for quick identification of promising lines and early development and release of heat/drought tolerant varieties.

- Comprehensive field evaluation of new and emerging approaches of paddy cultivation like aerobic rice and SRI for their contribution to reduce the GHG emissions and water saving.
- Special attention to livestock and fishery sectors including aquaculture which have not received enough attention in climate change research in the past.
- Thorough understanding of crop-pest/pathogen relationship and emergence of new biotypes due to climate change.
- Simultaneous up scaling of the outputs both through KVKs and the National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture for wider adoption by the farmers.

The Scheme will be implemented for the remaining two years of XI Plan involving seven key Institutes as major partners and collaborating with 14 other Institutes of ICAR for strategic research on climate resilience. Simultaneously, demonstration of the existing technologies to cope with current climate variability will be undertaken in 100 districts through KVKs. This programme will be coordinated by CRIDA, Hyderabad.

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS



Trend of solar radiation during southwest monsoon season

Solar Radiation over Indo-Gangetic Plains

Solar radiation is one of the most important factors affecting crop environment. It provides energy for photosynthesis. There are reports that global dimming, which refers to the reduction in solar radiation is also taking place along with global warming. A study was carried out on the solar radiation trends in Indo-Gangetic plains during 1970-2009. It showed significant declining trend during summer, northeast monsoon and winter seasons.

It may be due to increasing aerosol content in the atmosphere. The presence of high concentration of aerosols may trim down incoming solar radiation (Solar dimming) which in turn reduces photosynthesis and thus crop production. Further, studies are required to clearly understand its impact on crop yields and initiate efforts to reduce atmospheric aerosol concentration by reducing pollution.

VUM Rao & AVM Subba Rao

TECHNOLOGY FOR ADOPTION

Compartmental Bunding For Moisture Conservation in Northern Dryland of Karnataka

Recommendation Domain

Bijapur, Bagalkot, Gadag, Koppal, Bellary, part of Dharwad, Belgaum, Raichur and Davangere districts in medium to deep black soils of Northern dry zone of Karnataka.

Existing Practice

In northern dry zone of Karnataka, *kharif* cropping is not possible in most regions due to workability and tillage related constraints in medium to deep black soils. Further, infiltration rate is low resulting in more runoff. Farmers generally do not practice any *in situ* moisture conservation practices during *kharif* resulting in soil erosion and low yield of *rabi* crops.

Improved Technology

It involves making square compartments on the field to retain rainwater and arrest soil erosion. After receipt of early rains in June and July, land is harrowed to remove germinating weeds. Then compartment bunds (0.15 m height) are formed using bullock drawn bund former. The size of the bunds varies from 3 m x 3 m to 4.5 m x 4.5 m depending on the slope. The cost of compartmental bunding is Rs.150/ha. These bunds are retained till the sowing of *rabi* crops,



Bund former



Compartment bunding in medium deep black soils

which are sown with seed cum ferti drill during second fortnight of September to first fortnight of October. Compartment bunds provide more opportunity time for water to infiltrate into the soil and help in conserving soil moisture.

Performance

Rabi sorghum, sunflower, safflower and chickpea gave seed yields of 870 kg/ha, 675 kg/ha, 620 kg/ha and 450 kg/ha, respectively with an yield advantage of 40, 35, 38 and 50% respectively with additional net returns of Rs. 2475/-, Rs. 3700/-, Rs. 3250/- and Rs. 2850/- with compartment bunding over flat planting. The impact of the practice is more during sub-optimal rainfall years. It also significantly controls run off.

Impact and upscaling

This practice is adopted on considerable area in Bijapur, Bagalkot and Raichur districts of Northern Karnataka. Further upscaling in the region can be done through demonstrations by line departments, KVKs, ATMA, and NGOs etc. There is large scope to implement this through NREGS where bund formation can be undertaken on private lands also. Each year, this activity can be included in the shelf of works of the Gram Panchayath.

SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES

Preparatory Workshop under NICRA for KVKs

As a part of the technology demonstration component of NICRA, a Preparatory Workshop for 100 selected KVKs and 25 centers of All India Coordinated Research Project on Dryland Agriculture (AICRPDA) was organized at CRIDA, Hyderabad on 1st July 2010. In all 175 delegates including 100 programme coordinators/their representatives, 7 scientists from zonal project directorates, 22 AICRPDA scientists and 45 scientists from CRIDA attended the workshop. Dr.A.K.Singh, DDG(NRM), Dr.K.D.Kokate, DDG(AE), ICAR and Dr. B.Venkateswarlu, Director, CRIDA guided the proceedings during the workshop.

The workshop's objective was to finalize the process of implementation of the technology demonstration at village level in 100 vulnerable districts. The major issues discussed were:

- Stakeholders or partners to be involved for finalizing the climate resilient technologies package for the selected village
- Criteria for Selection of Village: Degree of Vulnerability to climate variability/change
- Identifying constraints, resources and potentials
- How to finalize interventions?
- How to select farmers in the selected village?



Dignitaries on dais and participants of workshop

Contd.,

- How to create awareness among the community?
- Institutional arrangements at village for implementation: Village Climate Risk Management Committee (VCRMC)
- Possibilities for Convergence during implementation: NREGS, NHM, RKVY, watershed programmes etc.
- Strategies to involve state departments: Agriculture/Animal husbandry, Fisheries, R&D etc.
- Capacity building of farmers and other stakeholders

For finalizing technology package and interventions, the participants were divided into 9 groups. Each group deliberated on the above issues for their respective zones and finally made presentation on few flagship interventions which specifically address the vulnerability of agriculture to climate change in their target area.

Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting

The Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting of KVK Ranga Reddy was organised on 04.08.2010 at KVK, HRF, CRIDA. The meeting was chaired by Dr.B.Venkateswarlu, Director, CRIDA and was attended by all members including progressive farmers, officials



SAC meeting of Rangareddy KVK

from line departments, scientists from ANGRAU and CRIDA. The progress achieved during 2009-10 Rabi crop season was reviewed and action plan proposed for Rabi 2010-11 was discussed.

RAC meeting

The Nineteenth Research Advisory Committee Meeting (RAC) under the Chairmanship of Dr. R. Dwarakinath was held on 21st November, 2010. RAC members Dr S. M. Virmani, Dr A. T. Rao, Dr D. C. Upreti, Shri.Vijay Borade and Dr K. Palanisamy attended the meeting. The



Discussions during RAC meeting

Committee reviewed the progress under the on-going projects and offered suggestions for improvement. The chairmen suggested several points regarding upscaling of rainfed agriculture technologies and particularly appreciated the new initiative on climate resilient agriculture and recommended that KVK's should be strengthened to take up this programme in all drought prone districts of the country.

IMC Meeting

The 41st Management Committee Meeting of CRIDA was held on 6th December, 2010 under the Chairmanship of Director, CRIDA. The meeting was attended by IMC members Dr.B.K.Ramachandrappa, Shri.Vijay Borade, V.Vibhishan Reddy, Dr.(Mrs.) Sobha Rani, and special invitees from CRIDA. Besides regular agenda items, the major research achievements were also discussed. The major achievements and replicable case studies from NAIP livelihood project were presented through a film. Progress of expenditure, procurement of equipments and execution of works were reviewed.



IMC meeting in progress

Workshop on Better Management Practices for Cotton Production

A two-day National Workshop on “Innovations and Better Management Practices for Climate Resilient and Sustainable Cotton Production” sponsored by WWF-India was organized during 15-16 December, 2010 at CRIDA to facilitate exchange of knowledge and document better management practices for cotton (BMPs) in different agro-ecological regions of the country in the context of challenges



faced by climate change. About 50 delegates from ICAR, SAUs and NGO's across the country presented papers and discussed BMPs in four thematic areas of production, soil fertility, water and pest management and climate resilience. A panel discussion was held to flag important policy and implementation issues in sustainable cotton production. It was resolved to bring out a document on sustainable production practices.



Various events of workshop

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL INNOVATION PROJECT

Rice Group Meeting under DSS Project

Rice group meeting of NAIP Component 4 on ‘Development of Decision Support Systems for Insect Pests of Major Rice and Cotton based Cropping Systems’ was held on 20th July 2010 at DRR, Hyderabad under the chairmanship of Dr T.M. Manjunath, Chairman CAC. The Chairman reviewed the progress of work done by the rice group and gave suggestions for improvements on the future line of work. The experimental plan of Hyper spectral radiometry and pest modeling with dymex were discussed during the meeting

Validating ITK on bud nipping in Pigeonpea

Pigeonpea farmers in the Gulbarga region of Karnataka practice nipping of apical bud to encourage branching which contributes to increase in yield. It is claimed that seed yield increases by 1-1.5 q/ha due to apical bud nipping. This practice is done manually which is time and labour intensive. A Progressive farmer Mr Sharana Basappa Patel of Halsulthanpur Village in Gulbarga district (mobile no 09900438541) came up with an innovation of devising battery operated bud nipper at cost of Rs. 850. An attempt was made to validate this device in the pigeonpea fields in Ibrahimpur cluster (R.R.Dist) during August 2010. Initial observations confirm increase in the number of laterals. Translation of this practice into higher grain yield is to be verified.

Greengram Seed Bank Attains Self Sufficiency

Breeder seed of greengram WGG 37 was procured from RARS (Warangal) and distributed among 81 farmers during the kharif 2010 season for multiplication. Two women SHGs were assigned with the responsibility of collecting the seed on barter basis and storing

the same for next kharif season which is an institutional innovation. Greengram seed enough (1400 kg) for sowing 200 acres during the next kharif season has been collected and stored in the village by



the SHGs. Thus Ibrahimpur is now seed self sufficient as far as greengram seed is concerned for the next season. This information brought confidence among farmers of the village that can produce seed in their village itself.

RAC members visit project site

On 19th November, 2010 Dr D.C. Uprety and Dr A.T. Rao, members along with CRIDA scientists visited Ibrahimpur cluster, Ranga Reddy District where NAIP Component 3 sub-project on “Sustainable Rural Livelihoods” is implementing the water sharing intervention.

The unique system of ground water sharing was accomplished by networking pipelines which has been facilitated by the project and covers 45 acres belonging to 18 farmers. Most appropriate cropping pattern was planned and implemented by the farmers who expressed



RAC members interacting with farming community

great satisfaction over the best use of scarce water and economic benefits that accrued. The members also interacted with several farmers and farm women involved in other interventions such as value addition and also saw the demonstration of the ICT kiosk established at the village resource centre under the project.

Project interventions receive international attention

First time since the pipeline network was laid in Malkaipet thanda, Ibrahimpur cluster (RR district) all the donor and recipient farmers have taken up groundnut in rabi season. Farmers are sharing water without any issues. The success of groundwater sharing has caught the attention of administrators, national and international media. The story was covered by Alertnet, an on line development newsletter of the Thomson Reuters Foundation Service.

Recent media coverage by a local TV channel in November 2010 has caught the attention of a large number of farmers across the state. The media house and the project office received over 350 calls. This shows farmers are open to the idea of groundwater sharing. However, presently there is no programme for supporting this intervention with any development department. CRIDA has initiated a dialogue with development departments and NABARD so that a viable scheme can be prepared and implemented in the dry districts of the state to make the concept of protective irrigation a practicable reality

Rabi planning workshop-cum CIC meeting

Rabi planning workshop-cum CIC meeting was held on 01 and 02 December 2010 at CRIDA. All the partners of the consortium presented their accomplishments during the kharif season and proposed plan for Rabi. It was resolved that all partners will henceforth focus on high-payoff upscalable interventions. All the cluster anchors were urged to look for possibilities of augmenting rainwater harvesting either by taking up new structures or renovating existing /defunct structures. Committees were formed to look afresh at rainwater harvesting opportunities across the clusters.

Visit of NDBB & FAO Consultant on small ruminants

Mr.Sanjeev Kumar, a Consultant from NDBB & FAO visited Ibrahimpur and Jamistapur clusters on 22 and 23 December, 2010 to document good practices of sheep rearing implemented under NAIP project. He interacted with members of women SHGs practicing improved sheep rearing practices. He was particularly appreciative the institutional innovations for up scaling the interventions on small ruminants through revolving fund mechanism. His visit was in response to the submission of a case study on institutional innovations for small ruminant rearing from the project clusters which have scope for replicability in several countries of South Asia.



IMPORTANT EVENTS

Technology Week

CRIDA KVK conducted Technology Week and Field Day, at Hayathnagar Research Farm during 20-25 August 2010 with an aim of dissemination of information on latest technologies. Dr.Dana Kishore, IAS, District Collector, Ranga Reddy Shri Rama Krishna Goud, Manager, Implements Division, Agro-Industries Corporation, A.P, Ms.V.Usha Rani, I.A.S., Director, Women & Child Welfare A.P. Dr.Manik Reddy, Dy. Director (Ranga Reddy East division) Dr.N.Sudhakar, Zonal Project director, graced the occasion on different events. About 1000 persons including farmers, farm women and extension officials participated in the technology week.



Director interacting with farmers at field

Field SRC

A field SRC was conducted at GRF on August 26, 2010. Director reviewed the progress of field experiments on water productivity, rain water harvesting, micro-nutrients use, organic farming and made several suggestions on data collection.

Hindi week celebration

The Hindi fortnight was celebrated at CRIDA from 14-30 September, 2010. On this occasion Hindi Noting & Drafting, Hindi-English terminology, Hindi Essay (for Hindi Speaking and Non-Hindi Speaking), Hindi Elocution & Hindi Sulekh competitions were organized. The winners were awarded prizes by the Director on the concluding day on 30.09.2010.



Director awarding winner

AICRP NEWS

XI Biennial Workshop of AICRPAM

To review the AICRPAM Project for 2009 and finalize the Technical Program for 2010-12, the XI Biennial Workshop of AICRP on Agrometeorology was organized at CRIDA, during 27-29 August 2010. The Workshop was inaugurated by Dr. A.K. Singh, DDG (NRM). Expert Members Dr. YS Ramakrishna, Former Director of CRIDA, Prof. BV Ramana Rao, Former Project Coordinator (Ag. Met.); and Prof. PSN Sastry, Principal Scientist, IARI and Prof. KPR Vittal Murthy, Former Professor & Head, Department of Meteorology, Andhra University, were other dignitaries present in the session. A publication on "25 years research of AICRP on Agrometeorology"



was released by the chief guest. 'Best performing Centre' awards were given to Bijapur, Hisar and Palampur. 'Best Information Dissemination Award' was given to Akola, Bangalore, Dapoli, Raipur and Solapur centres for updating the www.cropweatheroutlook.ernet.in website regularly and providing vital information on Crop Contingency Plans and Agromet Advisories during the years 2008-09 and 2009-10.

Some important decisions emerged from the meeting are; to conduct regular training program on analysis and methodology of crop-weather relationships, collection of micro level weather data for the respective regions by end of 2010 besides compilation of extreme weather events.

XIII Working Group meeting of AICRPDA

XIII Working Group Meeting of AICRPDA was organized at CRIDA during 24th to 27th November, 2010. Scientists from 22 Main centers and 8 ORPs under AICRPDA, CRIDA and AICRPAM participated. The Technical Program of component II i.e. Technology demonstration / Action Research under the new scheme on National Initiative on Climate Change Resilient Agriculture (NICRA) was discussed and finalized. AICRPDA technical program of 2010-11 and 2011-12 was approved. The common research programs of AICRPDA with CRIDA and AICRPAM were also reviewed. Dr. D. M. Hedge, Director of DOR, Hyderabad was Chief Guest of the inaugural session and Dr. D. Venkateswarlu, Director, CRIDA presided over the plenary session.



Working group meeting in progress

PARTICIPATION IN MEETINGS/SEMINARS/SYMPOSIA

- **Dr. B. Venkateswarlu**, Director, CRIDA attended the meeting called by President of India on rainfed agriculture development in the country in Rashtrapathi Bhavan on August 11, 2010
- **Dr.M.S.Prasad & Shri R.Joseph** have participated in the KVK interface meeting with Hon'ble DG, ICAR at Portblair (Andaman & Nicobar Islands) on 16.09.2010.
- **Dr. B. Venkateswarlu**, Director, CRIDA delivered Dr.S.P. Raychaudhuri Memorial Lecture during October 10-11, 2010, at BAU Ranchi organised by Ranchi chapter of Indian society of Soil Science.
- **Director**, CRIDA participated in interface meeting of ICAR-ISRO-MOES-DAC at NASC Complex, New Delhi on October 18, 2010.
- **Dr.M.S.Prasad & Dr.S.M.Vidya Sekhar** have participated in the Annual Zonal Workshop of KVKs of A.P. and Maharashtra during 20 – 22 October, 2010 at Nashik (M.S.)
- **Dr. VUM Rao**, Project Co-ordinator (Agmet), participated in National symposium on food security in context of changing climate at Chandra Shekhar Azad University of Agriculture and Technology, Kanpur during 30 Oct - 01 Nov, 2010 and presented Lead lecture on "Weather insurance-based climatic risk management in rainfed crops".
- **Dr.P.K. Mishra**, Project Coordinator (Dryland Research) attended National Seminar on "Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security – Challenges & Opportunities" held at Bhubaneswar during 28-30 November 2010 and presented a lead paper entitled "Prospects of Rainwater Conservation in situ in Dryland Agriculture".
- **Dr.G. Ravindra Chary**, Principal Scientist (Agronomy) participated in XIX National Symposium on "Resource Management Approaches toward Livelihood Security" during December 2-4, 2010 at UAS, Bangalore organized by Indian Society of Agronomy and presented a paper.
- **Dr. B. Venkateswarlu**, Director, CRIDA participated in the Annual conference of Indian Society of Agronomy at UAS, Bangalore on 3 December, 2010 and delivered an invited lecture on rain water harvesting and opportunities for convergence with MGNREGA.
- **Dr.G.R. Maruthi Sankar**, Principal Scientist (Agr. Stat) attended 64th Annual Conference of Indian Society of Agr. Statistics at BCKV, Kalyani, during 3-5 December 2010 and presented a paper entitled "Statistical Assessment of long term effects of soil and weather variables on sustainable finger millet productivity.
- **Director, CRIDA** participated in the brainstorming session on Second green revolution: Strategies for agricultural transformation in Eastern India at ICAR, RCER, Patna chaired by D.G ICAR during December 11-12, 2010

GUEST LECTURE

Dr.Shaikh Abdul Hakeem, Senior Meteorologist from Bureau of Meteorology, Australia delivered a guest lecture on "Climate and Climate Change" on 13.7.2009.

IMPORTANT VISITORS

ASARECA Team visits CRIDA

A team of 22 scientists from Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA) countries visited CRIDA on 19.11.2010 under ICAR – GOI collaborative programme. CRIDA scientists interacted with the visitors on key technologies of institute. A visit to laboratories & Hayathnagar Farm was organized to see the ongoing experiments on dryland technologies. The team felt the technology transfer through KVK and low cost farm implements are quite useful to adopt in their countries



CRIDA scientist's interaction with ASARECA visitors

VISITS ABROAD

- **Dr. B. Venkateswarlu**, Director, CRIDA participated in the stakeholders workshop of the mega project on dryland systems at ICRAF, Nairobi, Kenya during July 8-9, 2010
- **Dr. B. Venkateswarlu**, Director, CRIDA participated as a Member of Indian delegation in the SAARC Regional Workshop on Drought Risk Management in South Asia in Kabul, Afghanistan and presented the country paper on drought management technologies in India during 8-9, August, 2010
- **Dr. Arun K. Shanker**, Sr. Scientist (Plant Physiology) underwent training on "High-throughput genomic expression analysis and selective candidate gene validation through Real Time Q-PCR in sorghum for drought tolerance" from June 4 to August 22, 2010 at Virginia Bioinformatics Institute, Virginia, USA.
- **Dr. Minakshi Grover**, Sr. Scientist (Microbiology) visited Centre for Nano-Biotechnology Research, Alabama State University, Alabama during August 30 to December 2, 2010 for training on application of nano technology in microbial product development
- **Dr.P.K. Mishra**, Project Coordinator (Dryland Research) visited Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Germany on DAAD fellowship from 15th September to 29th October, 2010 for advanced research on irrigation module.
- **Dr. B. Venkateswarlu**, Director, CRIDA visited Kabul, Afghanistan to share Indian experiences in dryland agriculture on invitation of the Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of Afghanistan during 17-20, December 2010

HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Model Training Course on "Climate Change"

A model training course on "Impact of Climate change on Rainfed agriculture and adaptation strategies" was organized by TOT section from August 3-10, 2010. Twenty seven trainees from twelve states participated in the training course. The course covered various aspects of climate change, its impact on rainfed agriculture, mitigation options, adaptation strategies, clean development mechanism, carbon trading and climate risk management etc.



Trainees visit to Open top chamber crop growth studies

Training Programme under Water Productivity Scheme

A Training Course on "Agricultural Mechanization for Enhancing Water Productivity of Dryland Crops" sponsored by ICAR was organized from July 15-28, 2010. Nineteen participants attended from state line Depts. KVK & NGOs. The focus was on assessment

of mechanization practices for sustainable productivity of rainfed crops. Another course on "Climate Change and Water Productivity" was organized for Trainers and Farmers during September 16-29, 2010. Twenty one participants from Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Karnataka attended the course. The participants were exposed to various aspects of climate change, its impacts on agriculture and adaptation and mitigation strategies. A course on "Livestock Production Enhancement Strategies for Rainfed Areas" was organized for Trainers during December 3-16, 2010. Nineteen participants attended from State Dept. of Animal Husbandry & NGOs working in livestock development. Intensification of livestock production systems in rainfed areas, improved technology of fodder production and its utilization etc were covered in this training.



Participants of livestock production training, 3-16, Dec, 2010

FORTH COMING EVENTS

Title of the event	Dates
MTC on Mechanization of dryland Agriculture	January 4-11,2011
5 th SERC School on "Agricultural Drought: Climate Change and Rainfed Agriculture"	20 th January - 09 th February, 2011
Launch Workshop of National initiative on Climate Resilient Agriculture	February 1-2, 2011, New Delhi
ICAR Sponsored Training Course on "Livelihood Enhancement through Sustainable NRM"	February 17 to March 2, 2011
National Science Day	February 28, 2011
International Womens Day	March 8, 2011
CRIDA foundation day	April 12, 2011
IRC meeting	June, 2011

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

- Vasant Rao Naik Award for outstanding research in dryland agriculture, 2009 was awarded to **Dr. B. Venkateswarlu**, Director CRIDA on 16, July, 2010 Other members of the team include



Dr.B. Venkateswarlu receiving Vasant Rao Naik Award from Sri.Sarad Pawar, Union Minister of Agriculture

Dr. M. Osman, Dr. P.K. Mishra, Dr. D.H. Ranade, Dr. K.V. Rao, Dr. S. Dixit, Dr. Ch. Srinivas Rao, The award was given in recognition of the efforts made in popularizing in-situ and ex-situ rainwater conservation technologies in semi-arid regions of India.

- Jawaharlal Nehru Award for outstanding post-graduate agricultural research 2009 was given to **Dr. I. Srinivas**, Senior Scientist for developing technologies of mini oil expeller and pretreatment for Pongamia and Jatropha seeds for higher oil recovery. To Dr. J. Kusuma Grace for her studies on soil quality under different long-term land management practices in rainfed Alfisols.
- NAIP SRL3 project ICT initiative "**Knowledge share centres**" has been selected as citizen choice # 2 for the best ICT enabled agriculture initiative of the year 2010 during country's largest ICT event e-India held on August 4-6,2010 at HICC, Hitex, Hyderabad by e-India awards.

- AICRPDA since its inception in 1970 through its network centers (25) and ORP (8) has undertaken location specific research, technology refinement and developed many cost effective technologies for the respective agro climatic zones. The centers



Dr.P.K.Mishra, receiving the award

are recognized by MoRD, to function as technical support, organization for monitoring and capacity building under IWMP. In recognition to the above achievements, ICAR awarded "**Choudhary Devilal Outstanding All India Co-ordinated Research Project (AICRP) Award 2009**" for AICRPDA. **Dr.P.K.Mishra** project coordinator received the award.

- Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao**, Principal Scientist (Soil Science) received Fertilizer Association Award (FAI) on 29-11-2010 from Union



Dr. Rao receiving the award

Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers, Mr MK. Alaigiri, for his work on watershed based nutrient management options for dry regions.

- **Dr K. A. Gopinath**, Senior Scientist (Agronomy), has been awarded "Dr P S Deshmukh Young Agronomist Award" by Indian Society of Agronomy at the annual meet of Society at UAS, Bangalore, on 02 December, 2010.

*Dr.Gopinath receiving
"Dr P S Deshmukh Young Agronomist Award"*



PERSONNEL INFORMATION

New Entrants/Appointments

Name	Discipline	Date of joining
Dr.V.U.M. Rao	Project Coordinator, AICRPAM	01.09.2010
Mr.S.Vijay Kumar	SMS (Agrl. Engineering) at KVK	26.10.2010
Mr.G. Sri Krishna	SMS (Horticulture), KVK	27.10.2010
Mr. Golla Raju	T-1(Mechanic)	27.10.2010
Mr. B. Kurmaiah	T-1(Field/Farm) Technician	28.10.2010

Promotions / Selections

Name	Promoted / Seleted as	W.E.F
Mr. M. Lakshminarayan	T-1 (Field/Farm) Technician	19.07.2010
Ms. G. Varalakshmi	Personal Secretary	04.09.2010
Mr. P. Somesh Kumar	Assistant	04.09.2010
Mr. A. Mahesh Kumar	Assistant	04.09.2010
Smt. Y. Padmini	Personal Secretary	06.09.2010
Dr. V. Maruthi	Principal Scientist	21.10.2010
Mr. B. Amarnath	Asst.Admn.Officer to ZC Unit, Zone-V	25.10.2010
Mr. G. Jagan Mohan Rao	Asst. Fin. & Accounts Officer	25.10.2010

CRIDA wishes them success in their endeavours

Transfers

Name	Place of Transfer	Date of joining
Shri Ashish Roy	Transferred from NAARM to join CRIDA as CAO	26.07.2010
Shri Charles Ekka	Sr.Admn.Officer transferred to CMFRI, Cochin	30.09.2010

Retirements

Name	Designation	Date of Superannuation
Shri P.R.Singh,	SMS (Horticulture)	31.07.2010
Dr.GGSN Rao	PC AICRPAM	30.08.2010
Shri B.D. Sati	F&AO	31.08.2010
Mr. J.B. Swamy	T-5 (Tractor Driver)	31.08.2010

CRIDA family wishes them a happy and peaceful retired life

OBITUARY

Padmasri Dr.I.V.Subba Rao, Chairman of the Consortium Advisory Committee of the NAIP SRL3 project passed away on 14th August, 2010 after a brief illness. He had been a great supporter of the project who took keen interest in its activities and guided the scientists immensely. All the CRIDA project staff deeply mourn the demise of Rao and gratefully acknowledge his valuable contribution in shaping of this project.



CULTURAL AND WELFARE ACTIVITIES

Independence Day Celebration

The Independence Day was celebrated on August 15, 2010 with enthusiasm and gaiety. The director hoisted the flag and addressed the staff of CRIDA. He motivated the staff to work with commitment so as to face the new challenges faced by rainfed farming particularly in the case of weather related extreme events.

Vanamahostavam

CRIDA Cultural and Recreation Club organized a *Vana Mahostavam* at Hayathnagar Research Farm of the Institute on November 30, 2010. All the CRIDA staff members irrespective of cadre participated in the cultural activities. The events generated great enthusiasm and resulted in bringing unity among staff.

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