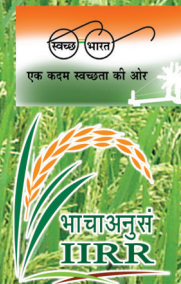




IIRR



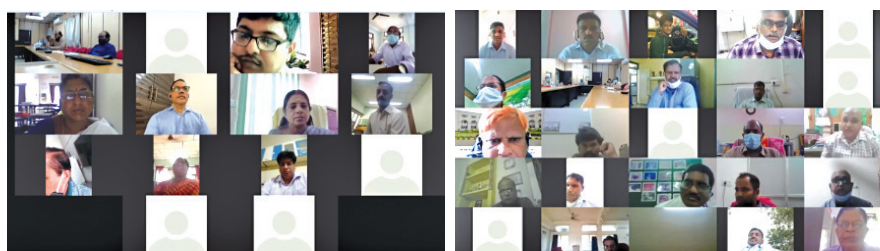
ICAR-Indian Institute of Rice Research NEWSLETTER

Volume: 18 Number: 4

RICE IS LIFE

October - December 2020

Virtual Monitoring of AICRIP trials 2020



During *Kharif* 2020, ICAR-IIRR coordinated the conduct of AICRIP trials across the country at various locations. Owing to COVID pandemic and to avoid delays in seed dispatch and to ensure timely conduct of trials, trial constitution, seed packing and dispatch activities were shared among three ICAR institutes for the first time since the inception of the AICRIP. Basmati trial constitution, seed packing and dispatch was coordinated by ICAR-IARI and rainfed ecology trials by ICAR-NRRI while ICAR-IIRR continued the trial constitution, seed packing and dispatch of irrigated ecology. Erstwhile multidisciplinary field monitoring of AICRIP trials now assumed virtual mode to get an interim update on the status of trial conduct and performance of the entries.

ICAR-IIRR hosted several meetings of the ACIRIP monitoring during October to December 2020 through video conferencing.

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Virtual field monitoring of AICRIP trials during *kharif* 2020

Discipline	Zone	Date	Coordinator(s)
Soil Science	All zones	21.10.2020	Dr. M.B.B. Prasad Babu
Pathology		22.10.2020	Dr. M.S. Prasad
Physiology		29.10.2020	Dr. D. Subrahmanyam
Agronomy		06.10.2020	Dr. R. Mahender Kumar
Plant Breeding	Hills (I)	31.10.2021	Drs. L.V. Subba Rao and Jyothi Badri (IIRR) and Dr. BC Patra (NRRI)
	North western (II)	06.11.2020	Dr. L.V. Subba Rao, Dr AVSR Swamy, Dr. G Padmavathi, (IIRR), Dr. BC Patra (NRRI) and S Gopalakrishnan (IARI)
	Eastern (III)	18.11.2020	Dr. B.C. Patra, Dr. Krishnendu Chattopadhyaya (NRRI), Dr. A.S. Hari Prasad, Dr. K. Suneetha, Dr. P Senguttuvel (IIRR)
	North Eastern (IV)	19.11.2020	Dr. BC Patra, Dr. Krishnendu Chattopadhyaya (NRRI), Dr. A.S. Hari Prasad, Dr. P Senguttuvel (IIRR)
	Central (V)	26.11.2020	Drs. L.V. Subba Rao, Jyothi Badri and Divya Balakrishnan (IIRR) and Krishnendu Chattopadhyay (NRRI)
	Western (VI)	24.11.2020	Drs. L.V. Subba Rao, J. Aravind Kumar and Jyothi Badri (IIRR) and S.K. Dash (NRRI)
	Southern –I (VII-1)	03.12.2020	Drs. L.V. Subba Rao, C. Gireesh, Abdul R Fiyaz and Divya Balakrishnan (IIRR) and S.K. Dash (NRRI)
	Southern –II (VII-2)	19.12.2020	Drs. L.V. Subba Rao, M.S. Anantha, Abdul R Fiyaz and Divya Balakrishnan (IIRR) and S.K. Dash (NRRI)
	Maruteru	31.08.2020	Dr. A.V.S.R. Swamy
	ARI, Rajendranagar	31.12.2020	Drs. L.V. Subba Rao, A.V.S.R. Swamy and Divya Balakrishnan

ITMU Activities, Copyrights and genetic stocks

ITMU Activities

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed:

Following the ICAR Guidelines for Intellectual Property Management and Technology Transfer/Commercialization 2014, ICAR - Indian Institute of Rice Research, Hyderabad has signed two Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) on 20.11.2020 for licensing ICAR-IIRR developed rice line INGR15002 with two companies viz., (i) Ankur Seeds Pvt. Ltd (ii) Bioseed Research India (DSCL). INGR15002 developed in the background of PR114 with resistance to leaf blast and neck blast and found that it carry novel blast resistance genes *i.e.*, Pi68. The DRR-BL-31 line has been registered as INGR15002 by Plant Germplasm Registration Committee (PGRC) of Indian Council of Agricultural Research on April 21, 2015.

Dr. M. Sheshu Madhav, Principal Scientist (Biotechnology) & Chairman of ITMU, IIRR participated in Virtual Workshop and Annual Review Meeting of ABIs/

ZTMCs/ ITMUs under ICAR institutes of Crop Science Division during 9th -10th October, 2020.

Copyrights

On 5th October, 2020, a copyright for the software on A web based Rice Expert system for major varieties, pests and diseases of Rice crop-<http://www.ricexpert.in>.

A web-based rice expert system has been developed using rule based Artificial Intelligence system for diagnosing insect pest and disease problems of rice crop. This expert system consists of series of questions and answers to diagnose the problem, to browse directly major pests/diseases/varieties, to access information on better crop protection measures, commonly used pesticides for rice and frequently asked questions. The questionnaire was aided with drop down boxes along with images of symptoms of pests and diseases for easy identification of the symptoms. This facility is therefore expected to aid and enhance the performance of progressive farmers

and agricultural extension personnel and reduce the time required to tackle biotic stresses without waiting for an expert advice. Further, this system can be integrated with mobile phones to reach each and every farmer of the country.

Genetic Stocks

The XXXIInd meeting of Plant Germplasm Registration Committee (PGRC) was held on 21st Dec, 2020 on virtual mode at ICAR-NBPGR, New Delhi under the Chairmanship of Dr. T.R. Sharma, DDG (CS), ICAR. In the meeting, DDG emphasized that efforts should be made to promote the registration of trait specific germplasm, not only from ICAR institutes but from other organizations like SAUs, CSIR,

DBT and DST. Any line, which is the parent of any released variety, can be considered for registration for any trait as per the guidelines, provided that the resultant variety is not a registered for the said trait. The following two rice lines of ICAR-IIRR (Dr. M. Sheshu Madhav) that were selections of single EMS induced Samba Mahsuri mutant line in M₂ and advanced to M₈ through panicle to row method were recommended and approved for registration as genetic stocks.

1. IC0635696 (INGR20079-11) (SC-11/SP-70/TI-26/SB-8)-Higher culm strength
2. IC0635695 (INGR20080) (ShB-1/ SB-5)-Tolerance to sheath blight

Salient features of the registered genetic stocks

Identification of novel genetic stock, ShB-1 for sheath blight tolerance from mutant lines of Samba Mahsuri Madhav, M.S.,^{1*} Laha, G.S.,¹ Subba Rao, L.V.,¹ Sundaram, R.M.,¹ Padmakumari A.P.,¹ Senguttuvel, P.,¹ Patel H.K.² and Sonti, R.V.²

¹ICAR- Indian Institute of Rice Research, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad-30

²CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad-07

Samba Mahsuri (BPT 5204) is a mega variety highly popular in South and Eastern India, having medium slender grain type with most acceptable cooking and eating quality. However it is highly susceptible to many biotic and abiotic stresses. Among the biotic constraints, sheath blight is continues to be the major challenge in the rice productivity. Host plant resistance cannot be exploited due to the unavailability of resistance sources in the rice gene pool. To obtain novel resistant/tolerant sources for sheath blight, 10,500 EMS induced mutant population was developed in the genetic background of Samba Mahsuri. The mutagenized population (10,500 M₂ lines) was screened for sheath blight tolerance under field and laboratory conditions (detached leaf method) during the years of 2013-2015. A total of 13 (M₉) promising EMS mutant lines showed tolerances against sheath blight disease. Among the 13 entries, ShB-1 showed mean score of '0' for sheath blight tolerance whereas Samba Mahsuri (wild type) showed mean score of 9.0 (Fig. 1). ShB-1 also screened with 10 most virulent and diverse *R. solani* isolates (TN14-1, RNR 13-F, TTB-1, WGL-12-1, Gosaba-1, Kaul, PNT, Jamalpur-Bangar and Imphal-1) collected from various hotspot regions of India and showed resistance with a mean score of 2.84 and whereas wild type, TN1 (susceptible check)

and Tetep (resistant check) showed mean score of 9.0, 9.0 and 4.45 respectively. Further, this mutant line screened at four hotspot locations (Kaul, Pantnagar, Chinsura and Monkompur) of India, which revealed mean score of 3.0. Whereas agro-morphological traits and grain type of ShB-1 was similar to that of Samba Mahsuri (wild type). For the estimation of genomic similarity with wild type, a total of 130 SSR markers, which spread uniformly across the genome revealed 97% genomic similarity with wild type. Through MutMap analysis mutated locus on chromosome-1 was identified.

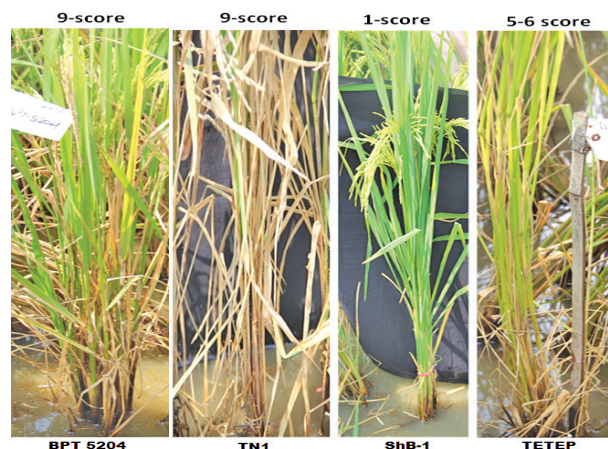


Fig. 1: Phenotypic screening of ShB-1 for sheath blight tolerance under field conditions

The identified mutant line (ShB-1) can be served as best genetic resource in rice breeding programme as there

are no reports on existence of absolute resistance genetic material in rice.

Identification and characterization of novel genetic resource for strong culm, TI-26 from mutagenized population of Samba Mahsuri

Madhav, M.S.,^{1*} Laha, G.S.,¹ Subba Rao, L.V.,¹ Sundaram, R.M.,¹ Padmakumari A.P.,¹ Senguttuvel, P.,¹ Patel H.K.² and Sonti, R.V.²

¹ICAR- Indian Institute of Rice Research, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad-30

²CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad-07

Strong culm is one of most important agronomical trait and directly involved in lodging resistance. To obtain novel genetic sources for strong culm, 10,500 EMS induced mutant population was developed in the genetic background of Samba Mahsuri. For the identification of strong culm mutants, the diameter and strength of the culm was estimated using digital sliding Vernier caliper and prostate tester during the years of 2012-2017. A total of seventeen stable strong culm mutants (M_0) were identified. These lines were assessed for morphological, physiological and anatomical characters. Among them a novel genetic stock, TI-26 has more culm diameter and culm strength (11.5mm, 31.5 Nu/m²) than the wild type (5.1mm, 25 Nu/m²) (Fig. 1). Anatomical characters studied under scanning electron microscope (SEM) revealed an increase in the thickness of lignified epi/sub epidermal and lignified parenchymatous tissue layers which explain the strong culm nature of the mutant. Prominently increased xylem diameter and increased distance between vascular bundles was observed in the mutant (63 μ m and 388 μ m)

compared to BPT (44.15 μ m and 342 μ m). Strong culm mutant also showed higher photosynthetic rate (9.8 μ mol CO₂ m² S⁻¹) as compared to wild type (3.5 μ mol CO₂ m² S⁻¹). Whereas, transcription rate of the mutant was lower (0.40 μ mol H₂O m² S⁻¹) as compared to wild type (1.80 μ mol H₂O m² S⁻¹). The genotyping of TI-26 with 130 SSR markers which were uniformly spread across genome revealed 97% of similarity with BPT 5204. PCR based allele mining of *SCM2* and *SCM3* (reported strong culm genes) revealed the presence of SNPs and indels, some of the variations were also lead to the amino acid changes in the protein. Hence, we predicted that this mutant has different alleles of reported genes. The MutMap analysis of this mutant revealed the presence of mutated loci on chromosome-5 & 6. TI-26 shows strong culm nature which was deciphered through physical analysis, anatomical features and molecular characterization. The identified mutant (TI-26) having strong culm is a novel genetic resource and can be used as a donor in rice improvement programmes for imparting strong culm trait.

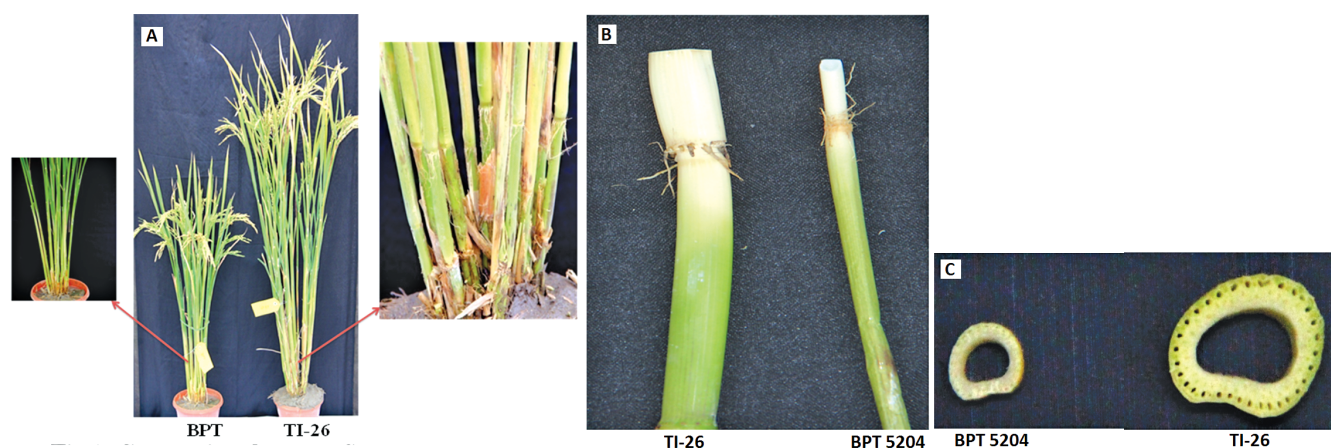


Fig. 1: A: Comparison between Strong Culm Mutant (TI-26) and Wild Type (BPT 5204) B: Comparison of stems of wild type and mutant (TI-26) & C: Section cutting of mutant and wild type

DUS tests in Rice-Kharif 2020 at ICAR-IIRR

A total of 10 candidate varieties for DUS tests in rice were evaluated under the first year during *Kharif* 2020 against 15 reference varieties at IIRR, Hyderabad. In addition, 25 new varieties against 30 reference varieties under second year of testing, 5 VCKs against 8 reference varieties and DUS characterization of 8 Farmers' varieties were included in the DUS testing as per DUS test guidelines. Monitoring of DUS field plots of IIRR (ICRISAT campus) was conducted (on virtual mode) by the PPV & FRA, New Delhi on 17th December, 2020.



Virtual Monitoring of DUS tests of ICAR-IIRR on 17th December, 2020

DUS team of IIRR (Drs. L.V. Subba Rao, J. Aravind Kumar and Jyothi Badri) also participated in virtual field monitoring of DUS testing centers across the country.

Date	Location
6 th -7 th October, 2020	DUS 1 st web meeting at IIRR
14 th October, 2020	DUS Online Monitoring, IARI Regional Station, Karnal
17 th October, 2020	Online monitoring of DUS Testing of Rice at NRRI, Cuttack
19 th October, 2020	Online field monitoring of DUS upland rice plot of ICAR, Manipur Centre <i>kharif</i> 2020
21 st October, 2020	Online field monitoring of DUS Lowland rice plot of ICAR, Nagaland Centre <i>kharif</i> 2020
15 th December, 2020	Online field monitoring of DUS monitoring of AAU, Jorhat, <i>kharif</i> 2020
17 th December, 2020	Online field monitoring of DUS monitoring of ICAR-IIRR, <i>kharif</i> 2020

Breeder Seed Production in rice-Kharif 2020

During *kharif* 2020, IIRR undertook breeder seed production of 23 released varieties of IIRR. This season, BSP was carried out in farmer's field due to COVID constraints at IIRR farm of ICRISAT campus. Allotment of quantity of breeder seed to IIRR was highest for DRR Dhan 42 (IR 64 Drt-1) followed by DRR Dhan 44, Sampada and DRR Dhan 50 to the tune of 115, 44.4, 30.9 and 28.8 quintals respectively. Monitoring of BSP plots in farmer's fields was taken up by team of breeders (Drs. L.V. Subba Rao, A.V.R.S. Swamy and Abdul R Fiyaz) from IIRR, NSC personnel at various dates during the crop growing period (Table 1).

Table 1: Monitoring schedule of BSP plots during *kharif* 2020

Dates	BSP plot Location
23.10.2020	Valigonda (vill), Nalgonda dist., TS
28.10.2020	Korukonda (Vill), East Godavari dist., AP
7.11.2020	Kothakota (vill), Mahabubagar dist., TS
7.11.2020	Moinabad (vill), Ranga Reddy dist., TS
19.11.2020	Vikarabad dist., TS
19.11.2020	Nagulapally (vill), Ranga Reddy dist., TS



Seed Production Monitoring at Vikarabad and Nagulapally on 19 November, 2020

BSP monitoring on 19th November, 2020

Outreach activities

Dr. B. Nirmala distributed seed to 100 SC beneficiary farmers of Gaigollapally village of Kusumanchi Mandal, Khammam District, Telangana on 17th October, 2020 under ICAR-IIRR-SCSP. Koonaram sannalu seed was distributed



రైతులకు ఉచితంగా సోనా వరి విత్తనాలు



ప్రజావక్షం/కూనుమంచి : భారతీయ వరి పరిశోధన సంస్థ ఐఐఆర్ఆర్ రాజేంద్ర నగర్, హైద్రాబాద్ వారి సహకారంతో షెడ్యూల్డ్ కులాల ఉప ప్రణాళిక ఎస్సీసీపిలో భాగంగా ఖమ్మంజిల్లాలోని గైగొల్లపల్లి గ్రామంలో పరి పండించే షెడ్యూల్డ్ కులాల రైతులకు వనివారం ఉచితంగా తెలంగాణ సోనా వరి విత్తనాలను పంపిణీ చేశారు. వరి సాగు చేసే ఎన్ని రైతులు నాణ్యమైన విత్త నాలు వాడి మెరుగైన సాగు పద్ధతులు పాటించి తమ ఆదాయాన్ని మెరుగు పర్చుకోవాలని అధికారులు తెలిపారు. ఈ కార్యక్రమంలో పద్ధకం ఎంచూర్తి ఆఫీసర్ డాక్టర్ బి. నిర్మల, సీనియర్ శాస్త్రవేత్త ఐఐఆర్ఆర్, గ్రామ సర్పంచ్ శ్యాంసుందర్రెడ్డి, ఎంపీటిసి, ఎస్సీఎస్సీ సీని జాబ్బయలు, స్థానిక సిబ్బంది రమేష్, దేవరకొండ కిరణ్, గ్రామ రైతులు పాల్గొన్నారు.

On 5th November 2020, Training program on preparation and use of biofertilizers was held at Marri chettu thanda and Achamkunta thanda, 63 farmers participated



Girij Nagar Thanda



Korra Thanda

- On 7th November, 2020 Contact Farmers training program was organized under SCSP scheme
- On 13th November, 2020, training on Good Agricultural Practices was organised in Vanamvari Kistapuram village of Mudigonda mandal of Khammam district of Telangana and inputs (seeds) were also distributed.



Contact Farmers' training Program under SCSP - 7 November 2020

- ATMA sponsored Training of farmers under extension reforms on 18/11/2020 at ICAR-IIRR. 25 farmers participated in the training.
- Dr. B. Nirmala organised a training program on 'Integrated Crop Management in Paddy' under SCSP with 75 beneficiary farmers at KVK, Perambalur, Tamil Nadu, during 18-20 December, 2020.



DRR Dhan 48 in Farmer's field

DRR Dhan 48 is under cultivation in farmer's field during *Kharif* 2020. Dr. Jyothi Badri, Scientist (Plant Breeding), visited the field of Shri. Sangi Nagaiah (Aroor village, Valigonda mandal and Yadadri-Bhuvanagiri district of Telangana) on 1st, 26th and 29th November, 2020. The crop was taken up under late sown conditions (date of sowing: 19th July, 2020 and date of planting: 22nd August, 2020). Because of late sowings, it escaped flood situations that happened

due to heavy untimely rains. Dr. Jyothi Badri undertook roughing in DRR Dhan 48 to maintain seed purity and explained the importance of regular roughing in seed production fields to the farmers. Farmers appreciated the traits of DRR Dhan 48 in terms of its desirable plant height (slightly shorter than BPT 5204), resistance to bacterial blight (no plant protection measures were taken up) and grain type akin to BPT 5204 and are expecting good returns based on present crop condition.



DST sponsored-Technological development of tribal farm women

Various Project conducted under DST sponsored-Technological development of tribal farm women in Deverakonda Mandal Nalgonda District were coordinated by Dr. Amtul Waris PI the project.



Seed distribution programme dated 12th November, 2020



Bowman's Water pipes distribution dated 11th November, 2020



Yield data collection (*Kharif* 2020) dated 1st December, 2020

On farm training programme on *Trichoderma* production dated 16th December, 2020



Trichoderma production unit



Training programme On-Farm *Trichoderma* production at Jarupala Thanda



Trichoderma distribution programme at Rollabanda Thanda

National Farmers' day-2020 at ICAR-IIRR, Hyderabad

The Department of Soil Science has organized National Farmers' day (Kisan Diwas) on 23rd December, 2020 at Rajendranagar, Hyderabad to provide knowledge on soil testing and soil test based fertilizer recommendation with the AI based soil testing instrument. Dr. Brajendra has welcomed the dignitaries and introduced about the instrument "**KRISHI RASTAA**" (Rapid Automated Soil Testing & Agronomy Advisory), developed by Krishi Tantra (M/s Klonec Automation Systems Pvt. Ltd.), an Agri-Tech start-up company, which was specialized in soil technology, farm data acquisition and related cloud services and building disruptive solutions for soil analysis; Dr. K. Surekha, Head of Soil Science Section stressed upon the need and importance of soil testing and analysis. Dr. Amtul

Waris emphasized the significance of National farmer's day. In continuation to this, demonstration and training on KRISHI RASTAA was given by Mr. Sandeep Konda (CEO), Mr. Anand (COO), Dr. Manoj Kumar (Soil Scientist), Mr. Nikhil and Mr. Sandesh of Krishi Tantra team. It is an AI based, sensor driven soil analysis system, capable of analyzing 11 parameters (macro nutrients, micro nutrients, EC, pH and soil organic carbon) in less than 40 minutes. By using this, soil samples collected from farmer's fields were analysed for eleven essential elements, analysis results are stored on the cloud and sent as an SMS to respective farmers in their regional language in no time. The meeting was attended by scientists, technical staff, project staff and students from different sections.



Webinars/Meetings/Trainings

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Virtual training on “Sensitization on AICRIP intranet (www.aicrip-intranet.in) functionalities to activate PI privileges” was organized on 23rd December, 2020 at IIRR.

A group of seventeen members comprising of PIs of AICRIP, scientists, technical officers of IIRR actively participated in the training programme. Important functionalities of AICRIP intranet were demonstrated with the admin and user privileges. PI privilege of Intranet was demonstrated menu by menu in sequence with test PI privilege.



Virtual SARR meeting on 15th October, 2020

SARR organized a Webinar on “Direct-seeded rice (DSRC) for economic and environmental sustainability of rice production” by Dr. Virender Kumar, IRRI on October 15, 2020.



A Webinar on “Direct-Seeded Rice(DSRC) for economic and environmental sustainability of rice production” by Dr. Virender Kumar, IRRI - 15 October, 2020

Webinar on Direct Seeded Rice (DSRC) for economic and environmental sustainability of rice production” – 15th October, 2020



Virtual Preliminary Meeting on Basmati Quality Assessment on 2nd November, 2020

IIRR Newsletter

Panorama of Institute Activities

- The Institute celebrated 150th birth anniversary of Father of Nation “Mahatma Gandhi” and Swatchta Hi Seva on 2nd October, 2020.



Mahila Kisan Divas: As part of Mahila Kisan Divas, 63 farm women were felicitated for their multiple roles as farmers, home- makers and technology adopters. Mahila Kisan Divas was celebrated on 15th October, 2020 by ICAR-IIRR to signify the important contribution of Women Farmers for achieving food and nutritional security of the nation. Three levels of programs were organized by the Institute on this occasion. An e-poster competition was organized on the themes of, “Role of Women in Agriculture & Technologies for Women Farmers” which drew enthusiastic participation by the scientists and project personnel of the Institute with interesting titles like, Role of Women in Indian Rice Farming, Women in Agriculture-

the unsung warriors for food security, Farming a GIFT of WOMEN - call it a legacy, Developing She Teams and Empowering Farm Women with Soil Testing Kits, Agro techniques for welfare of women in rice cultivation and Women’s entrepreneurship development through Rice Based Health Care Products. In the ICAR-IIRR project villages, farm women were felicitated for their multiple roles as farmers, home- makers and technology adopters. Their crucial role in adapting to changing climate and technological innovations was highlighted and they were motivated to learn, adopt and adapt to mechanized and high value agriculture. The program was coordinated by Dr. Amtul Waris



15th October, 2020 – Mahila Kisan diwas



On the Occasion of Food & Agriculture Organization (FAO)@75 & World Food Day - 16th October, 2020

ICAR-Indian Institute of Rice Research observed Vigilance Awareness Week “SATARK BHARAT, SAMRIDDH BHARAT (Vigilant India, Prosperous India)”



Virtual Vigilance Awareness week Pledge taking – 27th October, 2020



Closing ceremony of Vigilance awareness week – 2nd November, 2020

Staff News

Promotions

- **Dr. J Aravind Kumar**, Senior Scientist is promoted to next higher grade of Principal Scientist in the pay scale of Rs. 37400-67000+RGP of Rs. 10000/- (Level 14) w.e.f 26.04.2018.
- **Dr. Jyothi Badri**, Scientist is promoted to next higher grade of Senior Scientist in the pay scale of Rs. 15600-39100+RGP of Rs. 8000/- (Level 12) w.e.f 15.12.2018
- **Dr. M.S. Anantha**, Scientist is promoted to next higher grade of Senior Scientist in the pay scale of Rs. 15600-39100+RGP of Rs. 8000/- (Level 12) w.e.f 15.12.2018.
- **Dr. S. Arun Kumar**, Scientist is promoted to next higher grade of Senior Scientist in the pay scale of Rs. 15600-39100+RGP of Rs. 8000/- (Level 12) w.e.f 15.12.2018.
- **Dr. S. Bandeppa**, Scientist is promoted to next higher grade of Scientist in the pay scale of Rs.

15600-39100+RGP of Rs. 7000/- (Level 11) w.e.f. 01.01.2019.

Deputations

- **Dr. P. Revathi**, Senior Scientist is selected for Post Doctoral Fellowship (PDF) at IARI, New Delhi for the period 12.10.2020 to 11.10.2021.
- **Dr. Shaik N Meera**, Principal Scientist appointed for the post of Senior Technical expert on Digital Agriculture and extension system at International Fund for Agriculture development (IFAD) at Cairo, Egypt for a period of one year from 01.12.2020 to 30.11.2021.

Awards

- **Dr. M. S. Anantha** and his team secured First Best Oral Presentation Award for their work on Allele mining strategy to identify the low phosphorus tolerant introgression lines with superior alleles in rice in the International E-Conference on ‘Advances and Future Outlook in Biotechnology and Crop

Improvement for Sustainable Productivity' organized by the Department of Biotechnology and Crop Improvement, College of Horticulture, Bengaluru during 24-27th November, 2020.

- Executive Council (EC) of the Indian Society of Genetics and Plant Breeding (ISGPB), New Delhi has selected **Dr. R.M. Sundaram, Principal Scientist (Biotechnology)** as Member of the Editorial Board (EB) of the Indian Journal of Genetics and Plant Breeding (IJGPB) for the session 2020-21.
- Contribution of **Dr. Brajendra Parmar, Principal Scientist (Soil Science)** on The International Code of Conduct for the Sustainable Use and Management of Fertilizers has been published from UNFAO, Rome, Italy.
- **Dr. M. Sheshu Madhav** has been recognized as 'Fellow' of the Association of Rice Research Workers, Cuttack, Odisha under Plant Science Category during First Indian Rice Congress. Also conferred with the **Rythu Nestam** award for 2020 under Scientists category.
- **Dr. G. Padmavathi** and team (V. Jhansi Lakshmi, L. V. Subba Rao and M. Sheshu Madhav) bagged the **Best poster award (First)** under the theme "Enhancing rice productivity and quality" in 1st Indian Rice Congress-2020, an International Conference organized at ICAR-National Rice Research Institute, Cuttack, Odisha during 8-9th December, 2020.
- **Dr. Gobinath**, Scientist (Soil Science) has been awarded the "Jagar Nath Raina Memorial award for All India Research at Doctorate level-2020" for Ph.D. thesis work by SADHNA (Society for Advancement

of Human and Nature)- Dr. Y.S. Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry, Solan (Himachal Pradesh). This award carries a cash prize, certificate and plaque.

Transfers

- Mr. Bidyasagar Mandal, Senior Technical Assistant transferred from IIRR to ICAR - NRRI, Cuttack, Odisha

Retirements

- The following officials retired from the Council's service on attaining the age of Superannuation on 31.10.2020
 1. Dr. S.M. Balachandran, Principal Scientist
 2. Shri. Z. Shankaraiah, Skilled Supporting Staff
 3. Smt. Ch. Ramulamma, TSL
 4. Smt. Laxamma, TSL



Virtual Felicitation function of Dr. S.M. Balachandran on 30th October, 2020

- The following officials retired from the Council's service on attaining the age of Superannuation on 31.12.2020
 1. Dr. S.R. Voleti, Principal Scientist & Director (A)
 2. Shri. A. Narsinga Rao, Technical Officer

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