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RICE IS LIFE

July - September 2023

Independence Day Celebrations



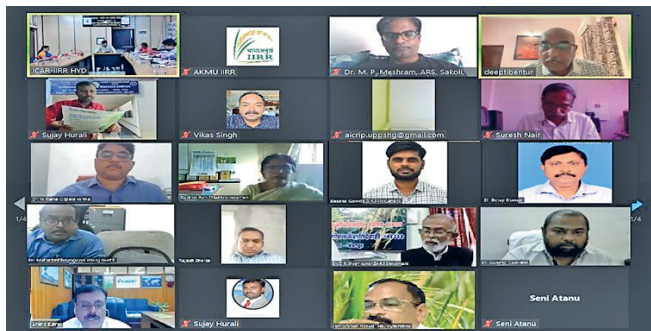
ICAR-Indian Institute of Rice Research (IIRR) celebrated the 77th Independence Day with a spirit of patriotism and fervour. The occasion witnessed a vibrant celebration, highlighted by a ceremonial address by Dr. R. M. Sundaram, Director of ICAR-IIRR. Dr. Sundaram delivered an inspiring speech, reflecting on the significance of India's independence and emphasizing the importance of dedication and innovation in the agricultural sector. He commended the staff for their contributions and commitment to the institute's goals. IIRR staff enthusiastically participated in taking and uploading a selfie with Indian Tricolour during the movement initiated by the Ministry of Culture to mark "Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav" during the week of Independence Day celebrations.

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Several sports and games, such as Cricket, Caroms, TT, Chess, Basketball, Volley Ball, etc., were organised for staff during this event, and winners were awarded with medals and gifts. These activities not only added excitement but also exemplified the institute's commitment to holistic celebrations.

Brain storming session on “Asian Rice Gall Midge - Present Status and Way Forward”



ICAR-IIRR, organized a brainstorming session on “Asian Rice Gall Midge - Present Status and Way Forward” on July 4th, 2023, in a hybrid mode. The Asian Rice gall midge (*Orseolia oryzae*) is an endemic pest reported in nearly 12 Indian states. However, in recent years, there has been a change in the timing and intensity of its incidence. This brainstorming session was organized to review available

options and develop a roadmap for the timely and critical management of this early-stage rice pest.

Dr. V. Jhansi Lakshmi, Principal Scientist and Head, Entomology section, ICAR-IIRR, provided a brief background on the necessity of this brainstorming session. The session was chaired by Dr. R. M. Sundaram, Director of ICAR-IIRR. Dr. A. P. Padmakumari, Principal Scientist (Entomology), gave a detailed presentation on the topic, highlighting the issues leading to the upsurge of infestations in certain endemic areas. This talk was followed by a panel discussion. The panellists included Dr. J. S. Bentur, former Principal Scientist (Entomology), ICAR-IIRR, Hyderabad; Dr. Suresh Nair, Arturo Falaschi Emeritus Scientist (AFES), ICGEB, New Delhi; Dr. Arvind Kumar, DDG, ICRISAT, Hyderabad; Dr. Ch. V. Durga Rani, Professor, Plant Breeding, PJTSAU, Hyderabad; Dr. Shamkuwar, ADR, ZARS, Sindewahi, Maharashtra, and Dr. Vikas Kumar Singh, Coordinator, IRRI-SA Hub and Regional Breeding Lead, South Asia. In total, 90 participants deliberated extensively on this topic: 75 participants, comprising Entomologists and Plant Breeders from 12 different states, participated online, while 15 scientists joined offline, engaging in extensive discussions on various factors for managing this pest.

Training on “Multivariate Statistical Machine Learning Methods for Modelling Agricultural Data”



SERB sponsored 10-day training programme on “Multivariate Statistical Machine Learning Methods for Modelling Agricultural Data” was organised at ICAR-IIRR, Hyderabad during 24 July to 04 August, 2023 (Under the KARYASHALA Scheme - a SERB Initiative).

The ‘KARYASHALA’ is aimed to improve the research productivity of promising PG and PhD students from universities/colleges through high-end workshops on specific themes. This training program was inaugurated by Dr. Seema Jaggi, ADG (HRD), ICAR, New Delhi. She highlighted the importance of statistical and machine learning techniques in agricultural research. She also briefed about the new agricultural education policy and how it is going to

help the agricultural students. Dr R. M. Sundaram, Director, ICAR-IIRR, Hyderabad, in his inaugural remarks, highlighted the importance of the training programme in the context of the increasing role of data sciences and its advanced methodologies. The Programme on Multivariate Statistical Machine Learning Methods for Modelling Agricultural Data provided opportunities to acquire the specialized research skills and provide hands-on experience to the selected 25 Students. Dr. Vinod Kumar Singh, Director, ICAR-CRIDA, presided as chief guest for the valedictory of training held on August 4, 2023. He has enlightened students with the importance of machine learning application in agriculture and Agricultural systems modelling.

Launch of Bhu-Vision (Krishi-RASTAA), An IoT-Based Automated Soil Testing and Advisory Platform



Bhu-Vision (Krishi-RASTAA) is an IoT-based automated soil testing and agronomy advisory platform. It precisely analyses 12 soil parameters, and generates a soil health card directly on the mobile devices of farmers in just 30 minutes. Developed jointly by ICAR-IIRR and KrishiTantra, manufactured by HiMedia Laboratories, and marketed by BhoomiSeva (HCF Tech Pvt Ltd), Bhu-Vision revolutionizes soil testing practices.

In a significant development for agricultural technology, Bhu-Vision (Krishi-RASTAA) was officially launched at ICAR-IIRR, Hyderabad on 30th July, 2023 under the chairmanship of Dr. R. M. Sundaram, Director of ICAR-

IIRR. Dr. MBB Prasad Babu (Head, Soil Science, ICAR-IIRR) was present as the Chief Guest. The launch also saw the presence of eminent personalities including Dr. Brajendra (Principal Scientist-ICAR-IIRR), Dr. P. Muthuraman (Head, TTT, ICAR-IIRR), Mr. Sandeep Kondaji (Founder, CEO-KrishiTantra), Mr. Manish Raut (Business Head-Higronics, HiMedia Laboratories Private Limited) and Mr. Melind Deshpande (MD, CEO-BhoomiSeva, HCF Tech Private Limited). These individuals played pivotal roles in the development of this innovative platform and were present during the event.

Panorama of Institute Activities

ICAR-IIRR Observed Parthenium Awareness Week



Uniting against an invasive weed menace, ICAR-IIRR undertook a resolute initiative, the Parthenium Awareness Week, from August 16th to 22nd, 2023. The week-long event aimed to raise consciousness about the ill impacts of the parthenium weed and recommended effective strategies to curb its proliferation both within agricultural fields and in the vicinity of the campus. Dr. B. Sreedevi, Principal Scientist specializing in weed management, served as a pivotal figure during the awareness drive, enlightening

attendees about the pernicious effects of parthenium. The event garnered substantial guidance and motivation from the esteemed Director, R. M. Sundaram, whose leadership inspired active involvement from the institute's staff. Not confined to the institute's premises alone, the Parthenium Awareness Week was also observed across IIRR's research farms situated at Rajendranagar and Ramchandrapuram. IIRR staff across different categories profusely participated in the event.

ICAR-IIRR Won Laurels in the ICAR Inter-Zonal Sports Tournament



A team of 12 members who were the winners during the ICAR- South Zone Sports Meet-2022, at Hyderabad, were participated in the ICAR Inter-Zonal Sports Tournament at Karnal during September 9-12, 2023. Notably, the women's table tennis doubles team, consisting of Dr. K.



Surekha and Dr. G. Padmavathi, clinched the Gold Medal. Remarkably, this marks their 10th consecutive win at the Inter-Zonal Tournament, maintaining their unbroken streak as champions.

ICAR-IIRR Organizes Hindi Pakhwada with Vibrant Activities



ICAR-IIRR marked a vibrant celebration of Hindi Pakhwada, spanning from September 14th to 28th. The events commenced with the gracious inauguration by Dr. R. M. Sundaram, who urged all staff members to integrate Hindi into their official communications to the fullest extent possible. Dr. Sundaram's emphasis on the importance of Hindi as a language for official correspondence resonated deeply within the institute. Mr. Shitanshu Kumar, the Chief Administrative Officer of ICAR-IIRR, provided valuable insights into the significance of Hindi in our daily lives and its pivotal role in official communications.

Led by Mrs. Vanita and her dedicated team, the institute organized an array of engaging activities to promote the use and appreciation of the Hindi language. Throughout the fortnight, a spectrum of intriguing competitions was conducted, including noting and drafting in Hindi, singing, Hindi translation, essay writing, memory tests, debates, quizzes, antakshari, and poster presentations. These events aimed to foster awareness and appreciation for the Hindi language among participants. The collective efforts and enthusiastic participation during Hindi Pakhwada underscored the institute's commitment to promoting linguistic diversity and acknowledging the importance of Hindi in national discourse.

Capacity Building and Outreach Programs

ICAR-IIRR Organized IPM Training in Mayurbhanj and Ganjam Districts, Odisha



Scientists from ICAR-IIRR, namely Drs. Chitra Shanker, B. Sreedevi, D. Krishnaveni, Brajendra, and P. Muthuraman, conducted training sessions for Agri-Horti officers, FPOs, and farmers in Mayurbhanj district. The training focused on Integrated Pest Management and was organized with the support of

International Rice Research Institute in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture, Government of Odisha, on August 1, 2023. Additionally, they trained BAOs, DAOs, CDAOs, and other agricultural officials at Tampara Resort in Ganjam District, Odisha, on August 3, 2023.

ICAR-IIRR Participated in G20 Technical Workshop on Climate Resilient Agriculture



ICAR-IIRR actively participated in the G20 Technical Workshop on “Climate-Resilient Agriculture” organized by the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India during 4-6 September 2023 at Hotel Novotel, Hyderabad Airport, Hyderabad. Several prominent personalities visited IIRR stall.

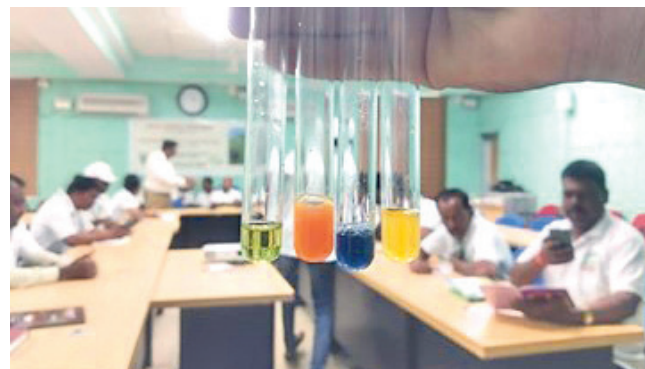
A Skill Development Training Programme on Rapid Automated Soil Testing with Agronomy Advisory was organized by the R&D Cell, Krishnatantra & Soil Testing Centre at the ICAR-Indian Institute of Rice Research, Hyderabad, on July 6, 2023.

Integrated Farming Program for Empowering Farmers

The Department of Horticulture, Agriculture, and the Seva Spoorthi Foundation collaboratively organized a programme on integrated farming practices for farmers growing chillies, cotton, and paddy crops at Parushurampally village in Ghanpur Mulug Mandal, Bhupalpally district of Telangana on August 31, 2023. The event featured a demonstration and practical session on soil testing, utilizing a soil testing kit developed by ICAR-IIRR, Hyderabad.



Training on Soil Testing



ICAR-IIRR conducted training on 29/08/2023 for the Diploma in Agricultural Extension Services for Input Dealers (DAESI) trainees at IIRR on soil testing using Rapid Soil Testing Kit.

MoUs and Agreements Signed



ICAR-IIRR signed an MoU with Vignan University, Vadlamudi, Guntur, for research and teaching collaboration, and student exchange on August 1, 2023. Dr. T. Ramesh Babu, Dean, School of Agriculture and Food Technology and Dr. D. Vijay Ramu, Dean, Promotions, Collaborations and Faculty Affairs from this University were present during the event.

ICAR-IIRR and M/s. SRIBIO Biotech Pvt. Ltd, Hyderabad, entered into a material transfer agreement to develop field formulations of biocontrol agents viz. *Trichoderma asperellum* strain TAIK1, *Bacillus cabrialesi* strain BIK3, *Pseudomonas putida* strain PIK1, and active metabolite,



pentyl-2H-pyran-2-one for use in rice. This collaboration aims to provide an efficient bioformulation for enhancing rice productivity.



Participation in Workshops, Webinars, and Seminars

Workshop on Intellectual Property Management



A Workshop on Intellectual Property Management took place on September 25, 2023, at ICAR-IIRR in Hyderabad. Dr. Vikram Singh, Senior Scientist at the IPTM Unit of ICAR Headquarters, coordinated the session as part of the IPR Awareness Programme. The discussions centered around Intellectual Property Management and Commercialization opportunities for ICAR Institutes.

Dr. A. S. Hari Prasad, Chairman of ITMU-IIRR, delivered the welcome address. Dr. R M Sundaram, Director of



ICAR-IIRR, introduced and emphasized the session's significance. Additionally, Dr. Suvarna Nilkah (Assistant Professor at ILS Law College, Pune), Dr. Ashwini Siwal (IP & TM Unit, ICAR, New Delhi), and Dr. Vikram Singh (IP & TM Unit, ICAR, New Delhi) conducted lectures on IP Protection and its Management in Agricultural Research, Patentability and Copyright issues in Agriculture, and IP Portfolio and its Management in Cereal Crops, respectively.



Dr. R. M. Sundaram, Director, ICAR-IIRR actively participated in the one-day National Dialogue on “Identification and utilization of ‘Novel genes’ of value and relevance for improvement of crop varieties suiting future challenges to Indian agriculture” held on September 02, 2023 at the Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad. Dr. Sundaram delivered a lecture on Breaching the ceiling to genetic yield of cereal crops with special reference to rice using the genes of value accessed from crop related germplasm through conventional cross breeding and innovative genome editing.

Dr. R. M. Sundaram attended an International Symposium at the Huazhong Agricultural University, China from 03 to 09, September 2023. He delivered a lecture on the Development of climate-resilient rice in India. The lecture was highly appreciated by the gathering.



Dr. R. Mahender Kumar, Principal Scientist (Agronomy) attended the National Stakeholder Workshop Carbon Offsetting Rice Emissions on 29th August held at New Delhi. It was organized by the GIZ, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH in cooperation with Olam Agri India Pvt Ltd, International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) and United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women). He represented ICAR-IIRR and shared his views about

various practices of rice cultivation such as the system of rice intensification (SRI), alternate wetting and drying (AWD), dry direct seeded rice (DSR) methods in mitigating methane emission and reducing carbon footprint. Around 150 delegates across the globe attended the conference.



Dr. R. Mahender Kumar, Principal Scientist (Agronomy) attended the G20 “Technical Workshop on Climate Resilient Agriculture” during 4-6 September held at the Novotel hotel, Hyderabad Telangana. The conference, organized by ICAR-CRIDA, Hyderabad was attended by the Honourable DG, ICAR & Secretary DARE, Dr. Himanshu Pathak, scientists representing the G20 countries along with associated members across the globe.



Dr. R. Mahender Kumar, Dr. A. P. Padmakumari, Dr. Satish Chavan, and Mrs. Aparna Das from ICAR-IIRR attended Seminar-Cum-Meditation Retreat on “Lifestyle for Environment” organised by Brahma Kumaris and RERF, Gachibowli, Hyderabad organised on 30/09/2023.

Dr. Muthuraman, Principal Scientist, IIRR, addressed newly joined BSc Agriculture Student at PAJANCOA, Karaikal.

Visitors to the Institute

Visit of Secretary of DARE & Director General, ICAR



On September 5, 2023, a significant event unfolded at ICAR-IIRR as the esteemed Secretary of DARE (Department of Agricultural Research and Education) and Director-General of ICAR, Dr. Himanshu Pathak, graced the institute with a momentous visit.

During the visit, the Honourable DG inaugurated two pivotal facilities, the Fast Breeding Facility and the Farm Section Storage Complex, crucial additions that promise to enhance the institute's research capabilities and infrastructure significantly. The occasion was marked by

insightful interactions between the DG and the institute's scientific community. The Honourable DG elucidated on the latest initiatives undertaken by ICAR, shedding light on government policies aimed at realigning research activities.



Dr. S. K. Pradhan, ADG (FFC), ICAR, Dr. Ishwar Singh, PS, FFC, ICAR and Dr. Sunil Bhat from JK Agri Genetics Ltd (JKAL) visited ICAR-IIRR on 12 July, 2023.



Dr. T. Mohapatra, the Chairman of PPVFRA and former DG of ICAR, visited ICAR-IIRR on 2 September, 2023. Dr. Mohapatra showed keen interest and appreciated IIRR for their work on the genome-edited line developed by the institute. Dr. (Mrs.) C. Tara Satyavathi, Director of ICAR-IIMR, was also present during the visit.



Directors of various ICAR Institutes, Dr. A. K. Singh, Director, ICAR-IARI, New Delhi, Dr. Y. G. Prasad, Director, ICAR-CICR, Nagpur, Dr. (Mrs.) C. Tara Satyavathi, Director, ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad, and Dr. Sujay Rakshit, Director, ICAR-IIAB, Ranchi, visited ICAR-IIRR on 03/09/2023. They went around various facilities and seen genome-edited rice lines developed by the institute in the farm.



On August 25, 2023, Dr. C. R. Mehta, Director of ICAR-CIAE, Bhopal, visited IIRR, where he interacted with scientists. Additionally, he toured the IoT-based Water Management experiment and various equipment developed at the Agricultural Engineering Section.



Dr. Arjun Ramachandran, Assistant Professor, Dr. Shalini Mudalkar, Assistant Professor, Dr. B. Sreedhar, Associate Professor and first year BSc Hon students of Forest College and Research Institute (FCRI), Mulugu, visited ICAR-IIRR.



On August 22, 2023, 200 BSc Agriculture students from the College of Agriculture, Pune and 50 students from the College of Agriculture, Nandurbar, Mahatma Phule Agricultural University, Maharashtra, visited ICAR IIRR as a part of their educational Tour.

Staff News

Mr. V. Golu, SSS, of ICAR-IIRR got superannuated on 31/08/2023



Forthcoming Events

- IIRR Industry Interaction Meet-2023 on November 7th, 2023

Industry Meet 2023

Display of IIRR Technologies & Services

NOVEMBER 7th 2023 (TUESDAY)
09:30 AM - 01:30 PM
Dr SVS Shastry Auditorium
ICAR-IIRR, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad

PROGRAMME

09:30 AM	: Registration
09:40 AM	: Field Visit
11:00 AM	: Display of ICAR-IIRR Technologies
11:40 AM	: Director Address
11:45 AM	: Industry view and Expectations
12:00 PM	: Message by Chief Guest
12:10 PM	: Message by Experts
12:30 PM	: Varietal Technologies for Commercialization
12:40 PM	: Non-Varietal Technologies for Commercialization
12:50 PM	: CSR Funding Opportunities
01:00 PM	: Interactive Session with Industry Lunch

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हिन्दी मिलाप

किसानों तक हमारी पहुंच का प्रमुख साधन है हिन्दी

भारत का भाषा साधन हिन्दी के किसानों को आर्थिक और शैक्षणिक विकास का प्रमुख साधन है। भारत में कुल 50 प्रतिशत जनसंख्या का प्रमुख भाग हिन्दी भाषी है। अतः यह हिन्दी को किसानों तक हमारी पहुंच का प्रमुख साधन बनाना आवश्यक है।



डॉ. आर. कुमार, निदेशक, भारतीय चावल अनुसंधान संस्थान, हैदराबाद

आवश्यकता है। इसमें हिन्दी-विशेषज्ञता, कर्षण-विशेषज्ञता, विज्ञान-संचार क्षमता आदि गुणों की आवश्यकता है। इसमें हिन्दी-भाषी किसानों को प्रमुख साधन बनाना आवश्यक है।



किसानों तक हमारी पहुंच का प्रमुख साधन हिंदी

एन. आर. कुमार, निदेशक, भारतीय चावल अनुसंधान संस्थान, हैदराबाद ने कहा कि हिन्दी को किसानों तक हमारी पहुंच का प्रमुख साधन बनाना आवश्यक है।



डॉ. आर. कुमार, निदेशक, भारतीय चावल अनुसंधान संस्थान, हैदराबाद

एन. आर. कुमार ने कहा कि हिन्दी को किसानों तक हमारी पहुंच का प्रमुख साधन बनाना आवश्यक है।

हिन्दी भाषी किसानों को प्रमुख साधन बनाना आवश्यक है।



भारत के 50 प्रतिशत जनसंख्या हिन्दी भाषी है। अतः यह हिन्दी को किसानों तक हमारी पहुंच का प्रमुख साधन बनाना आवश्यक है।

हिन्दी मिलाप

भारतीय चावल अनुसंधान संस्थान में हिन्दी पखवाड़ा आरंभ

हिन्दी दिवस पखवाड़ा के शुभारंभ में निदेशक डॉ. आर. कुमार ने कहा कि हिन्दी को किसानों तक हमारी पहुंच का प्रमुख साधन बनाना आवश्यक है।

एनएमडीसी में हिन्दी प्रश्न मंच प्रतियोगिता आयोजित

भारतीय चावल अनुसंधान संस्थान में आयोजित प्रश्न मंच प्रतियोगिता में हिन्दी भाषी किसानों को प्रमुख साधन बनाना आवश्यक है।

श्रीलंका	संख्या	विजेता
श्रीलंका	41	विजेता
श्रीलंका	42	विजेता
श्रीलंका	43, 44, 45	विजेता
श्रीलंका	46	विजेता
श्रीलंका	47, 48, 49	विजेता
श्रीलंका	50	विजेता
श्रीलंका	51	विजेता
श्रीलंका	52	विजेता
श्रीलंका	53, 54, 55, 56	विजेता
श्रीलंका	57	विजेता
श्रीलंका	58	विजेता
श्रीलंका	59, 60, 61, 62	विजेता
श्रीलंका	63	विजेता
श्रीलंका	64	विजेता
श्रीलंका	65	विजेता

वैज्ञानिक कल्याणियों में प्रमुख साधन

वैज्ञानिक कल्याणियों में प्रमुख साधन बनाना आवश्यक है।

संयुक्त प्रश्न मंच प्रतियोगिता आयोजित

संयुक्त प्रश्न मंच प्रतियोगिता में हिन्दी भाषी किसानों को प्रमुख साधन बनाना आवश्यक है।

भारतीय चावल अनुसंधान संस्थान

भारतीय चावल अनुसंधान संस्थान में हिन्दी भाषी किसानों को प्रमुख साधन बनाना आवश्यक है।

संयुक्त प्रश्न मंच प्रतियोगिता आयोजित

संयुक्त प्रश्न मंच प्रतियोगिता में हिन्दी भाषी किसानों को प्रमुख साधन बनाना आवश्यक है।

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