

Volume 27 Number 1  
January - March 2010  
Quarterly



**CTCRI  
NEWS**

Central Tuber Crops Research Institute  
Sreekariyam, Thiruvananthapuram 695 017  
Kerala, India

## **CTCRI Congratulates Dr. S. Ayyappan**



Dr. Subbana Ayyappan, has taken over as new Secretary, Department of Agriculture Research and Education (DARE), Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India and Director General (DG), Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) on 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2010.

He was born at Alakere in the state of Karnataka, India on 10<sup>th</sup> December, 1955. He is a well-accomplished scientist in the area of fish microbiology who rose through the ranks in ICAR to the top position. Prior to the present assignment, He has served as the Deputy Director General (Fisheries) during 2002-09; Director, Central Institute of Fisheries Education, Mumbai (Deemed University) during 2000-02; Director, Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture, Bhubaneswar during 1996-2000; Senior Scientist and

Principal Scientist in the ICAR system (1984-95) and as Scientist, Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute, Barrackpore (1978-84).

His specific areas of research are fisheries, freshwater aquaculture and aquatic microbiology. He has over 200 publications in reputed journals/proceedings and books, two patents and one design to his credit. He has a number of prestigious awards and honours to his credit. Under his leadership CIFA received the 'Best ICAR Institution Award, 1996. He was Founder Chief Executive, National Fisheries Development Board, and Hyderabad and virtually established the Board.

Dr. Ayyappan has served in different capacities in several important committees. He has represented the country in several important International fora. He has served on the Boards of several international institutions/organisations such as Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA), Bangkok, Thailand; World Fish Centre, Penang, Malaysia.

The CTCRI family extends hearty welcome and congratulations on his new assignments.

## News from the research front

### Profile of Pachamalai hills - A major tapioca growing area in Tamil Nadu

Dr. V. Ramesh

Pachamalai hills (78°35'60 East longitude and 11°22'0 North latitude at an altitude of 2,000 to 3,000 feet above mean sea level) are hypsographic type of hills situated in Eastern Ghats of Tamil Nadu. It is a least known hill range which has nature's beauty with presence of small streams and least exploited falls such as Etterumai falls. It is 80 km north of Tiruchirappalli via Thuraiyur and Attur is the nearest major town and Thammampatti is the nearest small town near the base of the hills. It has a total geographical area of 14, 122 sq. km and there are 82 villages in this hill spread in Salem and Tiruchirappalli districts with Perambalur district forms the northern boundary. Out of these, 32 villages are in

Gangavalli block of Salem district and 17 and 34 villages, respectively are in Uppilliapuram and Thuraiyur blocks of Tiruchirappalli districts. This mountain range has in itself different small regions like Aadhiya Naadu (Salem), Thenpura Naadu (Uppilliapuram) and Van Naadu and Kombai Naadu (Thuraiyur).

A tropical climate prevails with a maximum temperature ranging from 23 to 31°C and the minimum temperature of 14°C recorded in the past 10 years. Generally, maximum amount of rainfall is received only during north east monsoon. The distribution of rainfall as recorded in Gangavalli block during year 2008 is given in Table 1.

**Table 1: Rainfall recorded in Gangavalli block in 2008**

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Total Rainfall (mm)	26.3	9.7	9.7	41.3	88.4	37.1	66.9	91.7	100.6	168.1	152.1	59.4	851.1

The major crops in this hill are tapioca, paddy var. ponni, mango, grapes, jack fruit, tamarind, lemon, coconut, turmeric, banana, silver oak and castor. Around eight state government schemes such as Integrated Tribal Development Project (ITDP), NADP, State Horticulture Mission (SHM) etc. are in operation. The main village at Pachamalai is Oodaikattuputhoor with a higher secondary school and Large Scale Multi Purpose Cooperative Society (LAMPS) that was established under tribal sub plan which provides credit facilities for production, markets for

agricultural and minor forest produce and for distributing agricultural inputs and short and medium term loans to tribal farming community for 48 villages. The denuding of the forest cover by the rampant felling of trees both in reserve forest and patta lands and clear filling of land (mowing of trees in larger tracks to convert them in to cultivable lands) pose a problem in the hills. Cultivation in large areas is reported to have already contributed to heavy soil erosion and rundown in the slopes (Anonymous, 2005). Currently, tree plantations,

castor in field bunds and old stone bunds are the soil erosion control measures seen occasionally on this hill.

Tapioca is considered as profitable crop by the farmers of the hills despite of price disparity (low price) as compared to the plains. It is extensively cultivated in a total area of 11,188 ha at all the above regions and the distribution of villages under different regions and tapioca areas are given in Table 2.

On entering Pachamalai via Topchengattupatti, Periyapackalam is the main village. At a distance of around 12 km from here, the top most hill point at the village Malangadu is accessible via

Nallamaathi, Chinnanaahur and Periyanaahur. Down the hill from Periyapackalam are the villages Kodungal, Mayampadi at middle/lower middle landscape position. In the above and surrounding villages tapioca is widely cultivated. Better performance of the crop was noticed at top elevations and medium performance at middle/lower middle hill ranges. Considerable variation in soil physical and chemical properties at different elevations was noticed (Table 3) which is clearly due to lack of soil conservation measures that resulted in the movement and deposition of soil particles from top towards bottom portion of the hill.

**Table 2: Distribution of villages under different regions and tapioca areas**

Regions	No. of villages	Tapioca area (ha)
Aadhiya Naadu	32	6000
Thenpura Naadu	16	1332
Van Naadu	21	3395
Kombai Naadu	13	461

**Table 3: Physical and chemical properties of soil at different elevations**

Soil Parameters	Location of hill		
	Top (Periyanaahur)	Middle (Nallamaathi)	Bottom (Kodungal)
<b>Particle Size Analysis</b>			
Sand	32.00	28.00	35.00
Silt	28.00	20.00	25.00
Clay	40.00	52.00	40.00
pH	6.42	6.25	6.01
Organic Carbon (%)	0.82	0.50	0.57
Texture	Clay loam	Clay loam	Clay loam

Farmers cultivating tapioca could realize a decline in yield over time irrespective of rainfall (100 bags against 150 bags (75 kg bag each) as obtained earlier, per acre). There is minimal gap during harvest and next planting because farmers utilize the soil moisture advantages during the rainy period for quick uprooting of tubers and for better growth of newly planted setts. The main planting season is July. H-165 is the popular variety. Though every farmer is adopting their own package of practices especially soil fertility management in the production of tapioca, a representative scenario of the hill is given as follows.

The soil is reddish and clay loam in texture with surface and sub surface hardening due to low organic carbon content. Generally low management practice is followed in terms of organic and inorganic/micronutrient application, soil conservation measures, crop

residue incorporation, legume cropping etc. A total of 3-4 ploughings at 30 cm depth using bullock drawn implement is given. During third ploughing in July, basal dose of 250 kg complex fertilizer is applied per acre. The second dose of fertilizer (mixed fertilizers) is given after 3-4 months in the months of October and November. A total of 500 kg of potash per acre is applied. Weeding is performed four times during the crop period. The yield varied from 20-25 t ha<sup>-1</sup> and the price of the produce varies as per the prevailing market rate. Thus lack of adoption of soil conservation measures that result in soil physical degradation along with imbalanced fertilization (quantity and time application) leading to decline of soil fertility are considered as serious challenges in the sustainable management of soil in tapioca cultivation.



Cassava cultivation at Pachamalai



Soil fertility management Survey at Pachamalai hills

## New Project Approved

One externally aided project was approved during this period. CTCRI NEWS congratulates the scientists for getting the project approved.

*“Mining and characterization of therapeutically significant-bioactive molecules from unique bacteria associated with novel EPN”.* (PI Dr. C. Mohandas. Funded by DST, Govt. of India.)

## Participation in Exhibitions

*CTCRI participated in seven exhibitions.*

1. Jeeva 2010 organised by Department of Animal Husbandry, Kottiyam, Kollam during 8-11, January 2010.
2. Exhibition organised during 28<sup>th</sup> Group meeting of All India Co-ordinated Research Project (Vegetable Crops) IIHR, Bangalore during 16-19, January 2010.
3. Agriculture Exhibition and Kisan Mela organised by IISR, Peruvannamuzhi, Kozhikode during 8-12, February 2010.
4. Rashtriya Kisan Mela 2010 organised by NRC Citrus, Nagpur during 21-22, February 2010.
5. ATMA Programme, Department of Agriculture, Kerala during 20-22, February 2010.
6. Technology Expo & Farmers Mela 2010 organised by CIFT, Kochi during 11-12, March 2010.
7. Exhibition during National Conference on production of quality seeds and planting material health management in horticultural crops. Society for promotion of Horticulture, IIHR, Bangalore Venue NASC New Delhi during 11-14, March 2010.

*Regional Centre of CTCRI participated in three exhibitions.*

8. Annual Adivasi Mela 2010 organized by Directorate of Horticulture, Govt. of Orissa during January – February 2010 at Adivasi ground, Bhuabneswar.
9. Rashtriya Sabji Kisan Mela organized at Indian Institute of Vegetable Research, Varanasi during 30-31, January 2010.
10. National level AGMARK exhibition organized by Directorate of Marketing & Inspection, Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India during 23-26, March 2010.



*Dr. H.P. Singh, DDG (Hort.), ICAR visiting CTCRI stall during Rashtriya Sabji Mela organized at IIVR, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.*

## Appointment

*Dr. R.S. Misra has assumed charge of Head, Regional Centre w.e.f the afternoon of 26<sup>th</sup> February 2010. Prior to his new assignment, he was serving as Head, Division of Crop Protection, CTCRI, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. CTCRI NEWS congratulates and wishes him success in this endeavour.*

## Training Programmes Organized

Three trainings on 'Value added products from Tuber Crops' to SHG Members, farmers, NGOs etc was organised by Dr. G. Padmaja during 05-06, January; 23-24, February and 22-23, March 2010.

During January-March 2010, 14 batches of farmers were given training on tuber crops production and processing technologies and various activities of CTCRI wherein 729 farmers and 15 officials from Kerala and Tamil Nadu participated. Eleven batches of 450 students from Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat also attended training programmes conducted at CTCRI.

Six batches of 260 farmers from Orissa and Jharkhand; three groups of 60 students from Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and Orissa visited Regional Centre of CTCRI, Bhubaneswar and were imparted training on various tuber crops technologies. Seven ARS trainees under field experience programme also visited Regional Centre of CTCRI on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2010.

## Participation in Seminar/Symposium / Workshop

### 1. Dr. K .Abraham

Participated in the meeting cum Workshop on Zonal Technology Management & Business Planning and Development (South Zone ) at CIFT, Cochin 12-13, March 2010.

### 2. Dr. C.S Ravindran

Participated in the National Conference on production of quality seeds and planting material health management in horticultural crops held at New Delhi during

11-14, March 2010 and presented a paper on 'Planting material production in tropical tuber crops: problems and prospects'.

### 3. Dr. C.S Ravindran and Dr. M. Anantharaman

Participated in the brain storming session-cum Launching Workshop on 'Integrated Farming Systems' programme held on 06-07, March 2010 at Thiruvananthapuram. Dr. M. Anantharaman gave a presentation on 'Extension Success/ Failure'.

### 4. Dr. G. Padmaja

Participated in the workshop on 'Implementation of venture capital assistance and PDF Schemes of small farmers' Agribusiness Consortium' held in Thiruvananthapuram on 29<sup>th</sup> January, 2010.

### 5. Dr. M. Anantharaman and Dr. C. Mohandas

Participated in the meeting cum Workshop on Zonal Technology Management & Business Planning and Development (South Zone) at CIFT, Cochin 12-13, March 2010.

### 6. Dr. C A Jayaprakas

Participated in the National Seminar on 'Sustainable agriculture' and gave a lead talk on 'Integrated approach for the pest management in agriculture' at CMS College, Kottayam.

### 7. Dr. Vinayaka Hegde

i). Participated and presented a poster in National conference on production of quality seeds and planting material health management in horticultural crops during 11-14, March 2010 in New Delhi.

ii). Participated and presented a paper in XIX National Conference on 'Recent trends

in viral disease problems and management' 18-20, March 2010.

#### **8. Dr. M. Nedunchezhiyan**

Participated in the Regional Review Workshop on NAIP held at Ranchi during 4-5, March 2010.

#### **9. Dr. T. Makesh Kumar**

i). Participated in the National conference on production of quality seeds and planting material health management in horticultural crops held at NASC, New Delhi in during 10-14, March 2010 & presented a poster entitled 'Role of diagnosis in Cassava plant health Management'.

ii). Participated in the Indian Virological Society National conference on Recent trends in viral disease problems and management (VIROCON 2010) held at Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati during 18-20, March 2010 and presented a paper entitled 'Evaluating Virus resistance constructs against RNA and DNA viruses infecting Cassava'.

iii). Participated in the Brain storming session on Nanotechnology in Agriculture held at CIFE, Mumbai during 27-28, March 2010 and presented a concept note on 'Nanotechnology in the study of diagnostics and host virus interaction of Cassava mosaic disease in Cassava'.

#### **10. Dr T.Srinivas**

i). Attended Group Monitoring Workshop of Kerala State Council for Science, Technology and Environment (KSCSTE) and presented the progress of the work done

on the project "An Economic analysis of yield gaps and constraints in tuber crops production in Kerala." on 18-01-2010 held at Sastra Bhavan, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

ii). Participated in one day National workshop on "Sources of growth in Indian Agriculture-Trends, Challenges and Prospects" organized by National Centre for Agricultural Economics and Policy Research on 27-03-10 in New Delhi.

#### **11. Dr. K. Rajasekhara Rao**

i). Participated in the Workshop on "Sensitisation Workshop on the quarantine pest, the coconut leaf beetle *Brontispa longissirra* organized by NBAII, Bangalore at OUAT, Bhubaneswar on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2010.

ii). Attended Nanotechnology meeting and presented a concept paper on "Reverse engineering of biologically active sweet potato nano-fragrances for mitigation of weevil *Cylas formicarius* held at Central Institute of Fisheries Education, Mumbai during 27-28, March 2010.

#### **12. Dr. A.N Jyothi**

Attended the Brainstorming Session on nanotechnology in agriculture organized together by CIFE & IISR Kozhikode at CIFE, Mumbai during 27-28, March 2010.

#### **13. Dr.C.Mohan**

Participated in the Bioinformatics Indica, an International symposium on computerizational Biology, Structural

Bioinformatics & System Biology in centre for bioinformatics from 11-13, January 2010.

#### **14. Dr Santhosh Mithra V. S.**

Participated in the National Workshop on ICT initiations of NAIP with special reference to uniformity guidelines for the ICAR at NBPGR New Delhi on 19-03-2010.

#### **15. Dr.V. Ramesh**

i). Participated in Workshop on use of fly ash in agriculture, organized by CFARM at New Delhi on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2010.

ii). Attended National Conference on 'Production of quality seeds and planting material health management in horticultural crops' at New Delhi on 11-14, March 2010 and presented a paper on AICRPTC titled 'Inclusive production of healthy planting material in tropical tuber crops under participatory mode and seed tuber village concept involving AICRP Tuber Crops Centres at different regions of India'.

### **Trainings Attended**

**1. Dr. V. Ravi** attended training on "Biotechnology" Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology Poojappura, Trivandrum. during 05-24, March 2010.

**2. Dr. K. Rajasekhara Rao** participated in training on GC-MS and EAG during 18-24, January 2010 at the National Bureau of Agriculturally Important Insects, Bangalore under NAIP on Sustainable Livelihoods operating at the Regional Centre.

### **Lectures / Media talks/ Meetings attended**

#### **1. Dr. K.Abraham**

Participated and presented 'CTCRI's achievements in the conservation and utilization of biodiversity of tuber crops' in 'Meeting of the Scientists from Research Institutions of Western Ghats on 04-02-2010 organized by the Chief Conservator of Forests (Biodiversity Cell) at Forest Head Quarters, Vanalakshmi, Vazhuthacaud, Thiruvananthapuram.

#### **2. Dr. C.S Ravindran**

i). Participated in the discussion on present problems of coconut cultivation held at the World market complex, Anayara on 03-01-2010 and gave a presentation on 'Role of tuber crops as intercrops in coconut gardens'.

ii). Took a class on 'Cultivation practices of tuber drops' to a group of five trainees from Mithranikethan on 12-01-2010.

iii). Took a class on 'Seed production techniques of quality planting material in tuber crops' to 25 agricultural Assistants at RATTC Kazhakkuttam on 18-01-2010.

iv). Handled a class to 61 farmers from Neyyattinkara on 28-01-2010 on 'Agro techniques and planting material production in tuber crops'.

v). Took a class to 30 farmers from Thrissur on 'Cultivation practices and also on rapid multiplication of planting materials of tuber crops' on 15-03-2010.

#### **3. Dr. S.K.Naskar, Dr. R.S. Misra and Dr B.Vimala**

Participated in the Mid-term Review of ICAR-CIP Collaborative programme on 12<sup>th</sup>

work plan held at NAS Complex, Pusa, New Delhi on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2010.

**4. Dr. G.Padmaja**

Organized the project Review Committee (PRC) meeting of the DSIR funded project entitled 'Primary processing and value addition of sweet potato and yams for self employment generation by Women' at CTCRI on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2010.

**5. Dr. R.S. Misra, Dr. R.C. Ray,**

**Dr. A. Mukherjee,**

**Dr. M. Nedunchezhiyan,**

**Dr. K.Laxminarayana,**

**Dr. K. Rajasekhara Rao and**

**Dr. P. Sethuraman Sivakumar**

Participated in the 'Knowledge Fair on sweet potato utilization and cultivation for tribal women' organized by CIP Liaison Office, Bhubaneswar during 17-18, March 2010 at Directorate of Women in Agriculture, Bhubaneswar and RCCTCRI, Bhubaneswar.

**6. Dr. R.S. Misra and**

**Dr. M. Nedunchezhiyan**

Participated in the RECARD meeting held at NABARD Orissa Regional Office, Bhubaneswar on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2010. In the meeting, Dr. R.S. Misra presented a paper on 'Measures to improve the productivity of horticultural crops in Orissa'.

**7. Sri M.Unnikrishnan**

Participated and presented 'CTCRI's achievements in the conservation and utilization of biodiversity of tuber crops' in 'Meeting of the Scientists from Research Institutions of Western Ghats' on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2010 organized by the Chief

Conservator of Forests (Biodiversity Cell) at Forest Head Quarters, Vanalakshmi, Vazhuthacaud, Thiruvananthapuram.

**8. Dr. S.Ramanathan**

Annual review meeting of the ICAR Network project on 'Assessment of gender issues and identification and refinement of selected women specific technologies in horticultural crops' at DRWA Bhubaneswar on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2010.

**9. Dr. C A Jayaprakas**

i). Demonstrated the efficiency of bio pesticide extracted from Cassava against the pseudo stem weevils in banana at farmers field in Badiyadukka, Kasaragod under KVK Kasaragod.

ii). Gave a talk on 'Some Nobel Thoughts' on National Science day celebrations at CTCRI.

**10. Dr. (Mrs.) A. Mukherjee**

i). Delivered lectures on 'Salt tolerant orange and purple flesh sweet potato: sustainable food and nutrition security' and 'Biotic and abiotic stress tolerance in taro' on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2010 as resource person at the Academic Staff College for UGC-sponsored Refresher Course in Agricultural Sciences.

ii). Delivered lectures on 'Application of Biotechnology in Horticulture: Tuber crops' and 'Practice of Plant Tissue Culture: Agrobiotechnology' on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2010 in the Dept. of Biotechnology & Zoology, Utkal University for UGC-sponsored Refresher Course in biotechnology.

iii). Participated in IMC meeting of DRWA on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2010.

#### **11 Dr. M. L. Jeeva**

Participated in the

i). Half yearly review meeting of AMAAS at Mau, Uttar Pradesh 9<sup>th</sup> January 2010.

ii). Consultative meeting on Diagnosis at Trichy 21-24, January 2010.

#### **12. Dr. Vinayaka Hegde**

Review meeting of outreach project on *Phytophthora*, *Fusarium* and *Ralstonia* diseases of horticultural and field crops' held at New Delhi from 15-16, March 2010.

#### **13. Dr. M. Nedunchezhiyan**

i). Delivered a lecture on 'Seed production and certification in tuber crops' in the officers training on 'Seed production' organized by Orissa State Seed and Organic Productions Certification Agency, Bhubaneswar on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2010.

ii). Participated as resource person in the 'Scaling up of water productivity in agriculture for livelihoods through teaching-cum-demonstration, training of trainers and farmers' organized by Directorate of Water Management, Bhubaneswar on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2010 at Sakhigopal, Puri district, Orissa.

#### **14. Dr. Susan John**

i). Attended the 97<sup>th</sup> Indian Science Congress held at Trivandrum during 3-7, January 2010.

ii). Took a class on 'Soil fertility management on tropical tuber crops' to 50 farmers each from Perumpuzha Krishi Bhavan on 29-01-2010, Trivandrum block on 08-03-2010, Kottayam on 11-03-2010; 75

farmers of Muthukulam block on 06-03-2010, 25 farmers of Haripad block on 22-03-2010 and to 50 students of Loyola School on 04-03-2010.

iii). Attended package of practices state level workshop – 'Crops 2010' on 24-02-2010 at KAU, Vellanikkara Thrissur.

#### **15. Dr. Suja G.**

i). Attended the 97<sup>th</sup> Indian Science Congress held at Trivandrum during 3-7, January 2010.

ii). Handled a class on 'Agro techniques and organic farming of tuber crops' to 50 farmers each from Perumpuzha, Kollam on 29-01-2010, Kottayam on 11-03-2010 and Kannur on 23-03-2010.

iii). Handled a class on 'Organic farming of tuber crops' on 09-02-2010 at RATTTC, Kazhakkuttam and to 25 farmers of Kollam on 09-03-2010.

iv). Handled a class on 'Propagation of tuber crops' to 50 Students of Loyola School on 04-03-2010.

v). Attended package of practices state level workshop – 'Crops 2010' on 24-02-2010 at KAU, Vellanikkara Thrissur.

#### **16. Dr. T. Makesh Kumar**

i). Participated in the National Consultative meeting on diseases diagnostics in horticultural crops during 22-24, January 2010 and presented status of diagnostics in tuber crops disease and future needs.

ii). Attended as an external expert in the selection of bioinformatics trainees at IISR, Kozhikode on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2010.

### 17. Dr. A.N Jyothi

Attended the project Advisory Committee meeting of DST on 25-01-2010 at IISIR, Jammu and presented a project proposal.

### Visit Abroad

#### *Dr. T. Srinivas*

After successfully completing consultancy assignment in International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), Syria from 27-11-09 to 10-01-10, joined CTCRI on 11-01-10.

#### *Dr. J. Sreekumar*

Attended NAIP sponsored three months training program in Bioinformatics from 1<sup>st</sup> March to 28<sup>th</sup> May 2010 at Plant Research International, Wageningen University, Wageningen, The Netherlands.



### Patent

Provisional patent application on 'A novel cyclic dipeptide from bacterial symbiont of *Rhabditis* sp, process of inoculation and its antimicrobial properties' was cleared for filing by C. Mohandas, Bala Nambisan, Prem Dureja, Nishant Kumar and Siji.

### Happenings in Brief

*Sri. M. Unnikrishnan* conducted germplasm exploration and collection from 15-25, March, 2010 in five Islands (Kadanat, Amini, Kavarathi, Suheli-Cheriyakavu and Andros) in the Lakshadweep Islands along with Dr. Joseph John, Scientist from National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR) regional station, Thrissur. Seventeen tuber crop accessions were collected including the unique collection of *Taccoloides leontopeta* growing in the uninhabited island of Suheli. Indigenous Technological Knowledge (ITK) was collected on the utilization of *Tacca* in the production of 'country starch' having medicinal cure.

### Sports

A 27 member sports contingent from CTCRI participated in the ICAR Zonal Sports meet organised at Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (CIFT), Cochin during 23-27, February 2010. Shri R.Bharatan and Shri V.R.Sasankan bagged II and III prizes respectively in the Long Jump event. Shri Swaminathan got II prize in the 1500 m race and III prize in the 800 m race. CTCRI NEWS congratulates the prize winners.



## Science Forum Corner

Science Forum meet was arranged for two lectures and three research papers by research scholars of Division of Crop Utilization.

1. The details of guest lectures are:
  - a. Dr. B. S. Murthy, Scientist, IITM, Pune on 'Effect of solar eclipse on surface energy budget and carbon dioxide flux'.
  - b. Dr. P. M. Govinda krishnan, Principal Scientist, CPRI, Simla on 'IT applications in potato'.
2. National Science Day-2010 was organized on 27<sup>th</sup> February. The focal theme of this year was 'Gender Equity for prosperity with peace: A National Science Day (NSD) talk on "Some Nobel Thoughts" was delivered by Dr. C. A. Jayaprakas, Principal Scientist, CTCRI.



## Distinguished Visitors

Dr. Wolfgang Gruneberg, International Potato Center (CIP), Sweet Potato Crop Leader and Dr. Sreekanth Attaluri, CIP sweet potato Scientist visited CTCRI on 8-9, March 2010 to

monitor the preliminary yield trial of Jewel-2 population CIP-CTCRI collaborative project.



## Any other Information

i). Peer Committee meeting of NFBSRA project established "Molecular Diagnosis of Fungal Diseases of Cassava, Taro, Amorphophallus and Yam" was held at CTCRI on 5<sup>th</sup> March to review the project. Dr. Muthusamy, Ex Dean, AC&RI Killikulam, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) chaired. Dr. M. Anandharaj, Project Coordinator, (Spices), Indian Institute of Spices Research (IISR), Kozhikode, Dr. K. Shanmughasundaram, Prof. and Head, Microbial Technology, Madurai Kamraj University and Dr. S. K. Naskar, Director, CTCRI attended as members. The meeting was organized by the PI, Dr. M. L. Jeeva, Member Secretary of the peer committee. Dr. Vinayaka Hegde, Dr. T. Makesh Kumar & Dr. Veena S.S were the special invitees.

ii). A memorandum of understanding for the conduct of M.Sc Biotechnology (integrated course) was executed between Kerala Agricultural University and Central Tuber Crops Research Institute on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2010.

## Promotions

Sl.No.	Name and Present Grade	Promoted grade	Date of Effect
1	Smt. L.Rajalekshmy, T6 Technical Officer	T7-8 Technical Officer	01-07-2009
2	Smt. K.S.Sudhadevi, T6 Technical Officer	T7-8 Technical Officer	01-07-2009
3	Shri V.R.Sasankan, T4 Technical Assistant	T5 Technical Officer	10-05-2009
4	Shri V.Ganesh, T4 TechnicalAssistant	T5 Technical Officer	10-05-2009
5	Shri B.Renjith Kishor, T4 JuniorEngineer(Ele.)	T5 Technical Officer	27-10-2009
6	Shri K.Ramakrishnan, T4 Technical Assistant	T5 Technical Officer	03-02-2010

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**Dr P.S.Sivakumar** Scientist (Senior Scale).

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**TUBERS FOR HUNGER ALLEVIATION**

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