National Research Centre on Seed Spices

Tabiji, Ajmer-305206, Rajasthan

E-NEWS LETTER

Volume-4 **Number-5**

September-October-2012

From Director's Desk



Seed spices are considered as the low volume high value crops. India is the major producer and consumer of seed spices. At the national level NRCSS is responsible to undertake research on genetic improvement, production technology development and all the other related aspects to make these crops sustainable and profitable to the farmers. On 1st September, 2012 I joined NRCSS as Director, after my joining I found that this centre has worked hard and contributed significantly for development of better production technologies for increasing the production and productivity of seed spices. Looking to the area and production status of the country under major seed spices I feel that there is still a wide gap to be addressed. The upcoming era of precision farming can be integrated with seed spices to harness high yield and increase the potential of the crop. Among the seed spice crops, cumin, coriander, fennel and ajwain are cross pollinated and needs to be addressed for developing technologies for development of varieties by recombination. Among these crops cumin is a very sensitive to biotic and abiotic factors, therefore we need to have varieties resistant to wilt, blight and frost. It is also important to broaden the genetic base of the crop for making it more sustainable with the changing climatic scenario.

All the research programmes running at NRCSS were reviewed in the 12th IRC meeting held on Sep, 15-17, 2012 chaired by me. In the meeting all the in house projects progress and future plan were presented. After detailed discussion seventeen major programes were framed under which all the ongoing projects were sub divided.

During the period a new feather has been added to the cap of NRCSS. A new variety of fenugreek ie., AFg-3 developed by Dr. R.K. Kakani and team at NRCSS has been identified at the national level by AICRP-Spices during its XXIII annual group meeting held at IISR, Calicut from Sep, 29th to Oct, 1st, 2012.

QRT members for IISR and AICRP on Spices, Calicut who visited NRCSS has appreciated the ongoing projects and research work going on at our centre.

Balraj Singh

Dr. Balraj Singh Joined Director of NRCSS, Ajmer



Dr. Balraj Singh, joined as Director on 1st September, 2012. He did Ph.D in vegetable crops from CCS HAU Hisar in 1991. Before joining ICAR as Senior Scientist in November 1998 Dr. Singh served RAU Bikaner at ARS Durgapura Jaipur for more than 9 years as Assistant Professor (Horticulture) in the AICRP on vegetables. He served ICAR for more than 14 years in different capacities. Before joining as the Director, he worked as Principal Scientist and In charge Head of the Centre for Protected Cultivation Technology at IARI, New Delhi. His major research areas are Vegetable Seed Production Technology, Production Technology of Vegetables and Protected Cultivation of Vegetables. He has standardized zero energy, naturally ventilated Green House Technology for vegetable cultivation suited to Indian conditions, plastic low tunnel and walk in tunnel technology for off-season vegetable cultivation, virus free plug tray nursery raising technology for vegetables, insect proof net house technology for safe vegetable cultivation, quality hybrid seed production technology of cucurbits, production technology with fertigation with high and low pressure drip in tomato, cherry, coloured capsicum, and seed crops of carrot, onion, and coriander etc. Dr. Balraj Singh is the fellow of Indian Society of Seed Technology, **Fellowship of the Academy of Science, Engineering and Technology** and **Fellow of the Horticultural Society of India** for outstanding contribution in the promotion of Protected Cultivation of Vegetable and Horticultural crops. Dr. Balraj Singh is the elected Senior Vice-President of the Indian Society of Seed Technology and the Secretary of the Indian Society for Protected Cultivation. He has International exposure as invited speaker, chairman of various sessions in different international conferences, seminars and symposia and encompassed countries like Australia, Singapore, Malaysia, Japan, China and Israel. He is a member and chairman of various important committees at National level like member TAC of the Central Institute of Horticulture Dhimapur (Nagaland) and Chairman of the Technical Advisory Committee for establishment of a Centre of excellence on Hi-tech Horticulture by the Department of Horticulture, Government of Odisha etc. He has been worked as member and chairmen of different committees constituted by ICAR.

NRCSS family welcomes him!

12th IRC Meeting, 2012 held on 15, 16 and 17 September, 2012

The 12th IRC meeting was held on September 15-17, 2012 to review the progress of ongoing projects in the chairmanship of Dr. Balraj Singh, Director, NRCSS, Ajmer. Dr Ravindra Singh, Chairman, PME Cell, presented the QRT and RAC recommendations made for NRCSS. All the ongoing projects were presented by the individual scientists and discussed thoroughly

and the programmes were strengthened as per QRT and RAC recommendations. The total 63 ongoing projects were discussed and the number of projects were restructured to 17 in house programs by merging similar theme works as per QRT recommendations under different sections namely crop improvement (5), crop production (5), crop protection (3), basic sciences (2) and social sciences section (1). The new proposals were also discussed thoroughly on October 25-26, 2012 and the projects were improved as per suggestions from the house before executing in filed and lab trails.

21 ,o 22 flrEcj] 2012 dk fgUnh i[kokMk euk;k

jk"Vh; chth; elkyk vuqla/kku dsUn rchth] vteej e fnukd 14 flrEcj 2012 dk fgUnh



fnol ds miy{; e fnukd 14 flrEcj 2012 ls 30-9-2012 rd fgUnh i[kokMk euk;k x;k A bl miØe e fnukd 14-9-2012 dk fgUnh fnol eukdj dk;Øe dk ikjEHk fd;k x;kA ftle lLFkk ds funs'kd Mk- cyjkt flg egkn; }kjk fgUnh Hkk"kk ds egRo dk /;ku e j[kdj dk;ky; ds lHkh vko';d dk;l ,o i=&i=kofy;k dk fgUnh e idk'ku dju ij /;ku vkd"V fd;kA blh Øe e fnukd 21 flrEcj dk lLFkk ds lHkh oKkfudk ,o lgk;d deipkjh;k ds fy, fofHkUu ifr;kfxrk, vk;kftr dh x;hA ftue okn&fookn]rRdky Hkk"k.k] dk;ky; fVli.kh ys[ku ,o vU; ifr;kfxrk, vk;kftr dh x;hA ftle lHkh u Hkkx ysdj ifr;kfxrkvk dk vkuUn fy;kA Mk- cts'k dqekj feJ u fgUnh Hkk"kk dh egRrk ij tkj nsdj Hkfo"; e fgUnh e dk;l dju ds fy; lHkh dk ikRlkfgr fd;kA ftle dk;Øe ds lekiu ij ijLdkj inku fd; x;A

dk;Øe dh vxyh dMh e fnukd 22 flrEcj 2012 dk ckydk d fy; fofHkUu ifr;kfxrkvk dk vk;kstu fd;k x;kA ftue dfork ikB] y[ku ,o vU; lkekU; Kku



ifr;kfxrkvk dk vk;kstu fd;k x;k ftle cPpk u i.k mYykl d lkFk Hkkx ydj dj lHkh dk euekg fy;kA vk; ox 5 o"k rd d cPpk dh ifrLi/kk e ifFke LFkku ij 'kHke eh.kk ,o d'ko feJk] rhlj LFkku ij 'kk;h flg ,o fnyd'k eh.kk u ckth ekjhA ogh nljh vkj vk; ox 6 l 8 rd e ifFke LFkku ij 'kHkkx lDluk ,o rfu'kk rFkk rhlj LFkku ij iyd cfuoky ,o fiVy flxy v0oy jgA ifr;kfxrk d blh Øe e vk; ox 9 l 12 e ifFke LFkku ij fuf[ky jkBkM ,o ,'o;k 'kekh rFkk rhlj LFkku ij fuiUn feJk ,o vk;'k eh.kk u LFkku ikIr fd;kA ftle dk;Øe d vUr e dk;dkjh fun'kd Mk- th- yky i/kku oKkfud egkn; u lHkh ifrHkkfx;k dk i#Ldkj inku dj mudh mTToy Hkfo"; dh dkeuk dh ,o mUgh blh rjg ifr;kfxrkvk e Hkkx yus d fy, ikRlkfgr fd;kA

AFg-3: A New Variety of Fenugreek Identified



New variety of Fenugreek namely (AFg-3) has been identified for national release by AICRP on spices XXIII Group Meet, held during Sept. 29 to Oct. 1, 2012 at IISR Calicut. This variety performed well on overall basis tested at 11 locations over last three years i.e. 2009-10, 2010-11 &

2011-12. It gave 18.8 per cent higher yield as compared to national check Hisar Sonali. Average yield over the location is 12.9 q/ha with highest yield i.e. 31.8 q/ha at Pantnagar, Uttarakhand during 2011-12. AFg-3 having moderate resistance to powdery mildew and root rot diseases. The seed of this variety contain 1.79% diosgenin and 0.97% hydroxyl isolucine on dry weight basis. This variety has been developed through pure line selection by Dr. R.K. Kakani and team at NRCSS, Ajmer.

Visit of QRT AICRP on Spices



QRT members for IISR and AICRP on Spices, Calicut visited the NRCSS Tabiji, Ajmer on 9th October, 2012. Dr Balraj Singh welcomed the Chairman and all the QRT members by presenting bouquet and presented ongoing research activities including AICRP projects on spices at NRCSS in brief. The review team was headed by Dr M Mahadevappa, ex-chairman of ASRB and former Vice Chancellor of University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad. Other members include Dr. DS Cheema, Dr. GSR Murti, Dr Madhuban Gopal, Dr SN Pandey, Dr KK Jindal and Dr. T John Zachariah. Dr Nirmal Babu, Project Coordinator Spices, IISR, Calicut and E.V.D. Shashtry, Prof SKN CoA, Jobner were also accompanied the QRT members during NRCSS Visit. The QRT members appreciated the ongoing projects and research work going on at NRC on Seed Spices and suggested to submit the important lines of different seed spices in coordinated trails for multi-location testing before release as varieties.

Participated in Kisan Mela at CAZRI, Jodhpur

Sh. M. A. Khan Technical Officer and Sh. G. K. Tripathi Participated in the Kisan Mela organized on 12th September, 2012 at CAZRI, Jodhpur (Rajasthan). On this occasion exhibition on various aspect of seed spices production was laid. The literature on improved production technology of seed spices was also distributed for the benefit of the students, researchers and farmers comminity.





Industry Meet 2012 Attended at DRMR, Bharatpur

Challenges and opportunities for public private partnership in Rape Seed & Mustard Research and Development meet held at DRMR Bharatpur on 29.09.2012. The chief guest of the meeting was Dr. B.S. Tomar, former Director, University of Rajmata Vijay Raje Sindhiya, and guest of honour was Sh. N.S. Rathod, Member Kisan Ayog. Dr. R. S. Meena, Scientist Sr. Scale and Mr. M. A. Khan, Technical Officer has attended this meet. The main emphasis was given to give good varieties and timely available inputs to the farmers and MSP should be increase in case of Rape Seed and Mustard so that farmers may be benefited.

International Symposium Attended

8th International Symposium on 'Plant Soil Interaction at Low pH' held from 18-22 October, 2012 at Bangalore was attended by Dr. O.P. Aishwath and presented his paper. In this symposium, delegates from 19 countries were participated all over the world. There were six technical sessions in the conference to cover all the aspects of the theme like Physical-chemical and biological properties of acid soils, Physiological and molecular mechanisms of plant adaptation to acid soils, Genetics and breeding of crops for acid soils, Aluminum toxicity,

phosphorus deficiency and other acid soil, limitations and their amelioration and remediation,



Sustainable utilization and management of agricultural and natural ecosystems of acid soil and Chemistry and management of acid - sulfate soils. Dr O.P. Aishwath presented the paper on 'Performance of Coriander and Fenugreek in Limed Acid Soils of Eastern Plateau Hill Region (Ranchi, Jharkhand)' in the last technical session. Recommendations in the concluding session, it is stressed upon that mechanisms of plant adaptation at low pH and input (lime) use efficiency should be focused. However, DG-ICAR suggested that we have to give priority to work on stress agriculture and bio-fortification.

Dr. R.S. Mehta went for Training at University of Missouri, USA



Dr. R. S. Mehta, Sr. Scientist (Agronomy) of this centre went to USA for seeking three month training on Sensor based application including bio-indicators under NAIP from 4 the September,2012 to 2nd December,2012. Presently he is taking training at University of Missouri, USA, under the guidance of Dr. Kenneth A. Sudduth Agricultural Engineer & Adjunct Professor and Dr Newell R. Kitchen, Soil Scientist, USDA-ARS, University of Missouri, USA

Dr. G. Lal Attended MDP on leadership (Pre-RMP) at NAARM, Hyderabad

Dr. Gopal Lal, Principal Scientist attended MDP on leadership (Pre-RMP) at NAARM during 8-19 Oct, 2012. He attended many lecture on various topic related to leadership development, self motivation, emotional intelligence, team building, organizational behavior, WTO related issues, administration, procurement issues etc. during the reporting period. In all, there were more than 60 lectures held by the faculty of ICAR and outside of the organization.

Mean time Dr. Lal left Hyderabad on 14.10.2012, and attended seed spices task force committee meeting at Rajkot, Gujarat and discussed various issues with respect to the production, productivity, quality and export of seed spices. He also interacted with the farmers in open house discussion at same place with respect to production of quality seed spices.

'नकदी फसलों की खेती करें किसान'

संवाद सहयोगी, पलवल : बीज मसाला निदेशक डा.बलराज सिंह अजमेर ने कहा है कि किसानों के पास लगातार भूमि कम होती जा रही है। इसलिए किसानों को परंपरागत खेती का मोह छोड़कर नकदी फसलों व औषधीय फसलों की खेती करनी चाहिए। इससे उन्हें कम भूमि और कन लागत में अच्छा मुनाफा मिलेगा। उन्होंने कहा कि किसान संरक्षित खेती पर भी ध्यान दें।

डा.बलराज बृहस्पतिवार को प्रगतिशील किसान क्लब के तत्वावधान में महात्मा गांधी सामुदायिक केंद्र एवं किसान पंचायत भवन में आयोजित किसान मेले को बतौर मुख्य अतिथि संबोधित कर रहे थे। कार्यक्रम की अध्यक्षता क्लब के प्रधान विजेंद्र सिंह दलाल ने की तथा संचालन खंड कृषि अधिकारी डा.महावीर सिंह मलिक ने किया।

कार्यक्रम के विशिष्ट अतिथि बागवानी विभाग के संयुक्त निदेशक डा.बी.एस.सहरावत ने कहा कि बागवानी विभाग द्वारा जो अनुदान जिले के किसानों के लिए दिया जा रहा है, उसे किसान उपयोग नहीं कर पा रहे हैं। इसी कारण से बजट कम है। किसान आयोग के सदस्य सचिव डा.आर.एस.दलाल ने कहा कि किसानों में जागरूकता का अभाव है, इसीलिए वे सरकार तक अपनी समस्याओं को नहीं पहुंचा पाते। उन्होंने कहा कि किसान अपनी समस्याओं को किसान आयोग में दें। कृषि उपनिदेशक ने कृषि विभाग द्वारा चलाई जा रही योजनाओं की जानकारी दी। कार्यक्रम मे जिले के सीताराम महाराज अलावलपुर को दुग्ध उत्पादन के लिए, रेवती सैनी को नर्सरी एवं बागवानी, रणवीर सिंह शहदपुर को फूलो की खेती, रमेश चौहान गोपालगढ़ को मेथा फसल के अच्छे उत्पादन के लिए सम्मानित किया गया।

बीजो शीतल बीज कंपनी ने किसानों को करीब डेढ़ लाख रुपये के फसलों के बीज निशुल्क प्रदान किए। नाबार्ड के अतिरिक्त सहायक महाप्रबंधक निर्मल कुमार, भारतीय स्टेट बैंक के महाप्रबंधक आर.सी.जैन ने बैंकों द्वारा किसानों के लिए चलाई जा रही योजनाओं की जानकारी दी।

भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान संस्थान के बीज वैज्ञानिक डा.बी.एस. तौमर ने कहा किसान उत्तम किस्म के बीज संस्थान से प्राप्त कर सकते हैं। कार्यक्रम मे कृषि विशेषज्ञ डा.बी.के.शर्मा, डा.देशवाल ने किसानों को कृषि संबंधी जानकारी दी।



सामुदायिक केंद्र में आयोजित किसान मेले में प्रगतिशील किसान रमेश चौहान को सम्मानित करते डा.बलराज सिंह अजमेर। जागरण

For further detail contact:

Dr. Balraj Singh, Director

Email: nrcss.director@gmail.com

Editors

Dr. Gopal Lal, Principal Scientist

Email: glal67@yahoo.com

Dr. R.K. Solanki, Scientist

Email: rksolanki.ars@gmail.com

Sh. M. A. Khan, Technical Officer

Email: mushtaq61@gmail.com

National Research Centre on Seed Spices

Tabiji-Ajmer-305 206 (Rajasthan)

Phone-Fax: 0145-2443238, 2680955

Web Site: www.nrcss.org.in