

Areas of Specialization and Contributions

In four decades the Institute has developed five research divisions: Crop Production, Crop Improvement, Crop Utilization, Crop Protection and Extension & Social Sciences. It has been possible to release 49 varieties of tropical tuber crops which include 14 cassava, 16 sweet potato, 5 greater yam, 3 white yam, 2 lesser yam, 7 taro, 1 elephant foot yam and 1 coleus varieties.



The Institute also maintains a very large collection of germ plasm of approximately 5500 different accessions of various tuber crops. Farmer friendly technologies on agro-techniques and tuber crops based cropping system were evolved. Crop utilization and processing technologies developed include farm-front, home-front and industrial technologies. The recently established Transgenics laboratory has started functioning and

promises tangible results. The Institute in its commitment to farming community has steadily implemented different modes of technology transfer programmes.

A Future of Possibilities

In the context of sweeping changes in the global agricultural scenario which have brought institutions and their futures into challenging competitiveness, CTCRI sets its strategies and action plan to develop programmes on value chains of production, processing and marketing through linkages and collaborations and conduits to scale new heights in the years to come. It has built up the necessary scientific base, technical know how and modern laboratories with precision equipments.



Standing by is our team, with high caliber and rich experience, imbued with the willingness to give off their time and expertise to accelerate the agricultural development of the nation and uplift the life of the farmers. We have men who move themselves and so can move the nation. The future of CTCRI is safe in their hands. CTCRI is confident today of meeting the daunting challenges of tomorrow not visualized perhaps when it all began in a small rented house in 1963.

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CHRONICLING EVENTS CARVING FUTURES



CENTRAL TUBER CROPS RESEARCH INSTITUTE
(Indian Council of Agricultural Research)
Sreekariyam, Thiruvananthapuram
Kerala, India

A walk down CTCRI's memory lane

The Central Tuber Crops Research Institute (CTCRI) is the only Institution solely dedicated to research on tropical tubers. The importance of tuber crops for the country grew at the same time as the CTCRI developed, making its contributions significant and vital to the nation. The success story of this Institution was scripted by stalwarts who headed the Institution and acted upon by eminent researchers in the different sciences which interact under the umbrella of Agriculture. The milestones on the path traversed by CTCRI are chronicled and the future they helped to carve out is also sketched here.

The Beginnings

The history of CTCRI begins from 1963 in a small rented building in Thycaud, Thiruvananthapuram city, with eleven staff members and was established under the control of the Government of India. Prior to this, research on tuber crops especially cytogenetics was carried out by the erstwhile Travancore University since 1953. As the staff number increased, the laboratory – cum- office was first shifted to another rented building in Sasthamangalam and later on moved again to two adjacent buildings in Vazhuthacaud in 1964. On 1st April, 1966 the administrative control of the Institute was transferred from Government of India to the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). The Government of Kerala sanctioned 21.5 hectares of land at Sreekariyam for the research farm of the Institute. In 1972 the Institute moved to its new building at Sreekariyam. This area has now increased to 48.19 hectares on which imposing buildings have come up to house the laboratories, offices and other facilities of CTCRI, including a Bank, Staff Co-operative Stores, Recreation Club, etc

Leaders All

| Sl.No. | Name | From | To |
|--------|-----------------------|------------|------------|
| 1 | Sri. M.J. Deshmukh | 01.07.1963 | 23.04.1964 |
| 2. | Dr. M.L. Magoon | 24.04.1964 | 06.04.1971 |
| 3. | Dr. R.C. Mandal i/c | 07.04.1971 | 16.04.1972 |
| 4 | Dr. N. Hrishi | 17.04.1972 | 19.09.1980 |
| 5 | Shri. P.K. Thomas i/c | 20.09.1980 | 18.02.1982 |
| 6. | Dr. N.M. Nayar | 19.02.1982 | 23.01.1983 |
| 7 | Dr. S.P. Ghosh | 24.01.1983 | 3.10.1987 |
| 8 | Dr. T.K. Pal i/c | 04.10.1987 | 02.05.1988 |
| 9 | Dr. G.G. Nayar | 03.05.1988 | 31.07.1991 |
| 10 | Dr. G.T. Kurup | 01.08.1991 | 01.12.1992 |
| 11 | Dr. N.M. Nayar | 02.12.1992 | 31.05.1993 |
| 12 | Dr. G.T. Kurup | 01.06.1993 | 31.07.1997 |
| 13. | Dr. S. Edison | 31.07.1997 | Continuing |

Under its Wings

The Institute has a *Regional Centre in Bhubaneswar, Orissa* since 1976, initially as a centre of an ICAR/IDRC programme and later graduated as a Regional Centre. CTCRI is also the headquarters of *All India Co-ordinated Research Project (AICRP)* on Tuber Crops since 1968 which oversees its thirteen centres across the country, functioning in the various State Agricultural Universities and *The Indian Society for Root Crops (ISRC)* established in 1971. The ISRC publishes the prestigious quarterly *Journal of Root Crops since 1973*. The *Agro-ecosystem Directorate (Coastal)* was functioning under the aegis of CTCRI under which it coordinated the National Agricultural Technology Project (NATP) from 2003 – 2005.



CTCRI MILESTONES

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| July 1963 | Research Station for tuber crops established at Trivandrum by Government of India. |
| August 1964 | Research Station upgraded as Central Tuber Crops Research Institute |
| April 1966 | Control of CTCRI transferred to ICAR, an autonomous body under Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India |
| April 1968 | AICRP on Tuber Crops(other than Potato) started |
| April 1971 | The Cassava varieties H97,H165 and H 226 released. |
| April 1970 | National Demonstration Programme implemented |
| April 1976 | Operational Research Project sponsored by IDRC, launched |
| June 1976 | The new building complex at Sreekariyam inaugurated |
| September 1976 | Regional station started in Bhubaneswar, Orissa |
| September 1979 | Lab to land programme implemented by ICAR |
| September 1986 | The new laboratory inaugurated |
| July 1988 | CTCRI celebrated its Silver Jubilee |
| August 1995 | Institution Village Linkage programme (IVLP) started |
| March 1996 | ARIS Computer Cell established |
| April 1997 | New Engineering Workshop started functioning |
| April 1998 | Regional Station released two sweet potato varieties viz. Sankar and Gouri |
| December 1998 | Project UPTech Consultancy project for SBI started |
| April 1999 | National Agriculture Technology project (NATP) at Institute initiated |
| January 2000 | International Symposium (ISOTUC) Organized. |
| March 2001 | Library-Museum-Conference Hall (LMC) complex inaugurated |
| January 2003 | Directorate of Agro-eco system (Coastal) under NATP started functioning |
| May 2003 | New Canteen and Staff Amenities Complex (CASAC) building inaugurated |
| November 2004 | Micro Propagation Laboratory for production of disease free planting material inaugurated |
| April 2005 | Food extension Laboratory inaugurated |
| June 2005 | New Plant Physiology Laboratory started functioning |
| July 2005 | Annexe Laboratory block inaugurated |
| May 2006 | Transgenic Laboratory inaugurated |
| June 2006 | CTCRI- Bank of India collaborative project- Reaching to Empower launched |
| November 2006 | Glass house for Transgenic cassava inaugurated |
| November 2006 | 14 th Triennial Symposium of ISRTC organized |

