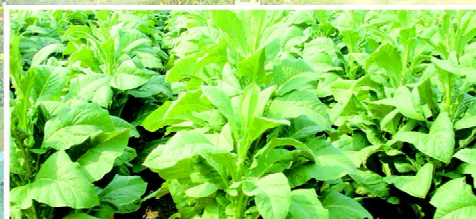




ICAR-CTRI

News



ICAR - CENTRAL TOBACCO RESEARCH INSTITUTE - 533105, A.P.

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From the Director's Desk

Rejoicing 75 Years of ICAR-CTRI's Glorious History and Roadmap for Future Farming in Commercial Crops

ICAR-CTRI celebrated its **Platinum Jubilee** on 13th December, 2023 to reminisce the glorious years of success in tobacco research, to evaluate the available technology and the future needs. Several esteemed dignitaries, namely Dr. D. K. Yadava, ADG (CC & Seed), ICAR, New Delhi, Sri. Yashwanth Chidipothu, Chairman, Tobacco Board, Guntur, and Sri. Margani Bharatram, Member of Parliament, Rajahmundry were graced the celebration. The ceremony included the unveiling of the 75-year pylon, the inauguration of the digital exhibition, and the release of ten institute publications. The scientists, technical, administrative, and other staff from ICAR-CTRI Headquarters, Research Stations, AINPT centers, Former Directors and retired staff of the institute, Tobacco Board officials, trade representatives, and tobacco stakeholders attended the program. Dr. K. Deo Singh, Dr. V. Krishnamurthy, and Dr. T.G.K. Murthy, Former Directors of ICAR-CTRI, and Dr. R. Lakshminarayana, Former Project Coordinator, AICRP(T) were felicitated by the dignitaries. The retired personnel Sri. Y.V. Suryanarayana and Sri. R. Sudhakar (technical); Sri. M. Rambabu and Sri. A. Sreedhar (administrative) and Sri Kotababu and Sri E Radha Krishna (Skilled Support Staff) were felicitated on this occasion. Progressive farmers from the different tobacco growing regions were felicitated viz., Sri. G. Lakshmana Rao (NLS), Sri. K. Satyanarayana (NBS), Sri. G. Konda Reddy (SLS), Sri. N. Surendra Mohan Rao (SBS), Sri. S.P. Dharmaraj (KLS) and M. Palani Kumar (Vedasandur). The event also saw the honoring of progressive farmers from various tobacco-growing regions. The celebration was a resounding success and a testament to the hard work and dedication of the ICAR-CTRI team.



In commemoration of platinum jubilee, ICAR-Central Tobacco Research Institute (ICAR-NIRCA) organized an International Conference on "**Frontiers in Tobacco and Commercial Agriculture towards Preparedness for Future Farming**" from 14-16 December 2023 at Adikavi Nannaya University, Rajahmundry, in association with the Indian Society of Tobacco Science (ISTS), Rajahmundry. The conference aimed to bring together leading academicians, researchers, scholars, students, and farmers to exchange and share their research findings, ideas, and experiences on different aspects of commercial agriculture. The primary goal was to formulate a way forward for future farming in commercial crops (tobacco, chilli, turmeric, castor, and ashwagandha). The inaugural ceremony was graced by Chief Guest Dr. S.K. Singh, Director, ICAR-IIHR, Bengaluru. Other dignitaries were Dr. M. Sheshu Madhav, President, ISTS & Director ICAR-CTRI; Dr. T. Janaki Ram, Vice-Chancellor, Dr.YSR Horticultural University; Prof. K. Padma Raju, Vice-Chancellor, Adikavi Nannaya University; Dr. R. Dinesh, Director, ICAR-IISR; Sri. G. Krishna Kumar, Vice President, ISTS & Vice President, Leaf Operations, ITC Ltd.; Dr. Shaik N. Meera, Director, ICAR-ATARI - Zone X, Hyderabad; Dr. Leandro Silveria, AOL, Thailand; Sri M. Prabhakar Rao, General Manager, GPI; Dr. R.K. Mathur, Director, IIOPR, Dr. Neeraja Prabhakar, Vice-Chancellor, Sri Konda Laxman Telangana State Horticultural University, Mulugu, Dr. P. Anand Kumar, Former Director, NIPB, New Delhi and Dr. P.S. Brahmanand, Project Director, WTC, ICAR-IARI, New Delhi.

The conference had five major themes viz., genetics and genomic strategies for enhancing commercial value, new vistas in crop management for resilient commercial agriculture, new perspectives in post-harvest technology and value addition, next-generation technologies for information dissemination and digital agriculture, innovative market interventions for commercial agriculture. The plenary lectures and invited lead lectures were given to provide insights into the various themes of the conference. Series of panel discussion namely (i) **Tobacco: Invigorating Indian tobacco as a global giant: Problems and prospects;** (ii) **Turmeric & Chilli** and (iii) **Ashwagandha & Castor** by inviting the experts from different fields to identify the various problems and prospects for enhancing the exports, were held during the conference, which highlighted the key issues which imparting the commercializing the farming in the mandated crops. An exhibition on the latest technologies, products, scientific equipment, and farm machinery was arranged for the benefit of delegates. The conference concluded with the plenary session on 16.12.23.

Sheshu Madhav
(M. SHESHU MADHAV)

Published

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RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Release of Varieties

- Two high yielding FCV tobacco varieties viz., FCR-15 (CTRI Shresta) (resistant to TMV, 2400 kg/ha) and FCJ-11 (CTRI Naveena) (3300kg/ha), one high yielding burley tobacco variety YB-22 (Vijetha) (2900 kg/ha), one high yielding bidi tobacco variety Nandyal Pogaku-2 (ABD-132) (2300 kg/ha) with low smoke tar constituents for Andhra Pradesh were released by State Variety Release Committee (SVRC) on 19.07.2023.

New initiatives in commercial agriculture

- To address the challenges posed by climate change and evolving consumer preferences, to bolster exports in tobacco and other mandated crops, the institute spearheaded new initiatives such as research collaboration with M/s Alliance One Industries India Ltd. for the development and evaluation of burley hybrids. Approaches like genome editing, multi-omics, evaluation of ashwagandha, chilli germplasm, etc. are the major highlights.
- The institute has embarked on novel initiatives such as assessing carbon sequestration, potential and greenhouse gas emissions in tobacco-based production systems, drone-based precise pesticide application utilizing unmanned aerial vehicles, plant pest interaction, biological control of sucking insect pests in collaboration with ICAR-NBAIR, sensor-based drip irrigation, rhizomicrobiome characterization, assessment of new weedicides.
- New avenues of collaboration commenced with ICAR-NIANP, Bangalore; ICMR-NIN, Hyderabad; M.R. Biochem Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad; CSIR-IICT, Hyderabad, focusing on diverse research aspects viz., tobacco leaf protein, tobacco seed oil, suckericides, castor seed oil, chilli biocolorant, and more.
- The institute strengthened its ties with various stakeholders through policy papers and cohosting of the co-incubation center of a-IDEA of ICAR-NAARM, Hyderabad.

MEETINGS/ TRAININGS/ SEMINARS

- An "Interactive Session on Soil Fertility and Health, Fertilizer Recommendations in relation to Soil Fertility Status in FCV Tobacco Cultivation in AP" was conducted by Tobacco Board, Guntur at ICAR-CTRI, Rajahmundry on 07.07.2023 to tobacco farmers.
- Dr. D.K. Yadava, Hon'ble ADG (CC & Seed), ICAR, New Delhi inaugurated the 'Tobacco Seed Portal' of ICAR-CTRI on 13.7.2023.



- Seminar on "Nutrition Scenario in India-Tools and Methods in Food Analysis" by Dr.J. Sreenivasa Rao, Deputy Director (Scientist-E), Food Chemistry Division, National Institute of Nutrition (ICMR), Hyderabad on 14th July, 2023.



- ICAR-CTRI live telecasted 14th installment of the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana on 27.7.2023.
- The XXVI Biennial Workshop of All India Network Research Project on Tobacco (AINPT) was organized on 21.09.2023 at ICAR-CTRI, Rajahmundry.



- The Institute Research Committee (IRC) meeting of the institute was held during 22-24 September, 2023 at ICAR-CTRI, Rajahmundry.



- ICAR-CTRI organised an Interaction meeting with Dr. N.K. Singh, National Professor, ICAR-NIPB, IARI, New Delhi on 12th October 2023.



- One day training and demonstration programme was conducted for Ashwagandha farmers of Tamil Nadu by the State Medicinal Plants Board, Chennai and CTRI RS, Veda sandur on 19.10.2023
- a-IDEA, Technology Business Incubator of ICAR-NAARM, Hyderabad and ICAR-CTRI jointly organized Interface Meet with 'Producer Organization Promoting Institutions' on 'Transformative Interventions in Value Chain and Business Development of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPO)' on 09.10.2023 and FPOs/ FPCs, Farmers, Startups Immersion Programme at ICAR-CTRI, Rajahmundry on 17.11.2023.



- Swachhata activities were organized during 2-31st October and 16-31st December 2023.



Celebrations

- Hindi Diwas was celebrated by Official Language Implementation Committee at ICAR-CTRI, Rajahmundry on 26.09.2023.



- Mahila Kisan Diwas and World Food Day were organised during 15-16th October, 2023.
- Integrity pledge and Vigilance Awareness Week was observed from 30.10.2023 to 5.11.2023
- Constitution Day was observed by reading the Preamble on 26.11.2023
- 'World Soil Day' was celebrated on 05.12.2023



QRT

The QRT Team visited ICAR-CTRI RS, Jeelugumilli and KVK at Kandukur on 10.07.2023 and ICAR-CTRI RS, Guntur on 11-07-2023 and reviewed the research work in Andhra Pradesh. QRT team prepared the draft report at ICAR-CTRI, Rajahmundry during 26-27 August, 2023. QRT report was submitted by Dr. J.S. Sandhu, Chairman, QRT to Dr. Himanshu Patak, Secretary, DARE and DG, ICAR on 04.10.2023.



QRT at Jeelugumilli



QRT at Kandukur

Capacity Building programmes

- Five days training programme on 'FCV Tobacco Production Technology' was conducted for nine newly recruited technical staff of M/s. Polisetty Somasundaram, Guntur at ICAR-CTRI RS, Hunsur during 21-25th August, 2023.



- Scientists of ICAR-CTRI visited the burley nursery fields affected due to continuous rains in the NLS and SLS areas of AP on 11.08.2023.



- A team of scientists visited Michaung cyclone damage areas and suggested remedial measures to FCV tobacco farmers on 5-6 December, 2023.



- ITMU of ICAR-CTRI, Rajahmundry organized a one day awareness programme on 'Entrepreneurship Opportunities in Coastal Areas of Andhra Pradesh' on 27.09.2023.



SCSP and TSP programmes

ICAR-CTRI implemented SCSP and TSP programmes. Different capacity building programmes were conducted and critical inputs were distributed to the beneficiaries.



SCSP at Kandukur



SCSP at Vedasandur



TSP at Dinhata



TSP at Hunsur

Research collaborations and functional industry-institutional linkages

ICAR-CTRI signed MoUs with ICAR-NAARM, Hyderabad; AKNU, Rajahmundry; SKLTSHU, Telangana; ITC Ltd., Guntur; Krishna Agro Bio Products Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad; M/s. Alliance One Industries India Pvt. Ltd., Guntur; M R Biochem Pvt. Ltd. Hyderabad and GPI Ltd., Guntur.

Copyright

- Copyright granted to the software titled "ICAR-CTRI Digital Library: an E-resource Image Gallery (SW-16833/2023).

Awards

- Dr. M. Sheshu Madhav, Director, ICAR-CTRI was elected as Fellow of National Academy of Agricultural Sciences, New Delhi
- Dr. L.K. Prasad, Principal Scientist & Head, Division of Post Harvest & Value Addition was conferred with Reviewer of the Year-2023, Current World Environment (ISSN:0973-4929, Online ISSN:2320-8031)
- Dr. Anindita Paul, Scientist (Agricultural Chemicals) received "Best Oral Presentation Award" in XVI Agricultural Congress & ASC EXPO -2023 held during 10-13 October, 2023 at Kochi, Kerala



- Dr. P. Manivel received "Best Scientist (Medicinal Plants) award" from Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu on 4th November, 2023 at Raj Bhawan, Tamil Nadu, organized by Agricultural Scientific Tamil Society, New Delhi



Best Oral/ Poster Awards

Best Oral/ Poster awards in the International Conference on 'Frontiers in Tobacco and Commercial Agriculture Towards Preparedness for Future Farming (ICFTCA)' organized by ICAR-CTRI and ISTS during 14-16 December 2023 were conferred to:

- Dr. L.K. Prasad, Principal Scientist & Head, Division of Post Harvest & Value Addition received "Best poster award" for the paper entitled "Leaf Chemical Quality Index (LCQI) for Assessment and Seasonal Monitoring of FCV Tobacco Quality"



- Dr. M. Mahadevaswamy, Principal Scientist (Agronomy) received "Best Poster Presentation Award" for the paper entitled "Impact of climate change on FCV tobacco production trends in southern transitional zone of Karnataka".
- Dr. H. Ravisankar, Principal Scientist (Computer Application) received "Best Oral Presentation Award" for the paper entitled "Soil Test Crop Response Based Online Fertilizer Recommendation System for FCV tobacco Yield Targets in Northern Light Soils of Andhra Pradesh"



- Dr. K. Prabhakara Rao Senior Scientist (Biotechnology) received "Best Oral Presentation Award" for the paper entitled "Towards the development of safer tobacco through genome editing"



- Shri K. Viswanatha Reddy, Scientist (Agricultural Economics) received "Best Oral Presentation Award" for the paper entitled "Crop size fixation in FCV tobacco: a proficient policy Instrument to ensure supply-demand balance and price stability in commercial crops"



- Dr. Anindita Paul, Scientist (Agricultural Chemicals) received "Best Poster Award" for the paper entitled "Novel approach for new generation pesticide detection in tobacco matrix by mass spectrometry"



KRISHI VIGYAN KENDRAS

KVK, Kalavacharla

- Six technologies were assessed in the farmers' fields through on-farm trails (OFTs)
- Fifteen frontline demonstrations (FLDs) and three capacity-building programs were conducted
- Awareness programmes on 'Soil Health Management', weather-based crop advisories, Natural farming-based training programmes were organized.
- Actively involved in awareness and demonstration programmes as part of Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra.



KVK, Kandukur

- Three on-farm testing of technologies were conducted.
- Four front-line demonstrations were organized and fifteen capacity-building training programmes were conducted.
- Two awareness programmes on the International Year of Millets were organized.
- Actively involved in Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra by creating awareness on PM-KISAN, PMPRANAM, nano-fertilizers and natural farming



PERSONALIA

Retirements

Following two employees of the Institute retired from the Council's service on attaining the age of superannuation during July-December, 2023.

SN	Name	Date
1	Nalluri Subbayamma	31.08.2023
2	P. Devanagaraju	31.10.2023