



ICAR - DGR

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Our New Director: Dr. Radhakrishnan T.

Dr. Radhakrishnan T. took over as Director of ICAR-DGR on 25th September, 2014. He holds PhD degree in Experimental Biology (Tissue culture) with wide research experience in the area of groundnut crop improvement. Dr Radhakrishnan belongs to the 1986 batch of ARS and joined this institute in the same year as Scientist. Later on he got promoted to Senior Scientist and Principal Scientist during 1998 and 2006, respectively. His specialization is in plant tissue culture, genetic transformation and marker assisted selection of groundnut crop. He has been instrumental in development of protocols for efficient regeneration, genetic transformation, and inter-specific hybrid rescue through meristem culture in groundnut. He has also developed and characterized the elite groundnut transgenic events having tolerance to salinity, water deficit stress, resistance to foliar fungal diseases, and viral diseases like PSND and PBNB.



In the area of development of genomic resources for the groundnut crop, his group has identified and generated first SSR based groundnut linkage map, and the QTLs for rust and leaf spot resistance were transferred to 3 susceptible cultivars using MABC approach. His group has also identified nine non-toxic isolates of *Aspergillus flavus* having many defective aflatoxin producing genes which can be used as potential biocontrol agents. In the aspects of dissecting the molecular mechanism of biotic stress response in groundnut, his group has validated SSR markers linked to the rust and late leaf spot diseases resistance in diverse groundnut genotypes. With his vast knowledge on groundnut, the institute will march ahead and achieve new heights under the dynamic leadership of Dr. Radhakrishnan.

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TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

Technologies to produce cellulase from groundnut shell and proteases from de-oiled groundnut cake commercialized

(21 November 2014, Junagadh)

Two separate MoUs on process/knowhow for production of enzymes cellulase from groundnut shell and proteases from de-oiled groundnut cake by microbial fermentation developed by scientists, K.K. Pal, Rinku Dey and J.B. Misra, at ICAR-Directorate of Groundnut Research, Junagadh were signed between ICAR-DGR and M/s Paccar Biotech Limited, Ahmedabad. The MoUs were handed over by Dr. T. Radhakrishnan, Director, ICAR-DGR to Shri Dilip Mansukhlal Bhatiya, Director, Paccar Biotech Limited, Ahmedabad in a function held at ICAR-DGR, Junagadh on 21st November, 2014 which was also attended by entrepreneurs and scientists of the directorate. The technologies have been commercialized on non-exclusive basis on payment of one time license fees by the firm.

The process knowhow developed at ICAR-DGR for production of enzymes cellulase and proteases from groundnut shell and de-oiled groundnut cake, respectively, has commercial values owing to the fact that the substrates used are available

in plenty at nominal cost in Gujarat and the enzymes can be produced with high yield employing solid state fermentation. These two enzymes, having wide application in different industries like textile, detergent, poultry and animal feed, paper and pulp, leather, pharmaceuticals, etc., occupy globally around 40% of market share of all the commercial enzymes and India meets most of its need through import. Other entrepreneurs present on the occasion also showed keen interest in the technologies developed at ICAR-DGR for future transfer of these technologies through MoUs.

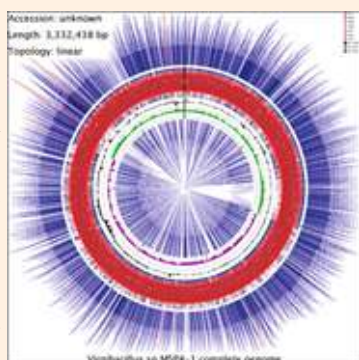


Technology transfer between ICAR-DGR and Paccar Biotech Limited, Ahmedabad

First complete genome sequencing of the genus *Virgibacillus*: *Virgibacillus* sp. MSP4-1, an obligate halophile

The microbiologists of this directorate, Dr. K.K. Pal and Dr. R. Dey, have successfully sequenced and annotated the first complete genome of the genus *Virgibacillus*: *Virgibacillus* sp. MSP4-1, an obligate halophile. This organism can tolerate up to 23.5% (minimum and optimum being 8% and 10%, respectively) NaCl in the growth medium. The bacterium was isolated from a salt crystallizer pond of the Rann of Kutch, Gujarat under NAIP funded projects on diversity of extreme organisms and isolation of relevant genes and alleles. The annotation of the complete genome of 3,332,438 bp of *Virgibacillus* sp. MSP4-1 (Figure 1) revealed the presence of 420 subsystems and genes for 3,459 coding sequences (CDSs), 90 RNA and 910 hypothetical proteins. Besides, there are 26 genes related to osmotic stress (osmoregulation, ectoine biosynthesis and choline and betaine uptake) and 37 genes for oxidative stress tolerance (protection from ROS, oxidative stress and glutathione).

The obligate halophilism of this organism is being studied from evolutionary, comparative and functional genomics point of view at ICAR-DGR. Exploring the genome of this obligate halophile will pave the way



for a comprehensive understanding of the mechanisms of halophilism i.e. the genes, the biochemical pathways, and the metabolites involved in imparting osmotolerance. Further studies on identification of genes and alleles for enzymes, which remain biologically active in this organism are in progress.

White grub menace reported in *kharif* groundnut of Saurashtra

White grub species belonging to genera *Holotrichia*, *Apogonia*, *Schizonycha*, *Adoretus*, *Anomala* and *Phyllognathus* were reported infesting groundnut of Saurashtra region of Gujarat. During the *kharif* season of 2014, white grub was reported in different talukas of Saurashtra viz., Porbandar, Ranavav, Jetpur, Kutiyana, Maliya, Keshod, Visavadar, Mendarada and Dhari. The extent of damage ranged from 20-80 per cent and the worst hit fields were observed in Porbander and Ranavav. The three main species of white grub viz., *Holotrichia consanguinea*, *H. serrata* and *Apogonia rauca* were recorded causing damage to groundnut from these areas. White grub is polyphagous in nature and prefers sandy-loam and light-red soils. Damage typically appears as stunted, wilted, discolored, or dead plants and/or as gaps in rows where plants fail to emerge. Damaged plants can be easily pulled out which gives a patchy appearance to fields. The research findings so far have indicated that control measures are more effective on adult beetles than the grubs which have a peculiar behaviour and are difficult to control. The pest can be managed effectively through an integrated approach that involves sound knowledge about the behaviour of different species and, their nature and extent of damage. The following integrated pest management practices were recommended on a community approach. Follow deep summer ploughing during months of April and May. Establish petromax light traps (1/ha) and synthetic pheromone dispensers (2-3/tree) on the host trees from 7 PM to 11 PM continuously for three consecutive evenings after adult emergence. Beat the shrubs/trees to dislodge the congregated adults and destroy them. Apply well decomposed FYM. Early sowing may be an option if irrigation facility is available. In endemic area, seeds may be treated with chlorpyrifos 20 EC or quinolphos 25 EC @ 25 mL/kg. Pre-sowing soil application of phorate 10 G @ 25 kg/ha or quinalphos 5 G @ 30 kg/ha is recommended in highly pest prone areas.



Larva of white grub on uprooted groundnut plant



White grub damage in groundnut field

(Inputs: M.V. Nataraja and Poonam Jasrotia)

EVENTS

'सरकारी कामकाज में राजभाषा कार्यान्वयन' विषय पर हिंदी कार्यशाला का आयोजन

(25-26 जुलाई 2014, जूनागढ़)

आजकल सरकारी कार्यालयों में लगभग सभी कागजी कार्य कम्प्यूटर द्वारा ही होने लगे हैं, तथा कम्प्यूटर द्वारा काम करने के लिए अधिकतम अंग्रेजी भाषा का ही इस्तेमाल किया जाता है। सामान्यतः कार्यालय के कार्य हेतु हिंदी सॉफ्टवेयर के विकल्प उपलब्ध नहीं होते हैं, अगर होते हैं तो उनके साथ कार्य करने का प्रशिक्षण नहीं होता है। इसलिये अक्सर ऐसा देखा गया है कि बहुत से लोग हिंदी तो जानते हैं, लेकिन अपना कार्य कम्प्यूटर पर हिंदी में कर पाने में कठिनाई महसूस करते हैं, या उन्हें झिझक रहती है। अतः इस निदेशालय के कर्मचारियों की इस कठिनाई/झिझक को दूर करने के लिए, दिनांक 25-26 जुलाई, 2014 के दौरान "सरकारी कामकाज में राजभाषा कार्यान्वयन" विषय पर दो-दिवसीय हिंदी कार्यशाला का आयोजन किया गया। इस कार्यशाला का संयोजन डॉ. मनेश चन्द्र डागला (वैज्ञानिक एवं प्रभारी-हिंदी अधिकारी) ने किया। इस कार्यशाला में संसाधन व्यक्ति/विशेषज्ञ के रूप में डॉ. संत राम यादव, सहायक निदेशक, राजभाषा, केंद्रीय बाराणी कृषि अनुसंधान संस्थान, हैदराबाद तथा श्री जगदीशन ए. के., सहायक निदेशक, राजभाषा, भारतीय बागवानी अनुसंधान संस्थान, बेंगलुरु उपस्थित थे।

इस कार्यशाला के दौरान इस निदेशालय के तीन प्रकाशनों का भी विमोचन किया गया, जिसमें हिंदी गृह पत्रिका 'गिरनार-2012', एक बुलेटिन 'भूगफली में समेकित नाशीजीव एवं रोग प्रबंधन', और एक फोल्डर 'बूचिड भृंग: भूगफली का एक प्रमुख भण्डारण कीट' सम्मिलित थे। इसके बाद डॉ. संत राम यादव एवं श्री जगदीशन ए. के. का डॉ. जितेन्द्र भूषण मिश्र, निदेशक द्वारा गुलदस्ता भेंट कर स्वागत किया गया। इस कार्यशाला में कुल 30 कर्मचारियों एवं अधिकारियों ने भाग लिया। कार्यशाला में राजभाषा के विभिन्न पहलुओं पर व्याख्यान प्रस्तुत किये गये, जिनमें मुख्यतः 'संघ की राजभाषा नीति व राजभाषा कार्यान्वयन', 'यूनिकोड व कम्प्यूटर में सुविधायें', 'टिप्पण एवं मसौदा लेखन', 'हिंदी में काम: समस्याएँ व समाधान', 'पारिभाषिक शब्दावली एवं हिंदी वर्तनी', 'हिंदी में तकनीकी लेखन', 'संसदीय राजभाषा समिति-प्रशनावली', एवं 'राजभाषा, राष्ट्रभाषा, जनसंपर्क भाषा एवं जनभाषा' प्रमुख थे। इन व्याख्यानों के साथ-साथ कर्मचारियों को कम्प्यूटर पर हिंदी में काम करने का अभ्यास भी करवाया गया। निदेशक महोदय ने सभी को संबोधित किया एवं डॉ. एस. आर. यादव तथा श्री जगदीशन का हार्दिक आभार प्रकट किया। साथ ही उन्होंने कहा कि इस कार्यशाला को निरंतर अन्तराल पर करने का पूरा प्रयास किया जायेगा। अंत में डॉ. रिकु डे, प्रधान वैज्ञानिक द्वारा धन्यवाद ज्ञापित किया गया।



हिंदी कार्यशाला का उदघाटन समारोह

(आदान: मनेश चन्द्र डागला)

'हिन्दी चेतना पखवाड़ा-2014' समारोह

(08-20 सितम्बर 2014, जूनागढ़)

इस निदेशालय में प्रत्येक वर्ष हिन्दी दिवस, सप्ताह, या पखवाड़ा या मास मनाया जाता है। इसी श्रृंखला में इस वर्ष भी निदेशालय में 'हिन्दी चेतना पखवाड़ा-2014' दिनांक 8 से 20 सितम्बर 2014 के दौरान मनाया गया। उदघाटन समारोह में डॉ. मनेश चन्द्र डागला, वैज्ञानिक एवं प्रभारी-हिन्दी अधिकारी ने, पूरे निदेशालय परिवार के सदस्यों का स्वागत किया तथा राजभाषा से संबंधित जानकारी दी। इसके साथ ही उन्होंने पखवाड़े के दौरान होने वाली विभिन्न प्रतियोगिताओं के बारे में भी जानकारी दी। मंच पर उपस्थित डॉ. रिकु डे एवं डॉ. ए. एल. रथनाकुमार ने इस अवसर पर हिन्दी में किये गए कार्यों की सराहना की तथा हिन्दी में और अधिक काम करने हेतु सुझाव भी दिए। डॉ. राधाकृष्णन टी., प्रभारी-निदेशक एवं प्रधान वैज्ञानिक ने निदेशालय परिवार को इस सुअवसर पर बधाई दी।

हिन्दी चेतना पखवाड़ा-2014 के दौरान विभिन्न प्रतियोगिताओं जैसेकि आशुभाषण, वाद-विवाद, टिप्पणी व मसौदा लेखन, सामान्य हिन्दी ज्ञान, तथा निबंध-लेखन का आयोजन किया गया। सभी प्रतियोगिताओं में प्रतिभागियों के 'क' 'ख' तथा 'ग' क्षेत्रानुसार समूह बनाये गये तथा प्रत्येक समूह के प्रतिभागियों में प्रथम, द्वितीय तथा तृतीय विजेता चुने गये। दिनांक 20 सितम्बर 2014 को 'हिन्दी चेतना पखवाड़ा-2014' के समापन समारोह पर कार्यक्रम का संचालन डॉ. अनिता मान, वरिष्ठ वैज्ञानिक द्वारा किया गया जिसमें सभी विजेताओं को पुरस्कार प्रदान किये तथा साथ ही साथ अन्य प्रतिभागियों को भी सान्त्वना पुरस्कार दिये गये। तत्पश्चात निदेशक महोदय ने अपने संबोधन में निदेशालय के सभी सदस्यों को कहा कि इस निदेशालय में ज्यादा से ज्यादा कार्य हिन्दी में ही होना चाहिए। अंत में श्री लोकेश कुमार ने धन्यवाद ज्ञापित किया। इस तरह 'हिन्दी चेतना पखवाड़ा-2014' इस निदेशालय पर बड़े ही उत्साह, प्रेम, उमंग तथा जिम्मेदारी के साथ मनाया गया।



हिन्दी चेतना पखवाड़ा-2014 समारोह का आयोजन

(आदान: मनेश चन्द्र डागला)



पुरस्कार वितरण

DGR's 35th Foundation Day

(01 October 2014, Junagadh)

DGR celebrated its 35th Foundation Day on October 01, 2014. Dr. K. Ramesh, DCF, Junagadh was the chief-guest and Dr I.U. Dhruj (Director Research, Junagadh Agricultural University), was the special guest on the occasion. The programme began with an invocation song, after that Director DGR, Dr. Radhakrishnan welcomed all the guests. Dr. Ramesh in his address told about the importance of Gir forest for the farmers of Saurashtra region. He also mentioned about the ongoing policies of state forest department and the subsidies given for the management of wild animals in the farmer's field by way of

making walls, covering the open wells, etc. Dr. Dhruj mentioned the role played by both DGR and JAU for the development of improved groundnut production technologies. He was of the view that in coming years too, both DGR and JAU will continue to work together in a complementary manner for the upliftment of groundnut farmers. In a felicitation programme, the senior most employee of this Directorate Sh. V.K. Sojitra, Assistant Chief Technical Officer was felicitated for his services. A cultural programme was also organised in which the DGR employees and children of DGR staff members performed.



Inaugural session of DGR's foundation day



Cultural programme on the occasion of Foundation Day

Swacch Bharat Mission

(02 October 2014, Junagadh)

The Directorate of Groundnut Research, Junagadh launched 'Swacch Bharat Mission' on 2nd October, 2014. All the staff reported at 09.00 am and 'Cleanliness oath (Swachhata Shapath)' was administered by the Director of the institute, Dr. T. Radhakrishnan. He gave a brief introduction about the campaign and highlighted the steps to implement it at institute level. The various cleanliness activities are already going on in the institute such as renovation work in main institute building for replacing floor tiles, wash basins, outlet pipes and white-wash work.

Other initiatives that were taken in the main office building included thorough cleaning of laboratories, office rooms, toilets, corridors, weeding in office lawns, placing of new garbage containers in and around the main building. The institute farm section was also cleaned in which main area where farm implements and machinery are stored was cleaned. The roads were cleaned and dirt (plastics, dried leaves, branches, etc.) was collected and thrown out in common dumpster. The premises of the residential quarters were cleaned by removing weeds and dirt from roads. The program was concluded with vote of thanks by the director of the institute. The cleanliness campaign will continue in the institute where continuous efforts will be made to lift the general cleanliness standards of office and residential area.



Cleaning up drive during the launch of 'Swacch Bharat Mission'

Farm Innovators' Day

(16 October 2014, Junagadh)

ICAR-Directorate of Groundnut Research, organized the Farm Innovators' Day on 16th October 2014. Dr. Sandeep Kumar, DCF, Sasan Gir was the chief guest of the function. In his address, he stated that the peaceful coexistence of humans and animals is essential for the future of mankind on planet earth. He made the point that the presence of lions helps to protect the crops from damage caused by herbivorous animals like blue-bulls, and wild-boars. He also gave introduction about the various schemes being run by forest department for the benefit of farmers in and around the sanctuary area. Dr. A.M. Parakhia, Director Extension Education, JAU, Junagadh was the Special Guest. He asked the innovative farmers to be in touch with scientists of research organizations and officers of line departments for updates on new technologies developed and to be the source of knowledge for peer farmers in their respective regions.

Dr. L.R. Sadia, Deputy Director (Agriculture), Rajkot was the Guest of Honour. He briefed the farmers about various government schemes for the benefit of farmers. He stressed on the need for judicious use of chemicals with prior consultation with agriculture officers rather than applying according to advice of input dealers only. Dr. L.K. Dhaduk, Assoc. Prof. JAU, Junagadh gave valuable information on improved varieties in groundnut.

Earlier, Dr. Radhakrishnan T., Director, ICAR-DGR welcomed the gathering and informed about the earlier innovative achievements of local farmers' of Gujarat. He invited the farming community to join hands with ICAR-DGR for collaborative innovations.

Dr. Ram A. Jat, Senior Scientist and Chairman, Organizing Committee coordinated the programme. The programme was aimed to improve interaction between researchers and innovative farmers for feedback and faster transfer of technology. About 150 farmers from Junagadh and Rajkot participated in the programme. An exhibition on farmers' innovations was organised and five innovative farmers identified for their innovative approaches were awarded. Shri Y.S. Karia proposed the vote of thanks.



Inauguration of Farm innovator's day

Vigilance Awareness Week

(27 October to 01 November 2014, Junagadh)

ICAR-DGR has observed vigilance awareness week during 27th October, 2014 to 1st November, 2014. At the beginning of the programme, Dr. Radhakrishnan T., Director, DGR administered the pledge to DGR officers and staff members. On this occasion, Shri P.K. Joshi (Vigilance Officer, BSNL, Junagadh) was present as the chief guest. He delivered a guest lecture focusing different rules and regulations to be followed in any office so as to avoid any vigilance case.



Scientists of DGR taking the oath while observing vigilance awareness week

TRAININGS

Model Training Course for state agricultural extension officers

(17-24 September 2014, Junagadh)

The model training course on 'Update on low-cost production technologies and post-harvest operations for sustainable high productivity of groundnut' was conducted for state agricultural extension officers during 17-24 September, 2014. The training was sponsored by the Directorate of Extension, Ministry of Agriculture and cooperation, New Delhi in which 22 Agricultural extension officers from 11 states participated. The course was conducted with both class-room teaching by using case studies as well as field level orientations on low-cost production technologies and post-harvest operations in groundnut. The pre- and post- training evaluation showed that from existing knowledge about 42 per cent knowledge improvement had happened on the subject taught. In total 22 experts, including four experts from SAU and one from state department of agriculture acted as resource persons. Relevant literature was distributed for future reference and easy use of attending officers



Certificate distribution to the participants

Training programme for the tribal farmers of Madhya Pradesh

(26-30 September 2014, Junagadh)

The ICAR-DGR organized a 5-days farmers' training program on 'Improved groundnut production technologies for improving the productivity' during 26-30 September, 2014. A total of 33 tribal farmers of Shivpuri district of Madhya Pradesh participated in this training programme. Madhya Pradesh, a non-traditional area for groundnut cultivation wherein, Shivpuri district has an area of 70,00 hectares under groundnut cultivation during *kharif*. This training was sponsored by ATMA, Shivpuri. Dr. T. Radhakrishnan, Director, ICAR-DGR inaugurated the training programme on 26th September, 2014 and emphasized the importance of improved technologies of groundnut for diversification and area expansion in non-traditional areas including Madhya Pradesh. The training covered topics such as agronomic practices, high yielding varieties, seed production practices, farm mechanization, micro-nutrient management, role of bio-fertilizers, insect-pest and disease management. Training included planned visits of farm implement manufacturing unit, progressive farmers' fields, KVK and Sardar Smriti Kendra, JAU, Junagadh where the farmer's learnt various extension activities carried out by them. A training manual was developed in Hindi language and distributed to the participants. Farmers were satisfied with the training program and rated it as highly informative and of practical utility. This training was coordinated by Mr. Nataraja M. V., Dr. Narendra Kumar and Dr. Ram Dutta.



Trainee farmers of Shivpuri district of Madhya Pradesh

Farmers' training on technologies for groundnut seed production

(22-24 December, 2014, Junagadh)

A training programme on 'Improved technologies for groundnut seed production in Gujarat' was organized at ICAR-DGR, Junagadh from 22-24 December, 2014 in which 27 farmers participated from Sukhpur, Raipur and Navagaon villages of Junagadh, Gujarat. The course content was prepared by Dr. Chuni Lal, Principal Scientist, ICAR-DGR, and training was coordinated by Dr. Narendra Kumar and Dr. M.C. Dagla, Scientists, ICAR-DGR. The training comprised of lectures as well as exposure visits of farm implements and laboratories. All the lectures were delivered by the in-house scientific and technical staff and covered all the major aspects including new groundnut varieties and maintenance of genetic purity of seed, improved agronomic practices, use of biofertilizers and

micronutrients, management of insect-pests and diseases. In addition, lectures were also delivered on management practices for aflatoxin contamination in groundnut, and conservation agriculture. A training manual containing the texts of delivered lectures was distributed to all the farmer trainees. Director, ICAR-DGR appealed to the farmers to be in contact for any technical advice related to groundnut. The training ended with a vote of thanks by Dr. Narendra Kumar.



Closing ceremony of the training programme

MEETINGS

Group Meeting of AINP-SBBF held at ICAR-DGR

(06 December 2014, Junagadh)

The ICAR-DGR, Junagadh conducted the group meeting of the All India Network Project on Soil Biodiversity-Biofertilizers (AINP-SBBF) from 6-8th December, 2014. The meeting was steered by Dr. D.L.N. Rao, Project Coordinator (AINP-SBBF), in the presence of Dr. A.K. Patra, Director (ICAR-Indian Institute of Soil Science), Dr. A.K. Sharma, Director (ICAR-National Bureau of Agriculturally Important Microorganisms), and Dr. Radhakrishnan T., Director (ICAR-DGR). Dr. Rao gave a brief introduction about the AINP-SBBF and the research work being carried out in the project at different centres.



Release of technical manual during Group Meeting of AINP-SBBF

Dr. A.K. Patra, Director (ICAR-IISS) and Chairman of the inaugural session, in his address, mentioned about the importance of the network project on biofertilizers and the beneficial role of biofertilizers in sustainable farming. Dr. A.K. Sharma, Director (ICAR-NBAIM) emphasized the need for giving more importance to the identification of very efficient microbial inoculants for various crops, and development of efficient inoculants for various crop plants. Dr. T. Radhakrishnan, Director (ICAR-DGR) gave a brief account of the accomplishments of DGR in groundnut research including the work done in

the discipline of microbiology. Ten technical bulletins on biofertilizers were released. About 70 scientists including principal investigators from twenty centres (ICAR institutes and SAUs) participated in the group meeting.

ICAR-DGR-Industries Interface meeting

(15 December 2014, Junagadh)

In the current scenario of groundnut gaining more and more relevance as a food crop besides an oilseed, the stake of food industries and export houses is on the rise. Realizing this fact, all the stakeholders in groundnut cultivation and industry were brought on a common platform to facilitate their interactions for identifying issues of mutual interest and formulating strategy for research, extension and trade and also addressing the policy issues, through an Industries Interface meeting at this Directorate.

The meeting was formally inaugurated by Dr. C.J. Dangaria, Director of Research (JAU). In the meeting, a panel discussion was held on 'Issues and strategies for export promotion in groundnut and groundnut products from India' to draw suitable technological, commerce and policy related interventions'. The panel included Dr. I.U. Dhruj (DR-JAU); Dr. Tarun Bajaj, (GM, APEDA); Mr. Tushar Thumar, (Director, Khedut Food and Feeds); Dr. M.S. Basu, (Ex-Director, DGR); Dr. J.B. Misra (Technical Advisor, IOPEPC); Mr. J.L. Kukhreja (Dy Sec. IOPEPC); Dr. P. Janila (ICRISAT) and Mr. S.J. Solnanki (Jt. Dir, Agril. Extn., Gujarat). Representatives from local export houses, seed industries, major food industries, progressive farmers and manufacturers of farm implements participated in the meeting.

During this meet, there were detailed deliberations on the topics like comprehensive aflatoxin management techniques, possibility of storing the kernels under cold storage especially for the seed purpose, production of large scale quality seeds in short time, high O/L ratio in kernels for oil stability, discouraging the practice of 'Pick and Pack' by the exporters, possible policy interventions for increasing the groundnut exports, possibilities of organic groundnut production, quality characterization of ruling varieties of India and its database management, etc. This Meet also brought out a few action points for carrying the process forward, underlining objectivity and flexibility in building these partnerships.



ICAR-Directorate of Groundnut Research - Industries Interface meeting

Director-DGR, Dr. Radhakrishnan T. in his remark thanked all the speakers from both private and public sectors, who had contributed to the success of the Meet and hoped that this would surely mark a milestone in furthering the cause of increasing the groundnut productivity and benefits to both farmers and industries through joint partnerships.

ICAR-DGR activity in 'Khargone' district of Madhya Pradesh

(04-06 September, 2014)

For the implementation of DGR sponsored On-Farm Demonstrations among 305 tribal farmers, in Khargone (a tribal district of Madhya Pradesh), under Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) a pre-season training to the farmers was conducted by ATMA. During this training, monitoring and impact study was done by ICAR-DGR on livelihood security through groundnut based cropping system.

Dr. R.A. Jat and Dr. Narayanan G., Scientist-DGR visited six talukas of Khargone district to monitor the progress of planned activities under TSP. Farmers of this district were very much enthusiastic for adoption of technology transferred on wide scale.



DGR team monitoring the progress of planned activities under TSP at Khargaon-MP

INSTITUTE SEMINARS

Speaker	Date	Topic
Dr. R.A. Jat	03 July, 2014	Deputation seminar for his participation in 6 th World congress of Conservation Agriculture at Canada (during May 22-25, 2014)
Dr. Guru Raj Rao, Head, CSSRI, Regional Station, Bharuch	17 Sep., 2014	"Salinity management in field crops"
Dr. Barabara B Shew, Director PDIC NCSU, NC USA	17 Sep., 2014	"Peanut Disease Management and DSS"
Dr. Anita Mann	19 Sep., 2014	Deputation seminar for the participation in International Conference of Plant Physiology 2014 at Indonesia.
Dr. A.L. Rathanakumar	07 Nov., 2014	'Indian Experience on Management and Control of Aflatoxins in Groundnut'
Dr. Koushik Chakraborty	07 Nov., 2014	International deputation seminar on 'Studies on salinity tolerance mechanism in oilseeds with special reference to ionic balance and movements under salinity stress using <i>Micro-Electrode Ion Flux Estimation (MIFE)</i> technology' (Work was carried out under 'Endeavour Research Fellowship-2014' by Australia)

PARTICIPATION IN CONFERENCE/ WORKSHOP/ SEMINAR/ SYMPOSIA / MEETINGS/ TRAINING PROGRAMMES

Name	Programme	Venue	Date
Rinku Dey, Ajay BC, G.P. Mishra, Nataraja M.V.	दो-दिवसीय कार्यशाला 'सरकारी कामकाज में राजभाषा कार्यान्वयन	DGR, Junagadh	25-26 July 2014
Nataraja M.V.	International training programme on 'Pest Risk Analysis'	NIPHM, Hyderabad	01- 05 Sept.,2014
Rinku Dey Nataraja M.V.	Mid-term RFD review meeting of Crop Science Division	Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi	21 Nov., 2014
G.P. Mishra	11 th CEG Training course on 'Next Generation Sequencing Technologies for Crop Improvement'	ICRISAT, Telangana	24 Nov.,2014 05 Dec., 2014
Poonam Jasrotia	"International Conference: Changing Scenario of Pest Problems in Agri-Horti Ecosystem and their Management"	MPUA&T, Udaipur	27-29 Nov., 2014
Dr. Ajay BC	Meeting on "Re-defining priorities in the national action plan for genetic resources management in India" organized by ICAR-NBPGR.	NASC complex New Delhi	23-24 Dec.2014

HONOURS AND AWARDS

- Dr Koushik Chakraborty, Scientist (plant physiology), selected for the prestigious 'Endeavour Research Fellowship-2014' of Australian Government and went to University of Tasmania, Hobart, TAS on six months deputation (23rd April to 22nd October).



PERSONNEL

Superannuation

Dr. Jitendra Bhushan Misra, superannuated on 31st July, 2014 from this Directorate as Director. Born on 9th July 1952 in Shahjehanpur district of Uttar Pradesh, Dr. Misra had his early and higher-education in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. In 1976, he was selected in the first batch of the Agricultural Research Service of ICAR and began his career as a Scientist at the Central Potato Research Station, Modipuram (Meerut, UP). Having served at CPRS, Modipuram for about twelve years, Dr. Misra was transferred to the NRC for Groundnut (now known as the DGR) in Junagadh-Gujarat. Since 1976, Dr. Misra has held various positions in the Agricultural Research Service of the ICAR Scientist (1976-1988), Senior Scientist (1988-1998), Principal Scientist (1998-2008) and Director (2008-2014).

During his career sprawling 35 years, Dr. Misra has worked mostly on the quality aspects of crop commodities. His work on sucrose metabolism in plants has added new dimensions in the understanding of biosynthesis and utilization of sucrose in plants. He has also worked on nitrogen-to-protein conversion factor for groundnut kernels and role of epicuticular wax in affording drought tolerance to groundnut plants. He has done pioneering work on application of near-infra-red (NIR) spectroscopy for determination of oil content in groundnut kernels besides theoretical work on the prospects of genetic engineering for improving quality of groundnut. During his illustrious career, Dr. Misra has published more than 100 papers including 42 research papers in refereed national and international journals. We, the DGR family members, wish him a very happy, peaceful and healthy retired life.



Superannuation of our beloved Director, Dr J.B. Misra

Shri V.K. Sojitra, Assistant Chief Technical Officer, retired from his services on 30th November 2014 after serving this institute for more than 34 years. He worked in various capacities in the Farm section, Cytogenetics Section, and Plant Breeding Section in this directorate.



Sh. V.K. Sojitra, felicitated by Director-DGR on his superannuation

Shri Pravin Kandas, TSL, retired from his services on 30th September 2014. He served this institute as a TSL for more than 17 years.

This directorate wishes them a happy retired life.

Transfer

Dr Prasanna Holaijjer, Scientist, Agril. Nematology, was relieved from ICAR-DGR on 15th November 2014 consequent upon his transfer to ICAR-DFR, Pune.



Bidding farewell to Dr. Prasanna Holaijjer

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