



Vol. 28 No. 2  
April - June 2011  
Quarterly



# CTCRI NEWS

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

## 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Institute Research Committee meeting held

The 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Institute Research Committee (IRC) meeting of Central Tuber Crops Research Institute was held during 26-29, April 2011. A total of 42 scientists including six scientists from Regional Centre, Bhubaneswar attended the meeting. A total of 70 ongoing institute sub-projects and six new sub-project proposals under six mega projects of the Institute besides salient findings under 28 externally aided projects were discussed during eight technical sessions of the meeting. Eight sub-projects were concluded and recommendations emerged from these projects were also discussed. Apart from IRC members, representatives from different developmental agencies, Kerala Agricultural University, KVK and International Potato Centre (CIP) Liaison office, Bhubaneswar, Odhisa were also present in the Plenary Session as special invitees. Technologies to be passed on to the developmental agencies were presented by different Head of divisions of the Institute. All the representatives from KVKs, Agril. Depts. and SAUs presented their views and appreciated the technologies developed and showed interest to test in their departmental fields and popularize among tuber crops farmers. Dr. Vinayaka Hegde, Secretary IRC proposed vote of thanks.



Plenary Session of 37<sup>th</sup> IRC in progress

### *From the Director's Desk*

Dear Readers,



Urbanization, changing food habits, rising income and growing population creating additional demand for nutritious food and processed commodities especially from horticulture crops. In the scenario of declining natural resources and impact of climate change, the demand - supply gap for horticulture crops is anticipated to widen further unless concerted efforts are made to improve the productivity. With the tuber crops continue to contribute food, nutrition and income generation to large number of people living in tropical and humid tropics of the country, it is likely that about 15 million tones of tuber crops need to be produced by the end of XII five year plan. This calls for efforts to develop and introduce mechanization in tuber crops cultivation, strengthening of disease forecasting system, enhanced nutrient and water use efficient technologies, development of value chains involving tuber crops by establishment of processing units, networking of tuber crops markets for effective delivery of market information, etc. I have already highlighted these issues during our recently concluded 37<sup>th</sup> Institute Research Committee meeting. Also events such as Sree Visakham Thirunal Endowment Lecture and the NAIP sponsored national training at Regional Centre, Bhubaneswar also directed towards the task of increasing the productivity of tuber crops through popularization of CTCRI technologies and capacity building of human resources. I congratulate Dr C.S.Ravindran who joined as Head of Crop Production Division and I welcome on board Shri R.Saravanan and Dr. P.Sureshkumar who joined the Division of Crop Production and All India Coordinated Project on Tuber Crops (AICRPTC) cell respectively on transfer.

S.K. Naskar

## HH Sree Visakham Thirunal Endowment Lecture 2011 organized

The inauguration of the HH Sree Visakham Thirunal Endowment Lecture 2011 organized jointly by the Indian Society for Root Crops (ISRC) and Central Tuber Crops Research Institute (CTCRI) on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2011 at CTCRI was done by Princess Gouri Lakshmi Bayi Thampuratti. Dr.S.K.Naskar, Director, CTCRI, presided over the function and Dr.M.Anantharaman, President, ISRC, welcomed the gathering. In her inaugural address, the Princess reminded the events that necessitated the then Maharaja Sree Visakham Thirunal to popularize cassava in Kerala. Dr. B. Ashok, IAS, Vice Chancellor, Kerala Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, Pookot, Wayanad, Kerala delivered the endowment lecture on the topic "Science in



Agriculture Policy". In his talk he made a mention about research-policy divide, research-practice gap and policy- practice gaps and how these can be minimized. He explored how perceptual risks could in effect increased adoption costs and how the policy inertia of systems would potentially affect adoption of innovation. Dr.M.S.Sajeev, Secretary, ISRC, proposed the vote of thanks.



Dr. C.S.Ravindran joined as Head, Division of Crop Production of CTCRI on 04-06-2011. CTCRI NEWS congratulates him.

## National Training Course on Structure, Function and Dynamics of Biomolecules used in Pest Management of Horticultural Crops organized at Regional Centre

An NAIP sponsored National Training on "Structure, Function and Dynamics of Biomolecules used in Pest Management of Horticultural Crops" was conducted during 10-23, May 2011 at Regional Centre, CTCRI, Bhubaneswar by Dr. Rajasekhara Rao Korada, Senior Scientist (Entomology) as Course Director. The training was inaugurated by Dr. S. K. Naskar, Director, CTCRI stressed the need for research on advanced technologies for identification of insect resistance in germplasm. The training was attended by 15 participants from 7 states (Jammu and Kashmir, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Odisha) across India representing ICAR and SAUs. Resource persons included Dr. Willem Jan de Kogel, Team leader – Entomology & Virology, Plant Research International, Wageningen University & Research, Wageningen, The Netherlands; Dr (Mrs.) Anupama Singh (IARI), Dr. N. Bhaktavatsalam (NBAIL), Dr A. R. Prasad (IICT), Dr Lila Babu (CTCRI), etc. Course content included both theory and practicals on various biomolecules, their extraction and electrophysiological methods, olfactometry, headspace volatile collection from plants and insects, odour coding, transduction mechanisms, olfactory binding proteins, anti-nutritional factors, botanical pesticides, semiochemicals, pheromones, nano-biomolecules, elicitors, toxins from bacteria, antagonistic fungi, bio-herbicides,



plant breeding for insect resistance, volatile assisted selection, stored product management, and commercialization, etc. Advanced practicals were carried out at Institute of Life Sciences (DBT), and at Institute of Materials and Minerals Technology (CSIR), Bhubaneswar. Dr. James George, Project Coordinator (Tuber Crops) gave the valedictory address.

## Happenings in brief

Visitors: Among the prominent dignitaries visited the Institute included, Shri Subhash Garg, Joint secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India, New Delhi, Princess Gouri Lakshmi Bayi Thampuratti, Dr. B. Ashok, I A S, Vice Chancellor, Kerala Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, Pookot, Wayanad, Kerala, Dr. N.K.Tyagi, Member, ASRB, New Delhi and Smt. P. S. Radhamony, Joint Director of Agriculture, Kerala.

### Average Wholesale market prices for tuber crops and value added products (April-June 2011)

Tuber Crop/Value added product	State	Average Wholesale Price (₹ t <sup>-1</sup> )
Tapioca	Kerala	13120
	Tamil Nadu	9500
Sweet Potato	Odisha	11000
	Uttar Pradesh	10490
Elephant Foot Yam	Kerala	24953
	Gujarat	16583
Taro	Kerala	22333
	Madhya Pradesh	10480
	Uttar Pradesh	14460
Yam	Andhra Pradesh	22990
Rathalu (Yam)	Kerala	23310
	Gujarat	34030
Tapioca Starch	Tamil Nadu	21885
Sago	Tamil Nadu	34007

Source: [www.agmarknet.in](http://www.agmarknet.in); [www.sagoserve.com](http://www.sagoserve.com)

During April-June 2011, seven batches of farmers were given training on tuber crops production and processing technologies and various activities of CTCRI wherein 141 farmers and 19 officials from Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh participated. Two batches of 245 students and eight teachers from Kerala and Tamil Nadu also attended awareness programmes on tropical tuber crops and training programmes conducted at CTCRI, Thiruvananthapuram.

Regional Centre of CTCRI imparted training on tuber crops technologies to two batches of farmers of Odisha wherein 60 farmers participated. Besides, a training programme on 'Sweet potato cultivation for livelihood & food security in saline areas' was also organized to the farmers at Kalabedi village, Padmapur GP, Erasama Block, Jagatsinghpur district of Orissa under the NABARD sponsored project.

New Projects: During this quarter, two new projects were sanctioned.

1. CTCRI has been chosen as a partner institute in the CIP/IFAD sponsored project "Root and Tuber Crops (RTCs) for Food Security in Asia-Pacific".
2. A project on "Participatory Development of a web based user friendly cassava expert system." funded by Kerala State Council for Science, Technology and Environment (KSCSTE) was sanctioned to Dr V.S.Santhosh Mithra.

Exhibitions: During this quarter, CTCRI participated in the Root and Tubers Knowledge Fair on 17-06-2011 at Manila, Philippines organized by CIP/IFAR.

### Feed back

1. Closer Partnership between Industry and Agricultural Research is necessary to develop demand-driven technologies for the benefit of small farmers and other marginalized social groups.  
- Shri Sharad Pawar,  
Union Minister for Agriculture and Food Processing Industries, Govt. of India.
2. There is need to prioritize the research and develop a strategy to make agricultural research more demand-driven.  
-Dr. S. Ayyappan,  
Secretary, DARE and Director General, ICAR
3. There is substantial potential to take up several technologies developed here for commercialization under different programmes of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) in PPP mode.  
-Shri Subhash Garg,  
Joint secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India, New delhi.
4. Research programmes being carried out in different divisions in this Institute have the potential to make impact and improve the economy of farmers.  
-Dr. N.K.Tyagi,  
Member, ASRB, New Delhi.



*Dr H.P. Singh, DDG (Hort.), visiting CTCRI stall at Swadesh Prem Jagruti Sangosthi – 2011 in Dehradun*

Regional Centre participated in two exhibitions (Swadesh Prem Jagruti Sangosthi - 2011 and during Global Conference on “Augmenting production and utilization of mango: Abiotic and Biotic stresses) organized by Keshava Deva Malviya Institute of Petroleum Exploration, Dehradun and in Lucknow.

CTCRI NEWS congratulates them.

World Environment Day celebrated: CTCRI actively participated in the world Environment Day on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2011. Dr S.K.Naskar, Director and other staff planted mangostein and gooseberry in memory of the day in the Institute and mentioned the impact of climate change and the importance of environment protection by growing trees and reducing pollution.

Visits abroad :

1. Dr. S.K.Naskar, Director, participated in the International Network of Edible Aroids launching meeting of the foreign collaborative project entitled “Adapting clonally propagated crops to climatic and commercial changes.” during 13-14, April 2011.
2. Dr. M. Anantharaman, Head, Extension and Social Sciences and Dr.R.S.Misra, Head, RCCTCRI, participated in the Project launching and planning workshop on “Root and Tuber crops for food Security in Asia Pacific” at Manila, Philippines during 16-19, June 2011.
3. Dr. Susan John, Senior Scientist participated in the 12<sup>th</sup> Inter-national Symposium on Soil and Plant Analysis held at Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Chania (MAICH), Crete, Greece during 06-11, June 2011 and presented a research paper entitled “ Soil texture and plant tissue analysis as diagnostic tools to

fertilizer recommendation for cassava (*Manihot esculenta* Crantz) in an Ultisol of Kerala, India.”

4. Dr. James George, Project Coordinator visited Port Morseby, Papua New Guinea to participate, chair and present a lead talk on “Production Prospects of Cassava in India and in Far – East Asian Countries” at a conference on Cassava organized as a prelude to starting a cassava plantation of 20,000 hectares for ethanol production by Department of Agriculture & Livestock, Papua New Guinea during 27<sup>th</sup> June to 5<sup>th</sup> July, 2011.

Technologies demonstrated : A team of Scientists from CTCRI made an On-farm demonstration of biopesticide against papaya mealy bug in cassava at Pachamalai. Shri. A. Rajaranathan, Asst. Director of Horticulture, Smt. J. Gunavati, Horticultural Officer, Shri A Mohan, Horticulture Officer participated in the demonstration.

Retirement: Dr B.Vimala, Principal Scientist and Dr Santha V.Pillai, Principal Scientist, Division of Crop Improvement, Shri G.Krishnankutty, (T4) Technical Officer, Division of Crop Utilization, Shri N.B.Sasidharan and Shri K. Sivanandan, Supporting staff in the Division of Crop Utilization and Division of Crop Production respectively were superannuated during this quarter. CTCRI NEWS wishes them a happy retirement life.

New Staff joined: Shri Saravanan Raju, Scientist (SG) and Dr P. Sureshkumar, Scientist joined CTCRI on transfer from the Directorate of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants, Anand, Gujarat and AP Centre of ICAR Research Complex for NorthEastern Region, Basar, respectively. CTCRI NEWS welcomes them with best wishes.

<b>Published by</b>	: Dr. S.K. Naskar Director CTCRI Thiruvananthapuram 695 017
<b>Editors</b>	: Dr. T.Srinivas, Dr. S.S.Veena (Senior Scientists) and Dr P.S.Sivakumar Scientist (Senior Scale).
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<b>Printed at</b>	: Akshara Offset, Thiruvananthapuram, Ph : 2471174

**TUBERS FOR HUNGER ALLEVIATION**