



# NEWS LETTER

Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture

July - December, 2011



## From the Director's Desk....

### Towards Small Farm Mechanization...

Bullock power and human labour are rapidly dwindling affecting agriculture. Farmers are unable to carry out timely agricultural operations which is critical factor for good yields in rainfed agriculture. High temperatures during the sowing and weeding time are reducing the human efficiency resulting in poor performance on the field. MGNREGA is also negatively impacting agricultural operations. Resource poor rainfed farmers are further marginalized because of this as they can hire labour at high market rates. In many crops the cost of labour has risen 40-55 % of the total cost of cultivation from 10-15% two decades ago. The erratic rainfall is also reducing the sowing window and other agricultural operations, especially intercultivation and weeding. Hence, farm mechanization has become an urgent need in rainfed agriculture.

CRIDA evolved several mechanization options for rainfed agriculture. The introduction of seed cum fertilizer drill itself increased the yields by 15% due to timeliness and precision, apart from saving seed and fertilizers. Recently, CRIDA has developed Ridger-planter for effective *in-situ* moisture conservation right from sowing time. The zero-till planter with slit opening and individually operated shanks would work in uneven lands as well. Herbicide attachment with this planter further takes care of the existing weeds with post emergence herbicides and initial flush of weeds with pre-emergence herbicides in zero-tillage conditions. If properly planned, the cost of cultivation can be reduced by 35-40 % by using farm machinery in major agricultural operations apart from reducing the drudgery and other management stress in agriculture. The usage of low lift and low energy water pumps for critical irrigation from farm ponds helped many farmers to combat

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drought and increased yields in several districts of Andhra Pradesh. However, the cost of farm implements discourages small and medium farmers to opt for mechanization. Hence it is necessary to open custom hiring service centers at block/mandal level in a big way so that farmers can get the service at minimum rental cost. These hiring centers should be supported technically by the skilled technicians in all parts for effective functioning. Million of matriculates across the country can be trained under the national skill development mission to be initiated in XII Plan and provided financial assistance to open custom hiring centers. This will be a win-win situation wherein unemployed youth get self employed and labour shortage for farmers is also addressed.

**Dr. B. VENKATESWARLU**  
Director, CRIDA

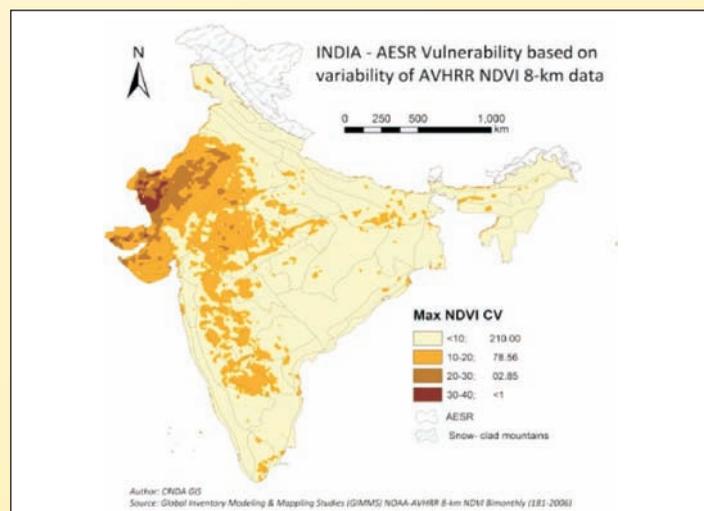
## RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

### A New Tool for Climate Vulnerability Assessment

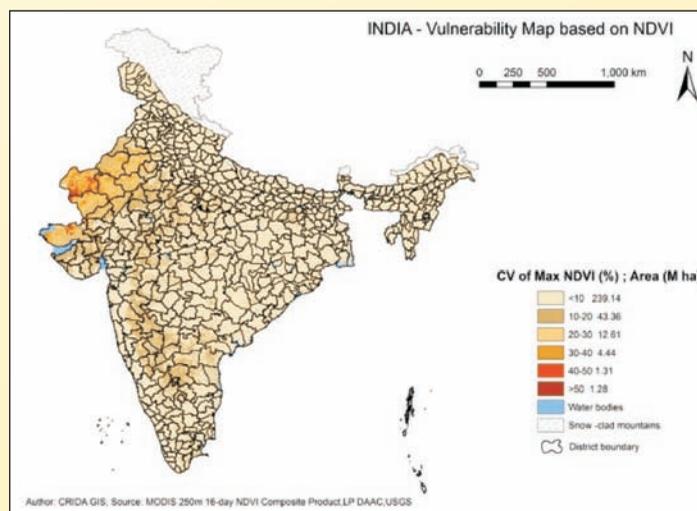
Impact of extreme climate events like drought, heat-wave, flood, frost, cold-wave, gale, cyclones, etc., on the earth and ecosystem can be discerned by tools and techniques of Remote Sensing. Changes in land use/ land cover and vegetation growth and vigor can be used as proxy for vulnerability assessment with changes in Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) as indicator for understanding these processes. NDVI from Advanced Very High Resolution Radiometer (AVHRR) 8-km data and from Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) 16-day 250m NDVI data product were taken to analyze vulnerability of Indian agriculture to climate change under NICRA project.

Temporal analysis of NOAA-AVHRR- NDVI product and MODIS-TERRA NDVI datasets downloaded from their respective websites, were used for analyzing agricultural vulnerability in India. While the Global Inventory Modeling and Mapping Studies (GIMMS) data set of NOAA- AVHRR (8 km resolution) was used to analyse vulnerability at State- and Agro-eco-sub-region (AESR) level during 1982 - 2006 period (Figure 1), MODIS (16-day 250m resolution) NDVI data product was used to

understand vulnerability trends at district-level during 2001-2010 (Figure 2).



**Fig. 1 : CV of Max NDVI across AESR in India**



**Fig. 2 : District level Vulnerability of agriculture based on NDVI**

Standard Precipitation Index (SPI) instead of actual rainfall was used to corroborate extreme events that could impact vegetation growth in natural forest, open scrub, agricultural land and plantations. NDVI derived from 2-band information (Red and Near-infra Red) of multi-spectral imagery of AVHRR and from MODIS dataset were analyzed and Coefficient of Variation (CV) of Maximum NDVI from 15-day composites for the total length of study period was used to assess vulnerability to climate change. It was estimated that over 81.3 million ha in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid regions in the country, is more vulnerable to climate change and extreme weather events. Study indicated that over 12.1 and 1.81 million ha of *Kharif* cropland would be mildly and severally vulnerable while 6.86 and 0.5 million ha of *Rabi* cropland may be adversely affected in a similar manner. Of the remaining agricultural lands, 29.93 and 5.24 million ha would also be vulnerable to climate change with impacts ranging from moderate to severe.

- Kaushalya Ramachandran

## SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES

### National Conference on Sustainable Agriculture and Climate Change

A National Conference on Sustainable Agriculture and Climate Change was organized by CRIDA, Hyderabad and the National Council for Climate Change, Sustainable Development & Public Leadership (NCCSD), Ahmedabad during August 23-24, 2011. The conference was attended by Dr AK Singh, DDG (NRM) ICAR and Hon'ble Justice B P Singh, Former Judge of Supreme Court of India presided. Scientists from all over India attended the conference. The unique feature was the special session on farmers' perspective on Climate Change which was chaired by Shri V. Nagi Reddy, Vice Chancellor, ANGRAU. Among others MVS Nagi Reddy, member ICAR, GB expressed their views on the subject.



*Dignitaries on dais*

The key recommendations emerged from the conference include ; policy interventions which determine carbon, energy and water footprints, need to revisit gene banks to exploit diversity in germplasm for use in breeding programmes to develop seeds with tolerance to heat, cold and submergence and empowerment of farmers through awareness creation and capacity building.

### National wide Stakeholder Consultation on Climate Change

A National Stakeholder Consultation on Climate Change was organized at CRIDA during September 19-20, 2011 primarily to identify the priority research areas under the climate change platform during XII Plan. All the stakeholders including researchers, NGOs and private sector were invited.

The consultation was inaugurated by Dr. A.K.Singh, DDG (NRM), ICAR, Dr.Y.P.Abrol, Chairman of NICRA Expert Committee was also present. Dr. B. Venkateswarlu, Director, CRIDA, presented



*Discussions during consultation*

an overview of the climate change research in agriculture sector in India, objectives of the proposed climate change platform and a broad road-map for XII Plan. The discussions resulted in prioritization of research areas and issues.

### RAC meeting

The 20<sup>th</sup> Research Advisory Committee Meeting was



*RAC meeting in progress*

held on 30th November, 2011 under the chairmanship of Dr. R. Dwarakinath. The Committee reviewed the progress under the on-going projects and made several suggestions for horizontal diffusion of dryland technologies to farmers. A special session was held on how CRIDA can take leadership role not only in technology generation but also its upscaling. The members made several suggestions regarding design of farm ponds, adoption of silvi pasture models, measurement of carbon in field experiments. The committee commended the progress made under climate resilient agriculture initiative (NICRA) in a short time.

### QRT Meet

The VIth Quinquennial Review Team under the Chairmanship of Dr. H.P. Singh, Former Director, CRIDA has reviewed the progress of CRIDA-AICRPDA-AICRPAM-NPCC for the period 2006-2010 and submitted its final report to ICAR during December, 2011. The team conducted four regional review meetings in Bangalore, Indore, Hissar and Ranchi and also visited several centres for finalizing their report. The team appreciated the achievements of CRIDA and the net work projects. The team held a Stakeholders' consultation at CRIDA on December 15-16,2011 which was also attended by DDG



*Final stakeholder meetings of QRT on Dec 15-16,2011*

(NRM) and took the feedback before finalizing the recommendations.

### Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on “Regional Drought Monitoring and Early Warning Systems

An Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on “Regional Drought Monitoring and Early Warning Systems” was held during 27-28<sup>th</sup> December, 2011 at CRIDA, Hyderabad sponsored by SAARC. Experts from six countries participated to discuss drought monitoring issues. Shri Mohan Kanda IAS, former chief secretary, Govt. of A.P. and former member NDMA addressed the participants. Dr. O. P. Mishra, Director SDMC, Dr. B. Venkateswarlu, Director CRIDA also shared their views on the subject. The recommendations of the meet can be seen on [www.saarc-sec.org](http://www.saarc-sec.org)



*EGM in progress*

### Review meeting of ACIAR project

A review meeting of the ACIAR project “Impacts of Meso-scale Watershed Development in Andhra Pradesh (India) and Comparative catchment in Australia “ was held at CRIDA on 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2011. The meeting was attended by partners from India and Australia and reviewed the progress of project initiatives and the technical programme for 2012 activities.

## NAIP ACTIVITIES

### Consortium Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting

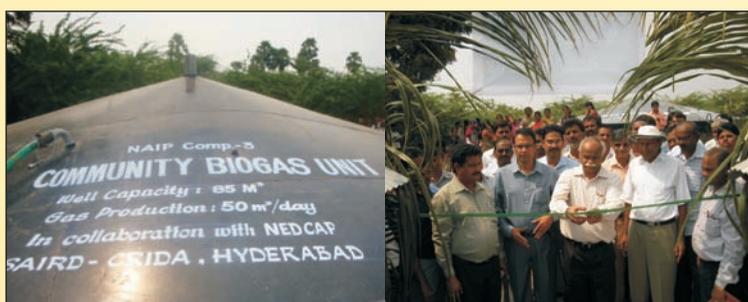
The seventh CAC meeting of component III project of CRIDA was held on 05.11.2011 under the chairmanship of Dr. S. M. Ilyas. Overall expenditure status, action taken report and the suggestions made during the 6th CAC meeting were presented. The overall progress of the project was made by Dr Sreenath Dixit, CPI. Since it was the last CAC meet the Chairman and members appreciated the achievements and suggested to document the lessons from the project carefully by hiring professional consultant.



*CAC meeting in progress*

### Inauguration of Rural Energy Unit

The rural energy cum community biogas unit was inaugurated by Dr.A.K.Singh, DDG (NRM) on October 22,2011 in Jalmalkunta thanda of Dupahad Cluster in Nalgonda district. This is the first such intervention in the country where 30 households get cooking gas from the community plant besides vermi compost and power to pump drinking water.



*DDG (NRM) inaugurating the unit*

### Upscaling of low-lift technology in Seethagondhi cluster

In the Seethagondi cluster of Adilabad over 30 farm ponds were dug in convergence with NREGS to harvest and re-use runoff. During the year, most of the farm ponds filled several times over. During rabi season the farmers were encouraged to cultivate

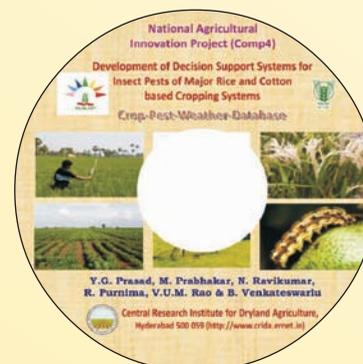


*Assembling pump sets as water lifting devices  
(Inset – Testing at field level)*

vegetables by using harvested rainwater. However, they did not have proper water lifting device though sprinklers were made available through custom hiring. The 1.5hp low lift pump standardized by CRIDA was supplied to 10 farmers and data bring generated on the performance and returns.

### Release of Crop-Pest-Weather Database

A CD on crop-pest-weather database developed under NAIP component 4 project (C4/C2046) was released on 19th Sep, 2011. The database for rice and cotton documents weekly pest records (34,472) for 11 insect pests and diseases in rice and 13 in cotton along with corresponding weather across 12 important locations across India. The database is developed with MS Access as a back end and a user friendly front end in VB 6.0.



*DVD on crop-pest-weather database*

Users can retrieve and view historical pest and weather records in the form of graphs and data tables. The database is useful for pest forecast modelling groups, KVK scientists and Agromet Field Units (AMFUs) involved in agro-advisory services to compare current season weather based pest alerts with past trends for a given location. View the data base at <http://www.crida.in/naip/comp4/images/cdreport.pdf> and for further details, contact CPI at [ygprasad@crida.in](mailto:ygprasad@crida.in)

## IMPORTANT EVENTS

### Farmers Day

CRIDA celebrated farmers' day on 21.09.2011 at Gunegal Research Farm with large participation of farmers, Extension workers, officials from line departments and exhibition stalls. Dr. B. Venkateswarlu Director, CRIDA presided over the function and Dr.R. Ragava reddy, Ex. Vice Chancellor, ANGRAU was the Chief Guest. He emphasized the need of water harvesting in dryland agriculture and the utility of seed drills with herbicide application developed by CRIDA. Director, CRIDA scientists explained various dryland technologies developed by CRIDA and their usefulness and farming community by demonstrating the same in field demonstrations in CRIDA Farm. Farmers - Scientists interactions were also held with question answer session.

participated in it. The different themes were Dryland Horticulture, Alternative land use systems, Farm Mechanization, Soil and Water Conservation, Women Empowerment and Livelihood, Improved Management of Livestock and Fodder Production.

### Hindi Fortnight

The Hindi Fortnight was organized from 3-17 September, 2011. On this occasion Hindi Noting & Drafting, Hindi-English technical terminology, Hindi Essay, competitions and 2 day workshop were organized. Winners were awarded cash prizes by the Director on the concluding day.

### Official Language technical seminar and liasion meeting

Two days National Technical Seminar was organized at CRIDA during 1-2 November, 2011 for CRIDA Technical and Administrative Staff and other Central Govt. Officials. A meeting of Liaison Officers of Official Language organized on 16.12.2011 under the Hindi Teaching Scheme of DOL for Central Govt. Offices, Undertaking,banks, etc., situated at Hyderabad-Secunderabad.

### World Soil Day

The Southern Chapter of the National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS) along with Hyderabad Chapter of the Indian Society of Soil Science jointly organized "World Soil Day" at CRIDA, Hyderabad on 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2011 to focus on the importance of soil health for food security. A special Lecture in memory of late Dr. I.V. Subba Rao, former Vice-Chancellor, ANGRAU was organized. About 120 Agricultural scientists from local research institutes and Fellows of NAAS in the southern region attended the event. The memorial lecture "Soil Science Research under Changing Climate Scenario" was delivered by Dr. B. Venkateswarlu, Director, CRIDA.



Farmers fair Events

### Technology Week

The 'Agricultural Technology Week' was organized by CRIDA between 21-26 September, 2011. Around 2300 farmers



A glimpse of activities during technology week



World Soil Day events

## AICRP NEWS

### Stakeholder workshops

Twenty two stakeholder consultations for research prioritization were held across AICRPDA centres during August-November 2011. The Vice Chancellors, Directors of Research, Director/ Assistant/ Deputy of Extension, Zonal/Regional/Assistant Directors of Research, Heads of various departments, Scientists from AICRPDA centres, SAUs, Zonal Project Directors/ representatives from seven ZPDs, program coordinators/SMS from KVK, Joint/Deputy/Assistant Directors of Agriculture/Animal husbandry, officials from the state line departments, NGOs etc and farmers participated.



*Stake Holders Interaction at AICRPDA, Varanasi*

### Interactive Meetings

Twenty two interactive meetings of AICRPDA Centres with KVKs were held across AICRPDA centers for technology up-scaling.

Zonal Project Directors/ representatives, Project Coordinators/ SMS from 106 KVKs and Dr.PK Mishra, Project Coordinator (AICRPDA), scientists participated. Available Technologies which can be upscaled through KVKs in the region were finalized jointly.

### XXIII Biennial Workshop

Twenty third Biennial Workshop of AICRPDA was organised at ZARS, Solapur during 19-23 December, 2011. Dr.TA More, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, MPKV, Rahuri presided over the inaugural meeting. Other important dignitaries were Dr.HP Singh, Chairman, 6<sup>th</sup> QRT, and Dr.B Venkateswarlu, Director, CRIDA, The workshop reviewed the progress of AICRPDA and finalized the technical progress for 2012-13.



*Dr. B Venkateswarlu, Director, CRIDA addressing the participants*

## NICRA NEWS

### Launch of NICRA newsletter

The first issue of CRA News, the Monthly Newsletter on Climate Resilient agriculture Technology Demonstrations across the country launched from October 2011. It is an initiative of knowledge sharing and learning within and outside the NICRA-KVK network. The newsletter <http://nicra-icar.in/nicrarevised/attachments/newsletter.pdf>

### FAO Workshop on AquaCrop model

A training workshop on "Capacity development for farm management strategies to improve Crop-Water Productivity using AquaCrop" was conducted during 18-22 October 2011, under NICRA, with support from FAO. 30 scientists/ teachers from ICAR institutes, SAU's and NGOs benefitted from this event. Dr. Satya Priya from FAO, New Delhi was instrumental in organizing and sponsoring two experts viz., Dr. Dirk Raes and Patricia, to train the participants.



*AquaCrop workshop in progress*

### Installation of New Equipment

A new equipment, for quantifying the green house gas emissions was made operational at CRIDA. The unit is a custom designed system for quantifying all 3GHGs (CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O) simultaneously in a single run. For research collaboration and analytical services. Contact : Dr. JVNS Prasad at [jasti@crida.in](mailto:jasti@crida.in)

## PARTICIPATION IN MEETINGS / SEMINARS / SYMPOSIA

- Dr. B. Venkateswarlu, Director, CRIDA participated in various high level meetings of NICRA and presented the progress of NICRA project . He also visited several projects sites all over the country to review the activities and work plan of NICRA project during July-Dec,2011.
- Dr. B. Venkateswarlu, Director, CRIDA attended Director's Conference at New Delhi during 14-16 July 2011 He also took part in the ICAR-CSIR Institutes meeting at Delhi on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2011.
- Dr. B. Venkateswarlu, Director, CRIDA took part in the meeting on rainfed agriculture chaired by Hon'ble President of India at Bangalore on August 5, 2011.
- Dr. B. Venkateswarlu participated in the meeting of Working Group on NRM and Rainfed Agriculture at Planning Commission, New Delhi on August 12, 2011.
- Dr. B. Venkateswarlu participated in to USAID-FARMS workshop at New Delhi, on 18-19 August 2011.
- Dr. B. Venkateswarlu participated in ICAR-ICARDA Center of Excellence Meeting at Delhi on September 2, 2011.
- Dr.GR Maruthi Sankar attended Workshop of AICRP on Chickpea at UAS, Bangalore during 20-22, August 2011.
- Er.R Nagarjuna Kumar attended training program on "Recent trends of Geoinformatics in Land resource Database Management for sustainable Agriculture" at NBSS & LUP, Nagpur during 15-28, November 2011.
- Drs. S. Dixit and K. Ravi Shankar, Senior Scientist (Agril. Extn.) participated in the International Conference on Innovative Approaches for Agricultural Knowledge Management during November 9-12, 2011 at New Delhi.

## IMPORTANT VISITORS

- **Visit of African Agricultural Scientists** A seven member African agricultural Scientists team visited CRIDA on September 14, 2011 for exposure visit to Watershed programme in India. The team interacted with CRIDA scientists on key technologies of soil and water conservation and livelihood enhancement.
- **Visit of International trainees of NIRD** The trainees of International Training programme on "Disaster Management" visited CRIDA on 08.11.2011. The trainees got practical insights on dryland agriculture and technologies to reduce vulnerability to climate variability.



Interaction with African Scientists

## VISITS ABROAD

**Dr. B. Venkateswarlu**, Director, CRIDA and **Dr. VUM Rao**, Project Coordinator (Ag. Met.) attended Stakeholders meeting and International Policy Dialogue on building climate resilient agriculture in Asia at Vietnam during July 21-23, 2011.

**Dr. P. Vijaya Kumar**, Senior Scientist (Ag. Met.) participated in the "Exposure Training Workshop" organized by the SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC) during 08-10 August, 2011 at Dhaka, Bangladesh.

**Dr. RV Adake**, Sr.Scale Scientist (FM&P) attended training on "Sensor based applications including biomass indicators" from 15.08.2011 to 15.11.2011 at Colorado State University, USA.

**Dr. VUM Rao**, Project Coordinator (Ag. Met.) attended Inter-Agency Consultation Meeting on User Interface Platform for the Agriculture and Water Sectors in GFCS held at FAO, Rome, Italy during 26-28 September, 2011.

**Dr. Suseelendra Desai**, Principal Scientist (Plant Pathology) visited Germany during 21.10.2011 to 21.12.2011 under reinvitation Scheme of DAAD fellowship.

**Dr. P. Vijaya Kumar**, Senior Scientist (Ag. Met.) attended the First Training Workshop on "Developing Capacity in Cropping Systems Modeling to Promote Food Security and Sustainable Use of Water Resources in South Asia" at SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC), Dhaka, Bangladesh during 20-24 November 2011.

## HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

### SAARC International Training

Two Week International Training Program on “**Techniques of Water Conservation & Rain Water Harvesting for Drought Management**” was conducted for 22 delegates from 5 SAARC countries (India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Srilanka & Afghanistan) during **18-29 July, 2011** at CRIDA, Hyderabad.

The course imparted knowledge, skills and information to the participants on techniques for water conservation and rain water harvesting for effective drought management.



*SAARC Training Program Participants*

### Capacity Building Course on Livelihood Opportunities

A Capacity Building Course on “Production and Systems Livelihood Options in Rainfed Agriculture” sponsored by RGMWM, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal was organized during September 5-9, 2011. The participants were exposed to interventions for sustainable livelihoods and emerging concepts in watershed management through field visits and interaction with the faculty.

### Training Programs under Water Productivity Scheme

A Training course on “Agricultural Mechanization for Enhancing Water Productivity of Dryland Crops” sponsored by ICAR, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, was organized during August 16-29, 2011. It was attended by 19 participants from state line Depts. KVK & NGOs. The focus was on use of mechanization practices for sustainable productivity of rainfed crops. Another course on “Sustainable Agriculture Production Through Innovative Approaches for Enhanced Livelihoods” was organized during September 2-15, 2011. Twenty one participants from A.P, Maharashtra, and Karnataka attended the course. The intensification of livestock production systems

in rainfed areas, technologies of efficient land use, NRM for improved livelihoods etc were covered in the course.

### Short Course on Soil Carbon Sequestration

A ten days short course on “Soil Carbon Sequestration for Climate Change Mitigation and Food Security” was organized at CRIDA from 24<sup>th</sup> November to 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2011 by Dr. Ch. Srinivasarao as a Course Director.



*Participants of Short Course*

### Short Course on Crop Weather Modelling

ICAR sponsored Short Course on ‘Crop Weather Modelling’ organized during 13-22 December, 2011 at CRIDA. Twenty four participants attended from all over India. The participants are given theoretical and practical orientation towards modelling aspects of crop weather interactions.

### Model Training Course

A model training course on “Impact of Climate change on Rainfed agriculture and adaptation strategies” sponsored by DOE, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, was organized during November 22-29, 2011. Twenty trainees from ten states participated. The course covered different aspects of climate change, its impact on rainfed agriculture, mitigation adaptation options, clean development mechanism, carbon trading and climate risk management etc.

A Model Training Course on “Mechanization in Dryland Agriculture” sponsored by DOE, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, New Delhi and organized during December 13-20, 2011. Seventeen trainees from eight states participated in the training course.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Title of Event	Date
Capacity building training on "Use of High Science Tools and Methodologies in planning, implementation and monitoring of watershed programmes under IWMP" (2 programmes)	February 03-09, 2012 March 13-19, 2012
State Level Agri Tech Exhibition on Farm Mechanization and Water Management	February 23-24, 2012
National Science day	February 28, 2012
Training programme on "Integrated Nutrient, Pest and Disease Management in Dryland Crops"	February 28 - March 12, 2012
International Women's day	March 8, 2012
National Consultation on Application Technologies for Harvested Rainwater in ponds	March 19-20, 2012
Training programme on "Climate Change and Water Productivity"	March 21 - April 03, 2012
State level Interface meet of ICAR institutes, SAUs and Line departments	April 2012
CRIDA foundation day and Honoring Innovative farmers	April 12, 2012

For details please visit [www.crida.in](http://www.crida.in)

## AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

### CRIDA scientist awarded

Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao, Principal Scientist (Soil Science) was inducted as Fellow of Indian Society of Soil Science for his outstanding contributions in the field of potassium requirements in Indian soils.



### Citizen's Choice award for the Best ICT Enabled Agri Initiative

CRIDA-IKISAN led initiative of setting up ICT enabled Knowledge Share Centers (as part of NAIP sub project on Sustainable Rural



Director CRIDA receiving e-world award

Livelihoods) A.P. has won **Best Citizen's Choice award** at the e-World Conference held in New Delhi on 1-3 August, 2011. The award recognizes the novelty of the ICT initiative in timely delivery of location specific, need based advisories and diagnostic services to farmers through a combination of ICT tools viz. touch screen kiosk, IVRS, display announcement, online portal and mobile based weather and market alerts.

### CRIDA scientists received "Golden Jubilee Award of FAI" for 2011

Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao, Principal Scientist (Soil Science) and Dr. B. Venkateswarlu, Director Jointly (CRIDA) received "**Golden Jubilee Award of FAI**" for their significant contributions in "*Integrated Nutrient Management Practices in Rainfed Agriculture*" on 7th December, 2011 during FAI Annual Seminar-2011 at New Delhi.



'**Best Poster Award**' for the poster presented on "**Trends in annual and seasonal evapotranspiration at different locations of India**" by B. Bapuji Rao, N. Manikandan, VUM Rao

and AVMS Rao and '**Best Research Paper Award**' for the paper entitled "**Reliability of Downscaling Rainfall Data in the Estimation of Rainfall Trends: A Case Study**" by B. Bapuji Rao, VP Pramod and VUM Rao during National Seminar on Agroclimatological Research and Services to Combat Climate Change Challenges held at BCKVV, Kalyani during 09-10 December 2011.

**Dr.G.Pratibha** has been Awarded JFST **Best Paper Award** in the field of Food Engineering for the Article entitled "Effect of open air drying, LPG based drier and pretreatments on the quality of Indian gooseberry (Aonla)".

**Dr. VUM Rao**, Project Coordinator (Ag. Met.) was inducted as '**Expert to the Program Advisory Committee – Atmospheric Sciences**' of the Department of Science & Technology.

## PERSONNEL

### New Entrants / Appointments

Name	Discipline	Date of joining
Dr. AS Rao	Principal Scientist (Agril.Met.)	25.07.2011
Shri Raj Kumar Dhakar	Scientist (Agril. Physics)	05.09.2011
Shri Ravi Dupdal	Scientist (Agril. Economics)	05.09.2011
Dr. Joseli Samuel	Scientist (Agril. Economics)	14.10.2011
Shri P. Prakash Babu, on transfer from DRR, Hyd.	Administrative Officer (transferred from DRR, Hyd)	07.12.2011
Dr. Ashok Kumar Indoria	Scientist (Soil Science)	21.12.2011
Dr. K. Salini	Scientist (Plant Breeding)	23.12.2011
Ms. Reshma Shinde	Scientist (Soil Fertility)	24.12.2011
Dr. Gopal Krishna Reddy, on transfer from NRC, Oil palm	Scientist (Horticulture)	28.12.2011

*CRIDA family welcomes and wishes them all success.*

### Promotions / Selections

Name	Post	Date of joining
Shri Vijay Kumar	AAO	20.08.2011
Shri M.Yadaiah	Asst	26.11.2011
Shri P.Chandrasekhar	T-7/8	01.07.2011
Smt. V.L.Savithri	T-6	01.07.2011

Dr. B.M.K.Reddy, Senior Scientist, CRIDA has taken the charge of Programme Co-ordinator of KVK in August, 2011.

*CRIDA wishes them success in their endeavours.*

### Transfers/Selections

Name	Designation	Date
Dr UK. Mandal,	Sr.Scientist to Regional Station CSSRI, Canning	31.07.2011
Dr. K. Kareemullah	Principal Scientist to NARAM	16.08.2011
Dr. Shalender Kumar	Principal Scientist to CAZRI, Jodhpur on selection	25.08.2011
Sri B.Satish	Transferred to CIBA, Chennai	05.12.2011

*CRIDA wishes a bright career to all of them.*

### Retirements

Name	Designation	Effective date
Dr. NN Srivastava	Principal Scientist	31.07.2011
Sri. Narsingh Singh	AAO	31.07.2011
Mr. I. Ram Mohan	T-9	31.08.2011
Mr. J. Shankar	T-4 (Driver)	30.09.2011 (VRS)
Mr. J. Vittal Rao	SSG	31.12.2011

*CRIDA wishes them a happy and peaceful retired life.*

### OBITUARY

Dr. S. Venkateswarlu, Retired Sr. Scientist expired on 27.11.2011 and Sri Laxmi Narayana Assistant expired on 5.10.2011.

*CRIDA staff expresses their deep condolences to the bereaved family members.*

**CULTURAL AND WELFARE ACTIVITIES**

**Independence Day Celebration**

The Independence Day was celebrated on August 15, 2011 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 era of climate change.



*Distribution of Certificates by Dr.B.Venkateswarlu, Director, CRIDA for Meritorious Students for passing SSC examination 2010-11*



*Dr.B.Venkateswarlu, Director, CRIDA delivering speech on the occasion of Independence Day*

**Vanamahostavam**

CRIDA Cultural and Recreation Club organized a *Vana Mahostavam* at Hayathnagar Research Farm of the Institute on November 19, 2011. All the CRIDA staff members actively participated in the cultural activities. The events generated great enthusiasm and unity among staff.



**Editorial** : Dr. B.Venkateswarlu, Director  
 Dr.(Mrs.) K. Nagasree, Scientist

**Photographs** : Mr. K.Surender Rao  
 Sr. Technical officer

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**BOOK-POST**

To \_\_\_\_\_

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