



GRAPE-NEWS

A Publication of National Research Centre for Grapes, Pune



Vol. 14 (2), October 2010 - March 2011

Director General, ICAR visits NRC for Grapes

Dr. S. Ayyappan, Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and Education and Director General, ICAR, New Delhi visited NRC Grapes, Pune on 28th October 2010.



During the visit, he made a point to visit National Active Grape Germplasm Site, experimental vineyards, and different laboratories and other infrastructure of the Centre. During his meeting with scientists and staff he critically reviewed the achievements and the present research activities of the Centre and was very much appreciative of the work and suggested to focus more on basic and strategic research and have more active interaction and networking with experts within the country and abroad. He also urged the scientists to forge international cooperation and linkages and strive to bring Indian grape research to international arena. He advised to prioritise theme based multi-disciplinary research programmes to resolve specific issues concerning the grape sector in India and agreed to support the further infrastructural needs of the Centre in fulfilling its mandate. He also interacted with individual scientists and the staff of the Centre and solicited their opinions and grievances.

Felicitations of innovative farmers

The first Innovators Meet was organized on 18th January 2011, on the occasion of the Foundation Day of this institute. Seven innovative farmers were identified by the institute scientists based on their field experience. These farmers were invited for the meet to share their innovative technologies developed and how they implemented in their farms. The invited farmers were Mr. Tukaram M. Yalale (Latur), Dr. Vasant B. Dagade (Indapur), Mr. Somnath S. Tidake (Dindori, Nasik), Mr. Prakash Bafna (Pune), Mr. Nagesh S. (Khanpur, Sangli), Mr. Manoj Jadhav (Nasik), and Mr. Baburao Kabade (Miraj, Sangli).

The programme was presided over by Dr. P. G. Adsule, Director of the institute. In the beginning Dr. Indu S. Sawant, highlighted the objectives of the programme. Then the growers talked about their innovations. The innovative farmers were felicitated for their contribution to the grape industry by Dr. P. G. Adsule, Director and further, he highlighted different problems of grape growing and processing in India and thanked the innovators for sharing their experiences with scientists. The meet ended with a vote of thanks by Dr. G.S. Karibasappa. This programme was coordinated by Dr. A. K. Sharma.

Honours / Recognitions / Awards

- Dr. Indu S Sawant is nominated by ICAR as a member on the Institute Management Committee of NRC for Citrus, Nagpur for a period of three years w.e.f. 9th August 2010.
- Research paper entitled 'AFLP marker to differentiate clone of grapevine (*Vitis Vinifera* L.) cv. Centennial Seedless by M. P. Shinde, L. B. Aher, Anuradha Upadhyay and G.S. Karibasappa received first prize at National Seminar on 'Frontiers in Biotechnology and Bioinformatics' held on 12th February 2011 at Pune. The

paper was presented by Ms. M. Shinde.

- Dr. P. B. Taware, T-5 has been awarded Ph.D. degree in botany by University of Pune on 9th January 2011. His thesis was entitled 'Patho-physiological studies on powdery mildew infected grapes and effect of disease on wine quality'.
- Dr. G. S. Karibasappa was appointed as a member of selection committee for CAS of teachers of UAS, Dharwad.

Transfer of Technology

Participation in Grape Growers' Seminars

- Drs. S. D. Sawant, R. G. Somkuwar, S. D. Ramteke, J. Sharma and D. S. Yadav participated and delivered lectures in the Regional Charchasatra organized by Maharashtra State Grape Growers' Association at Solapur on 5th October and at Latur on 6th October 2010. Approximately 1000 grape growers attended the lecture.
- Dr. D. S. Yadav delivered a lecture on 'Pest Management in Grapes' during grape growers meet at Tasgaon on 11th November 2010 and at Pandharpur on 16th November 2010.
- Dr. S. D. Ramteke delivered lecture on 'Grape varieties suitable for Cumbum valley region' to about 1500 grape growers in a seminar at Theni on 20th November 2010.
- Dr. S. D. Ramteke delivered lecture on 'Judicious use of bioregulators in grapes' to about 900 grape growers in seminars at Sangli on 20-2st December 2010 and 14-

15th January 2011 and at Nasik on 29-30th October 2010 and 19-20th January 2011.

Field Visits and Guidance to Farmers

- Dr. P. G. Adsule, Director and other scientists Drs. S. D. Sawant, A. K. Upadhyay, S. D. Ramteke, J. Sharma, and D. S. Yadav visited the demonstration plots under Smooth Trade Project and guided the grape growers on different aspects of grape cultivation at Nasik on 29th November, 7th December, 29-30th December 2010, 7th January and 19-20th January 2011; at Sangli on 2-3rd December 2010, 14-15th January 2011; and at Vita and Khanapur on 21st December 2010.
- Drs. G. S. Karibasappa, J. Satisha and Roshni Samarth visited Agarkar Research Institute, Hol Farm, Baramati on 4th February 2011 to collect germplasm from their breeding block. Advised them to follow good viticultural practices to maintain good growth and development of all the accessions.

Participation in Scientific Seminars / Symposia / Workshops / Meetings

- Drs. G. S. Karibasappa, A. K. Upadhyay and J. Satisha participated in "Pre meet on research needs arising due to abiotic stresses in agriculture management on India under global climate change scenario" organized by NIAM, Baramati from 29-30 October 2010.
- Dr. J. Satisha attended Interactive meet on "Information and communication technology in ICAR" organized by IASRI, New Delhi from 3-4 November 2010 and Sensitization workshop on development of Results – Framework Development (RFD)" at NASC Complex, New Delhi from 11-14th March 2011.
- Drs. P. G. Adsule, Indu S. Sawant and A. K. Sharma participated in 4th Indian Horticulture Congress 2010 at New Delhi during 18-21st November 2010.
- Drs. P. G. Adsule and Dr. K. Banerjee attended a meeting

at MCCIA (Maratha Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Agriculture) organized in association with the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, New Delhi on 25th January 2011.

- Dr. Indu S. Sawant participated and acted as rapporteur in two sessions of the 'National Symposium on Molecular Approaches for Management of Fungal Diseases of Crop Plants' held at IIHR, Bangalore during 27-30th December 2010. She also attended X Agricultural Science Congress organized at NBFGR, Lucknow during 10-12th February 2011.
- Dr. S. D. Sawant participated in 9th National Symposium on "Crop Health Management for Sustainable Agri-horticultural Cropping System" at CARI, Port Blair during 17-19th February 2011.

Human Resource Development

Training Abroad

Dr. A. K. Upadhyay, Dr. K. Banerjee, Dr. D. Oulkar, Mr. B. Ugare and Mr. S. Utture participated in the training programme at Rikilt Institute of Food Safety at Wageningen in The Netherlands.

Training Programmes Organized

A training programme entitled 'Grapevine Cultivation

and Its Value Added Products' was organized at the Centre during 21-24th March 2011. Twenty-four participants from Theni district of Tamil Nadu participated in the programme. Dr. R.G. Somkuwar coordinated the training programme.

Training Acquired

- Mrs. S. Salini attended Summer School on "Advances in Agricultural Acarology" at UAS, Bangalore during 8-28th

October 2010.

- Dr. A. K. Goswami attended FOCARS training from 1st September to 29th December 2010 at NAARM Hyderabad.
- Dr. P. B. Taware attended Training Course on Research Station Management organized by ICRISAT, Patancheru, from 17-22nd January 2011.
- Drs. S. D. Sawant and R. G. Somkuwar participated in the workshop on 'Management of Stress Related disorders' at NAARM, Hyderabad from 2-4th February 2011.
- Dr. Anuradha Upadhyay attended a training programme on 'Crop Gene Expression Data Analysis and Structural Bioinformatics' at NBPGR, New Delhi from 1-12th March 2011.

Training Given

- Drs. S. D. Sawant, R. G. Somkuwar and D. S. Yadav guided the grape growers and officers/staff in the training workshop organized to implement regulation of export of

fresh grapes to the European Union through control of pesticide residues and global gap standardization on 14th November at Pandharpur; on 23rd November at Khed (Rajgurunagar), Pune; on 24th November 2010 at Vita, district Sangli; and on 30th November 2010 at Ozar, Nasik.

- Drs. S. D. Sawant, A. K. Upadhyay, K. Banerjee, S. D. Ramteke and D. S. Yadav gave presentation on 'Package of Practices for Exportable Grapes' in the workshop on 'Adoption of Good Agriculture Practices and GAP Certification in Grape' organized by Maharashtra State Horticulture and Medicinal Plants Board on 1st January at Pune; on 5th January 2011 at Latur.
- Dr. Indu S Sawant provided training on 'Large scale multiplication of *Trichoderma* and other bio agents and their methods of application' to the participants of the project on 'Biotechnology led organic production of horticultural crops' to 28 SMS of 14 KVks from NE India at ICAR Complex, Barapani, Shillong on 2nd March 2011.

Visitors

- Dr. S. B. Dandin, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, University of Horticultural Sciences, Bagalkot, Karnataka visited the Centre on 7th October 2010.
- Dr. R. R. Hanchinal, Vice Chancellor, UAS Dharwad visited the Centre on 4th November 2010.
- An official delegation from the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, New Delhi visited the Centre on 27th January 2011.
- Sh. G. C. Pati, Additional Secretary to Govt. of India visited NRCG on 15th February 2011 and reviewed the

achievements of the NRL.

- Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce visited the Centre on 2nd February 2011 to review the activities of National Referral Laboratory. Dr. Santa Ram, Former Chief Minister, Himachal Pradesh and Rajya Sabha Member was the Chairman of the Committee.
- Dr. H. P. Singh, DDG (Hort.), ICAR visited the Centre on 13th March 2011 to review the research activities of the Centre.

Meetings held

Research Advisory Committee Meeting

The thirteenth meeting of the Research Advisory Committee was held on 28-29th March 2011 under the chairmanship of Dr. S. D. Shikhamany, former Vice-Chancellor, Andhra Pradesh Horticultural University. The other members of reconstituted RAC Dr. S. Rajan, Assistant Director General (Hort.-I), ICAR, New Delhi; Dr. B. Satyanarayana Reddy, Professor, College of Horticulture, Mudigere, Karnataka; Dr. P. M. Haldankar, Professor and Head (Dept. of Hort.), BSKKV, Dapoli, Maharashtra; Dr. Prem Dureja, Emeritus Scientist, Division of Agril. Chemicals, IARI, New Delhi; Dr. Neeraj Agrawal, Vice-President – Vineyards, Sula Wineries Ltd., Nasik, Maharashtra; Shri Mahendra Shahir, President,

Maharashtra State Grape Growers' Association, Pune; Dr. P. G. Adsule, Director, NRC for Grapes, Pune; Dr. G. S. Karibasappa, Pr. Scientist (Hort.), NRC for Grapes, Pune (Member Secretary) were also present. Dr. N. Kumar, Dean (Horticulture), TNAU, Coimbatore and Shri Rajeev Samant, CEO – Sula Vineyards, Nasik Vintress Pvt. Ltd., Nasik could not attend the meeting. All the scientists of the Centre participated in the meeting. The Committee visited the experimental vineyards and laboratories on 28th March.

The Committee reviewed the progress of ongoing research projects along with the action taken report on the recommendations of previous RAC and gave valuable suggestions and recommendations for strengthening of ongoing research at the Centre.

Midterm Institute Research Committee Meeting

Mid-term Institute Research Committee meeting was held on 12-13th January 2011 under the Chairmanship of Dr. P. G. Adsule, Director. Scientists presented the progress of ongoing research projects. The Chairman reviewed the research work and offered valuable suggestions.

Institute Management Committee Meeting

The 28th meeting of IMC was held on 18th March 2011 under the Chairmanship of Dr. P. G. Adsule, Director. The issues related to ongoing research work, progress of work under NRL and proposed concept note for XII Plan were discussed and recommended by the IMC.

Director's Desk



In India, the food safety in table grapes is ensured through a unique pre-harvest residue monitoring system called GrapeNet. This is the first internet based residue traceability software developed and established in the country by the APEDA with inputs from all the stakeholders in grape industry for monitoring of fresh table grape for export to the European Union countries. APEDA and this Institute are monitoring very closely this industry, since last season 2010 due to detection of unmonitored molecule Chlormequat chloride (CCC, Cycocel). After this incident, there were a lot of meetings at the highest level i.e. Ministry of Agriculture and Commerce and with stakeholders to finalize the strategy of agrochemical monitoring in table grapes including the officials of CIB, Ministry of Agriculture.

Finally, it was decided to recommend only the CIB labelled chemicals which came to be only 40. However, it was decided to monitor almost all the agrochemicals listed under the CIB and total came about to 171 and 222 with their isomers to avoid any missing detection. As a result of this monitoring, there was no detection of agrochemicals in exported samples this year (2011). However, the total quantity of export reduced to about 48 per cent (22571.46 MT) as compared to last year (47106 MT), mainly due to lower MRL of (CCC), i.e. 0.05 ppm and other chemicals like Fipronil, Abamectin, 6-Benzyl adenine, Lambda-cyhalothrin, Acetamiprid, Captan, Flusilazole, Methomyl, and Chlorpyrifos. This year total number of analysed samples were 3174 as against 5936 with total alerts of 603 in 2011 as against 1246 in 2010.

For last three years, untimely rains were received during October–December when grape crop is at the

stage of shoot growth to berry setting and as a result there was high level of incidence of downy mildew. This has overall affected greatly the productivity of grape crop. In some cases, there was total crop loss due to this disease, bunch rotting and fall of berries. Keeping in view this fact, the Institute had planned a strategy to curtail this incidence based on monitoring of location specific weather information, use of appropriate fungicide sprays based on their level of risk for development of resistance in target pathogen; and growth stage of crop; involving agencies for providing location specific weather forecast and also the corporate bodies manufacturing the agrochemicals viz. DuPont, Bayer, Syngenta. These experiments were planned in 0.45 ha plots at different places in Nasik and Sangli districts involving experts of Plant Pathology, Entomology, Horticulture, Soil Science, Plant Physiology and Agrochemicals. Simultaneously farmers' plot of same size was also maintained along with experimental plot. The successful results of managing the downy mildew and other problems in these experiments were also shared with nearby farmers in the area by holding demonstrations, group meetings, etc. during various stages of crop. As a result of these experiments, information has reached to farmers of this region on how to avoid the total loss of crop and manage the crop with least cost of production. These programmes have been well received by the farmers in Nasik and Sangli districts where grape cultivation is centralized. Efforts in this direction will be further continued and strengthened in view of the climate change and incidences of diseases, insect pests and nutritional disorders.

(P. G. ADSULE)

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Printed at : Flamingo Business Systems, Tel. : 020-24214636, Email : flaminbs@vsnl.com, flamingo.b.s@gmail.com