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FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



Dr. S. Satpathy, Director (Acting), CRIJAF

Jute has been in use as packaging material since time immemorial. Jute fibre is facing severe competition from cheaper synthetics. Jute agriculture itself is facing competition from other crops of more commercial value. Above all, jute farmers are small and marginal farmers, and most of the jute industries are employing the obsolete technologies. Therefore, diversification of the uses of jute has become an important thrust area of the R & D institutions like Central Research Institute for Jute and Allied Fibres (CRIJAF). CRIJAF is mandated to develop technologies to improve yield and quality of jute and allied fibres. It remains vigilant and responsive to changing scenario through development of novel technologies and by promoting problem-solving knowledge products. Jute varieties



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FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

and production technologies developed by CRIJAF have contributed a lot to achieve the landmark production of raw jute over 110 lakh bales/annum. Beyond the traditional uses, jute has gained importance in production of diversified value added products which earn more than Rs 2400 crores per annum and the trend is increasing. Currently, jute is cultivated an area of approximately 8.5 lakh ha in the country with an average productivity of 25.3 q/ha, while mesta (kenaf and roselle) is cultivated in an area of about 1.5 lakh ha and the average national productivity of the crop is around 11 q/ha. Moreover, couple of varieties of finer fibre quality (fineness less than 2.5 tex) have been developed in *tossa* jute, which can cater to the need of industry for producing value added diversified products.

I am happy to inform that, fresh emphasis has been focused on exploration of diverse areas of southern peninsular and northeastern region to enrich the genepool of jute and allied fibre crops to strengthen the future breeding programme. Four varieties viz., JROM 1 (Pradip) of *tossa* jute, JRCM 2 (Partho) of white jute, JBM 81 (Shakti) of kenaf and SUIN 037 (Ankur) of sunnhemp were released and notified for commercial cultivation in the country. A functional male sterile line of kenaf (*Hibiscus cannabinus* L) having high potential for hybrid development was identified as a spontaneous mutation.

The studies on the release pattern of non-exchangeable K from surface and sub-surface soils of Indo-Gangetic alluvial as influenced by 42 years of continuous jute-rice-wheat cropping system revealed that application of inorganic fertilizer with exclusion of K depletes the NPK pool under intensive cropping. Through drip irrigation, it was observed that micronutrient has significant positive effect on leaf length, number of leaf (an important parameter for fibre yield) and fibre yield of sisal.

Changes in spectrum of insect pests, diseases, weeds, natural enemies and antagonists, increased risk of invasion by exotic and migrant pests and pathogens, altered

development, morphology and reproduction, increased number of generations, loss of resistance in cultivars containing temperature-sensitive genes, extension of crop development season causing changes in crop-pest and disease synchrony and changes in inter-specific interactions at different trophic levels are some of the projected effects/impacts of climate change. In this direction, there were several insect pests and diseases being recorded in jute and allied fibre crops i.e. stem rot on roselle, bacterial leaf spot on jute seed crop and vascular wilt on flax. Similarly, prevalence of Hymenopteran parasitoid, *Protapanteles obliquae* on Bihar hairy caterpillar increased over the year in jute based cropping system.

The problem of jute retting in stagnant water has been well addressed by developing new talc based dry formulation of pectinolytic bacteria with enhanced shelf-life and easy transportability. This technology has been widely promoted in the farmers field at different jute growing parts in India.

During this period, CRIJAF has also organized several meetings, national training and demonstrations in collaboration with other departments to educate farmers and other stakeholders in jute and allied fibres production, protection and retting techniques. CRIJAF is entrusted with the responsibility of educating people through its publications on basic, strategic and applied research on jute. In this endeavour, the CRIJAF newsletter *JafNews* plays a vital role in disseminating the recent technologies at CRIJAF and elsewhere in India to faraway places, besides creating awareness about the ongoing research activities of CRIJAF.

I congratulate the editors for excellent compilation and editing of the *JafNews* in a more informative manner. I gratefully acknowledge the efforts of Prof. B. S. Mahapatra whose leadership materialized many important events and achievements for the institute during this period.

Date : 15.03.2014
Place : Barackpore



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MEETINGS/WORKSHOPS/TRAININGS etc.

National Seminar on Jute and Allied Fibres in Changing Times: Issues and Strategies

A national seminar on "Jute and Allied Fibres in Changing Times: Issues and Strategies" was organized by the Indian Natural Fibre Society at NIRJAFT, Kolkata in collaboration with CRIJAF, NIRJAFT and National Jute Board (NJB) during 3-5th January, 2013. Dr. S. Ayyappan, Secretary, DARE & DG, ICAR inaugurated the seminar. Prof. Swapan Kumar Datta, DDG (CS), ICAR, New Delhi; Dr. P. Raghava Reddy, Former VC, ANGRAU, Hyderabad and Chairman RAC of CRIJAF also graced the inaugural session. The

deliberations were held in five different sessions viz. production status and constraints of jute and allied fibre crops; improvement of jute and allied fibres; method of crop establishment, water and nutrient management; insect pests and disease management; and improved machine and fibre extraction. All the scientists of CRIJAF participated in the seminar. Several key note addresses, oral presentations and posters were contributed from CRIJAF.



Dignitaries are releasing a souvenir at the national seminar



Dr. S. Ayyappan, Hon'ble Director General, ICAR and Secretary, DARE is delivering his inaugural address

Republic Day Celebration

The 64th Republic Day was celebrated on 26th January, 2013 at CRIJAF, Barrackpore. Prof. B.S Mahapatra hoisted the national flag in the institute. In his republic day speech, the Director mentioned the achievement of CRIJAF and congratulated the staff members for their efforts for this

achievement. For encouraging the staff members (Non-scientific) of CRIJAF best worker awards were given to Sri Sankar Mallick (T₄), Sri S.K. Sen (Asst.), Sri Naba Kumar Das (SSS) and Sri Basu Deb Mondal, TSCL on this occasion.



Prof. B. S. Mahapatra, Director, CRIJAF addresses the staff



Sri Sankar Mallick, Farm Manager receiving best worker award from Director

MEETINGS/WORKSHOPS/TRAININGS etc.

27th Annual Workshop of All India Network Project on Jute & Allied Fibres

CRIJAF organized the 27th Annual Workshop of All India Network Project on Jute & Allied Fibres (AINPJAF) during 10-11th February, 2013 at Barrackpore. More than 100 scientists from various parts of the country representing ICAR, SAUs, state departments participated in the workshop. Prof. B.S. Mahapatra, Director, CRIJAF welcomed the dignitaries and delegates and highlighted the achievements of the institute and AINPJAF viz., improved retting through talc based microbial formulation, development of nail weeder, designing of herbicide brush for the benefit of the jute farmers. Dr. P. Raghava Reddy, former Vice Chancellor, ANGRAU (Hyderabad), chief guest of the function formally inaugurated the function by lighting the lamps. Prof. S.K. Datta, DDG (CS), ICAR commended the developments made in the direction of jute genomics research by CRIJAF to develop superior quality jute varieties to meet the future demand in this sector. Dr. N. Gopalakrishnan, ADG (CC), ICAR, emphasized

the issues including popularization of quality seeds and planting material, focus on pre-breeding and insect pests and disease surveillance and holistic approach to solve location specific problems. Dr. Reddy expressed concern over the inter-state parity in jute productivity and hopes that promotion of recently released jute varieties having very high yield potential and improved production and protection technologies will minimize the yield gap. Dr. S.K. Biswas, Director, DJD and Dr. A.K. Singh, ZPD, Zone-II, Kolkata were also graced the occasion and addressed the gathering. Dr. S. Satpathy, In-charge, AINPJAF highlighted the research achievements of the Network Project during 2012-13. The workshop continued for 2 days during which the technical programmes of research on these crops in different scientific sessions related to crop improvement and fibre quality, crop production and crop protection were formulated. The workshop ended with the plenary session chaired by Dr. P. Raghava Reddy.



1. Prof. S.K. Datta, DDG (CS) ICAR is lighting the lamps during inauguration of 27th Annual Workshop of AINP (JAF) in presence of Dr. P. Raghava Reddy, former Vice Chancellor, ANGRAU, Hyderabad and Prof. B. S. Mahapatra, Director, CRIJAF 2. Welcome address by Prof. B. S. Mahapatra, Director, CRIJAF 3. Address by Dr. N. Gopalakrishnan, ADG (CC) 4. Dr. S. Satpathy, In-charge AINP on JAF presenting research achievements

MEETINGS/WORKSHOPS/TRAININGS etc.

Dr. V. N. Sharda, Member, ASRB Visits CRIJAF

Dr. V.N. Sharda, Member, ASRB visited CRIJAF, Barrackpore on 22nd February, 2013. Prof. B. S. Mahapatra, Director, CRIJAF welcomed him and briefed about various activities and achievements of the institute and its research station. Dr. Sharda interacted with the scientists and clarified various queries related to the score card, NAAS rating scale, pay scale, career advancement scheme and direct selection process. Dr. Sharda appreciated the progress made by the institute and conveyed his best wishes for the future endeavour.



Dr. V. N. Sharda, Member, ASRB interacting with CRIJAF Scientists

Refresher Training on Improved Production Technologies for Fibre and Seed Production of Jute and Mesta

A refresher training programme on "Improved production technologies for fibre and seed production of jute and mesta" was organized by CRIJAF on 22nd February 2013 for Assistant Directors of Agriculture and other state level officers of West Bengal. Dr. S. K. Barma, Additional Director of Agriculture (CC), West Bengal was the chief guest of the programme. Prof. B. S. Mahapatra, Director, CRIJAF, and Dr. S. Satpathy, Head, Crop Protection Division also addressed the participants of the training programme. The refresher course mainly focused on recent developments in jute and mesta varieties suitable for different agro-climatic situations, recent developments in production technologies, disease and pest management, seed production technology and retting technology for better fibre quality of jute and mesta.

Director, CRIJAF distributed the participation certificates to the trainees. The programme ended with vote of thanks presented by Dr. S. K. Jha, Senior Scientist (Extension).



Trainees with the Director, CRIJAF

Training on Soil Test and Targeted Yield-Based Fertilizer Management for Enhancing Crop Productivity

A training programme on soil test and targeted yield based fertilizer management for enhancing crop productivity was organized at CRIJAF, Barrackpore during February 25-27th, 2013 under Tribal Sub Plan. The programme was organized under AICRP on STCR, ICAR. Twenty two tribal farmers from Bankura and Nadia districts of West Bengal participated in the programme. Dr. A. K. Jana, Ex-Principal scientist and former PI, STCR was the chief guest of the inaugural programme while it was chaired by Prof. B. S. Mahapatra, Director, CRIJAF. The training schedule included five sessions viz., improved variety, water and nutrient management, weed management, importance of soil testing and targeted yield equations etc. practical training on soil sample preparation and field visits of the. The three days training programme was coordinated by Dr. S. R. Singh, Senior

Scientist & PI, STCR, co-ordinated the training. The programme was concluded by valuable remarks of Director CRIJAF and distribution of certificates to the participation.



Inaugural address by Dr. A. K. Jana former Principal Scientist

MEETINGS/WORKSHOPS/TRAININGS etc.

Research Advisory Committee Meeting

The Research Advisory Committee (RAC) meeting of CRIJAF was held on 7-8th March, 2013 under the chairmanship of Dr. P. Raghava Reddy, Former Vice-Chancellor, Acharya N. G. Ranga Agricultural University, Hyderabad to evaluate ongoing research programmes at CRIJAF and its regional research stations. Dr. Reddy, congratulated the achievements made during the year and suggested for further strengthening of the research activities of the institute. He urged the scientists to interact with the stakeholders and farmers to identify practical problems. The committee made some important recommendations pertaining to basis of research on inheritance of quality traits, nutrient management on

cropping system mode, herbicide residue and adoption of ICT for promotion of new technologies.



Release of publications by RAC members during inaugural function

Training on Production Technology of Fibre Crops and Their Marketing Management

A training programme on "Production technology of fibre crops and their marketing management" organized during 16-20th March, 2013 at CRIJAF, Barrackpore in collaboration with State Institute for Management of Agriculture (SIMA), Rehmankhera, Kakori, Lucknow for Agricultural Officers, State Department of Agriculture, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh. Topic on recent advances in production technology of jute and allied fibre crops, fibre quality assessment and marketing of the fibres were deliberated during training. The training was attended by 15 participants who received the participation certificate from Prof. B. S. Mahapatra, Director, CRIJAF.



Trainees with the Director, CRIJAF

Institute Research Council Meeting

The Institute Research Council (IRC) meeting was organized under the chairmanship of Prof. B. S. Mahapatra, Director, CRIJAF to review the on-going in-house, externally funded research projects of the institute during 9-10th April, 2013. Chairman emphasized that the science must reach to the farmers' field in the form of technology and more interaction is needed among the technology inventor, extension workers, KVKs and farming community. He advised all the scientists to carefully go through the recommendations of RAC for formulating new research proposal with due importance to the allied fibre crops. The progress of all the ongoing projects and proposals for new research project were discussed thoroughly. The Director advised the scientists to strengthen inter disciplinary collaborative research projects with innovative ideas of research on jute and

allied fibres crops for outside funding and urged young scientist to take proactive role in this direction. The IRC meeting was concluded with a formal vote of thanks proposed by Dr. S. K. Sarkar, Pr. Scientist & In-charge of PME Cell.



Prof. B. S. Mahapatra, Director, CRIJAF is critically evaluating the projects

MEETINGS/WORKSHOPS/TRAININGS etc.

Training on Entrepreneurship Development through Value Addition of Jute Fibre

Training programme on “Entrepreneurship development through value addition of jute fibre” was conducted by CRIJAF during 16-18th May, 2013 in collaboration with Cheminova India, Ltd., Kolkata. Dr. D. K. Kundu, Head, Crop Production, CRIJAF inaugurated the training. Dr. A. S. Indulkar and Mr. Prakash Ghosh of Cheminova India Ltd and Dr. S. Sarkar, in-charge, Agril Extension Section were also present during the occasion. The training was imparted specially for women from Pabdara village, 24 Parganas (N). Twenty two women were trained in different aspects of bag making using jute fabrics. In the valedictory function Dr. S. Satpathy, Director, CRIJAF congratulated the participants and distributed the certificates for successful completion of training programme.



Participants are actively preparing jute bags

Training on Improved Production Technology of Sisal

A training programme on “Improved production technology of sisal” was organised at Sisal Research Station, Bamra during 13-15th June, 2013 under the Tribal Sub Plan. The prime objective of this programme was to assist the resource poor tribal for socio-economic upliftment through improved Sisal Cultivation. Twenty five tribal farmers from Jharsuguda and Sambalpur districts of Odisha participated in the training programme. The chief guest of the inaugural programme was Dr. A. R. Saha, Principal Scientist, CRIJAF and the programme was chaired by Dr. A. K. Jha, Scientist-in-Charge, SRS, Bamra. In addition to this Dr. Sitangshu Sarkar, In-Charge, Agril. Extension, CRIJAF, Mr. Tankadhar Patel, Ex-Deputy Director of Agriculture, Govt. of Odisha, Mrs. S. Dhan, Asstt. Horticulture Officer, Bamra and Pratush Donsena, Field Officer (SS II), SBI, Bamra were also present. Topics

related to improved sisal cultivation were deliberated during the training which ended with concluding remarks of Scientist In-charge, SRS, Bamra.



Scientist-in-charge describing the importance of sisal cultivation & its utilization

Review Meeting on Jute Seed Production under MM-I and RKVY

A review meeting on jute seed production plan for 2013-14 under Mini Mission-II of Jute Technology Mission (JTM) and Rastriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) was held at CRIJAF, Barrackpore on 14th June, 2013 under the chairmanship of Dr. Atanu Purkayastha, IAS, Joint Secretary (JTM). Dr. Anupam Barik, Additional Commissioner (Crops), DAC; Prof. B. S. Mahapatra, Ex-Director, CRIJAF; Dr. (Mrs) Karabi Datta, University of Calcutta; Scientists of CRIJAF, representatives from jute growing states, NSC, SFCI and WBSSC were also present during the occasion. Dr. S. Satpathy, Director, CRIJAF welcomed the chairman and other dignitaries to the programme. The chairman stressed on the need to prioritise research for improving fibre yield and appreciated the initiative of CRIJAF for jute seed production in drier tract of West Bengal.



Review meeting is in progress

MEETINGS/WORKSHOPS/TRAININGS etc.

Advisory Committee Meeting on NFBSFARA

The Advisory committee meeting on NFBSFARA projects was held on 22nd June, 2013 at CRIJAF, Barrackpore to review the progress and salient achievements made during 2012-13. Dr. S. Satpathy, Director welcomed the dignitaries and deliberated on important milestone of the project. The meeting was chaired by Prof. E. A. Siddiq, Chairman, Advisory Committee of the project 'Genomics for augmenting fibre quality improvement in jute'. Dr. P. K. Das, Chairman, Advisory Committee of the project 'Understanding genetics and biochemistry of gum in



The Advisory committee meeting is in progress

ramie for developing low gum genotypes', Dr. A. Bandyopadhyay, National Coordinator, NFBSFARA, Dr. S. K. Chattopadhyay, Director, CIRCOT and Dr. Shyamal Chakroborty, Principal Scientist, NFBSFARA were also present during the occasion. Prof. S. K. Datta, DDG(CS) also attended the meeting and gave valuable suggestions. Both the PIs delivered presentations on progress made during the year 2012-13 of their respective projects. The results were critically discussed and appreciated by the house.



Dr. A. Bandyopadhyay, National Coordinator, NFBSFARA visits ramie field

Training-cum-Awareness Programme on PPV & FRA

A "Training-cum-Awareness Programme on PPV&FRA" was organized on 20th June, 2013 at CRIJAF, Barrackpore under the aegis of the Protection of Plant Varieties & Farmers' Rights Authority (PPV & FRA) to generate awareness among participants about intellectual property rights, protection of jute varieties and farmers' rights. In the inaugural address, Dr. S. Satpathy, Director, CRIJAF briefly narrated the importance of the training programme and necessity of the plant variety protection. Dr. J. Mitra, Nodal Officer, DUS explained breeders' rights and researchers' rights under the PPVFR Act, mandate of national gene fund. Dr. D.K. De, Ex-Professor, Dept. of Plant Breeding, BCKV & Member, DUS trial monitoring



Dr. J. Mitra, Nodal Officer, DUS is briefing about the programme

team, Dr. A.K. Basu, Head, Department of Seed Science & Technology, BCKV were present as guests of honour. About 80 farmers from Nadia, Hooghly, Purulia, 24 Parganas (N) districts participated in this programme. In technical session, various aspects of PPVFR Act, DUS test guidelines for jute, reference collection of jute and its maintenance, filling up of application forms for protection of new varieties, development of molecular tag for identification of commercial varieties of jute and present status of jute DUS testing were discussed. In valedictory session certificates were distributed by Dr. S. Satpathy to the participants.



Dr. S. Satpathy, Director, distributing certificates to participants

MEETINGS/WORKSHOPS/TRAININGS etc.

Farmers' Day, 2013

Farmers' Day, 2013 was organized by the CRIJAF, Barrackpore on 27th June, 2013 for promotion of farm technologies to make the stakeholders aware of the recent developments for enhancing the productivity. More than 250 participants including 200 progressive farmers from major jute growing districts of Nadia, Hooghly, Malda, Murshidabad and North 24 Parganas attended in the one-day programme. Scientists, technologists, people representing different NGOs, jute industry and institutes also participated in the programme. Sri Moloy Ghatak, Hon'ble Minister in-charge for Agriculture, Govt. of West Bengal graced the programme as the chief guest. He urged upon the farmers to adopt technologies developed by CRIJAF to enhance profitability. Sri Arup Roy, Hon'ble Minister in-charge for Agriculture Marketing, Govt. of West Bengal was the guest-of-honour and apprised the farmers on the agriculture marketing policies of stakeholders.



Dignitaries lighting the lamps

Prof. S. K. Datta, DDG (Crop Science), ICAR, addressed the gathering as Chairman of the session and emphasized on cultivation of new varieties namely JRO-204 and JRO-2407. Mr. Pradip Majumdar, Agricultural Advisor to Chief Minister of West Bengal highlighted the government welfare programmes on agricultural development. Dr. S. Satpathy, Director, CRIJAF elaborated the research activities of CRIJAF for betterment of jute production and productivity. On this occasion, 5 farmers were felicitated with "Best Farmer", beside one innovative farmer from each district was provided with nail weeder developed by CRIJAF. Similarly, five enthusiastic farmers were provided with seed of latest jute variety, JRO-204 for the jute seed production in their own farm. The farmers-scientist interaction the practical programme of farmers were discussed thoroughly. The programme concluded with vote of thanks by Dr. S. Sarkar, Senior Scientist & In-charge, Agricultural Extension Section, CRIJAF.



Dignitaries distributing nail weeder to farmers

Training on Advances in Improved Production Technology and Fibre Quality Assessment of Jute & Allied Fibre Crops

National Level Training on "Advances in improved production technology and fibre quality assessment of jute & allied fibre crops" under AINPJAF was organized by CRIJAF at Barrackpore in collaboration with NIRJAFT, Kolkata during 24-29th June, 2013. It was coordinated by Dr. S. K. Pandey, Senior Scientist, AINPJAF. Total 20 participants from different AINPJAF centres attended the training. Dr. S. Satpathy, Director, CRIJAF addressed the participants and also highlighted the importance of the training programme in context of recent advances in scientific development and technological interventions. Dr. S. Mitra, In-charge AINPJAF welcomed the trainees and dignitaries in the inaugural session. Dr. Man Singh, Director, Directorate of Jute Development was also present during the occasion. Various lectures on

production, protection and fibre quality aspects were delivered by the eminent scientists of CRIJAF and NIRJAFT. Exposure visits for participating scientists to jute mills and farmer's field were also organized.



Welcome address by Dr. S. Mitra, In-charge, AINPJAF

NEWS FROM CRIJAF-KVK

World Veterinary Day Observed at CRIJAF-KVK

World Veterinary Day was observed by the CRIJAF KVK, Bud Bud, Burwdan on 27th April, 2013. Theme of WVD for this year was "Vaccination to prevent and protect". On this occasion, an animal health-cum-awareness camp was organized at Bud Bud, Nurkona and Khanpara villages of Galsi-I block, Burdwan, West Bengal. In this camp, 482 goats were vaccinated against *Peste Des Petits Ruminants* (PPR). The camp covered 130 farm families. A session was organized on "Fodder production and animal health" at KVK campus which was attended by sixty farmers and farm women from nearby villages. Dr. Chandrakanta Jana, SMS (AH&VS) highlighted the importance of vaccination and fodder production. The session was ended with a

film show on "Animal Health Care and Vaccination" for sensitizing the animal raisers.



Observance of World Veterinary Day, 2013 at KVK Burdwan

Participation in Mati Utsav-2013

KVK Burdwan participated in Mati Utsav-2013 organised by Govt of West Bengal at Panagarh from 9-13th February, 2013. KVK along with CSRSJAF Bud Bud exhibited technologies and activities in this Mela. The main attractions of the stall were various items made of Katha stitch, jute handicraft, different types of soil sample, farm model, live Vanaraja poultry and mushroom. The stall received high accolades from many dignitaries such as Minister of Agriculture, Govt of WB, Chief Secretary of Govt. W.B., District Magistrate, Burdwan, and SDO, Durgapur.



Stall of KVK in Mati Utsav

Tenth Scientific Advisory Committee Meeting of KVK

The Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting for KVK Burdwan was held in the training hall of KVK at Bud Bud, Burdwan on 18th June, 2013. The meeting was conducted under the chairmanship of Dr. S. Satpathy, Director, CRIJAF and was attended by Dr. P. G. Karmarkar, Head, Crop Improvement, CRIJAF, Dr. D. K. Kundu, Head, Crop Production, CRIJAF, Dr. P. Pal, Principal Scientist, ZPD (Zone II), Mr Shyamal Dutta, Dy. Director Agril (Admn), distinguished scientists of CRIJAF, officials of line departments, bank officials and farmers' representatives. After presentation of action taken report and action plan, very meaningful recommendations were given by committee like promotion of promising technologies developed by CRIJAF having commercial potential in the district, popularisation of low cost farm implements, promotion of low cost technology for vegetable seedling

raising, development of master trainers, dissemination of cross bred cattle programme and promotion of air breathing fish cultivation.



Scientific Advisory Committee Meeting is in progress

New Varieties from CRIJAF

JRCM-2 ("Partho"): A high yielding, better quality white jute, *C. capsularis* variety was developed from cross between JRC 321×THA/Y/086C. The variety is highly resistant to premature flowering and suitable for mid-March to last week of April sowing. It is recommended for all the white jute growing areas and specially adapted to rainfed conditions. It is least affected by major pests and diseases as compared to the widely cultivated white jute varieties. The yield potential, strength and fineness of the variety are 27.8q/ha, 16.48 g/tex and 1.25 tex respectively.



Plants stand of JRCM-2 (Partho)

JBM-81 ("Shakti"): A high yielding, better quality kenaf (*Hibiscus cannabinus*) variety was developed from cross between MT-899 x EC-11-71-23. The variety is recommended for mesta growing belt of Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Assam, Bihar, Maharashtra and West Bengal. It is tolerant to major pests and diseases as compared to the other mesta varieties. The yield potential of the variety is 25.50 q/ha., 22.25g/tex fibre tenacity and 2.61 tex finest.



Field view of JBM-81 (Shakti)

Jute and Allied Fibres Genepool Enrichment through Germplasm Exploration

A total of 128 germplasm accessions (*Corchorus* spp. 84; *Hibiscus* spp. 22; *Crotalaria* spp. 14; *Agave* spp. 08) of jute and allied fibres were collected covering nine districts of Tamil Nadu (Chennai, Tiruvallur, Kanchipuram, Tiruvannamalai, Krishnagiri, Dharmapuri, Salem, Erode, Tiruppur) in February, 2013. Collection of *Corchorus* spp. includes five wild species (*C. aestuans*, *C. tridens*, *C. fascicularis*, *C. trilocularis*, *C. urticifolius*) and one cultivated

(*C. olitorius*) species. *C. aestuans* is the most predominantly distributed species of jute in Tamil Nadu. These accessions can be effectively utilized for future breeding programme pertaining to biotic and abiotic stress management, quality traits etc.

Courtesy: **H. K. Sharma, A. Anil Kumar, S.B. Choudhary, D. Kumar and P.G. Karmakar**

Central Research Institute for Jute and Allied Fibres, Barrackpore, Kolkata



C. olitorius



H. sabdariffa



Crotalaria sp.



Agave sp.

Species of jute and allied fibres in natural habitats

RESEARCH NOTES

New Male Sterile Lines of Kenaf, *Hibiscus cannabinus* L

A functional male sterile line was identified as a spontaneous mutation at CRIJAF-Research Farm, Barrackpore during November, 2009 cropping season. It produced normal flower with epicalyx, calyx, pale yellow corolla with magenta centre, pink styles and light brown stigma. However, the anthers were rudimentary with a few pollens in the anther. The pollens were sterile. Upon selfing no seed was produced. The plant was pollinated with donor parent HC 583, which produced functional seeds. In the next year, only a few male sterile plants appeared. Further backcrossing with recurrent parent HC 583 for three generations during 2010 (BC₁F₁), 2011 (BC₂F₁) and 2012 (BC₃F₁) as well as selfing of fertile F₁ plants led to development of male sterile lines NKENMS-1 (derived from backcrossing) and NKENMS-2 (derived from selfing). The two lines have same male sterility sources, but differ in leaf morphology. While NKENMS-1 exhibits complete leaves with few lobes, NKENMS-2 exhibits deeply lobed leaves. Both the lines produce yellow flowers with rudimentary anthers but functional stigma. The lines are being advanced for hybrid development. The pattern of segregation indicates that the male sterility character is controlled by recessive gene action.



Male sterile flower of kenaf line NKENMS-1

Courtesy: P. Satya

Central Research Institute for Jute and Allied Fibres, Barrackpore, Kolkata

Potassium Release Characteristics of Indo-Gangetic Alluvial Soil under Intensive Jute-Rice-Wheat Cropping System

The present study examines the release pattern of non-exchangeable K from surface and sub-surface soils (Indo-Gangetic alluvial, *Nilganj* series of *Eutochrept*) as influenced by 42 years of continuous jute-rice-wheat cropping system at CRIJAF, Barrackpore, West Bengal. The treatments included 50% NPK, 100% NPK, 150% NPK, 100% NP, 100% N, 100% NPK+FYM and no fertilizer (control). Samples

were collected after the harvest of wheat crop in the year 2013 from surface (0-0.15 m) and sub-surface soil (0.15-0.30 m). Processed soil samples (< 2 mm) were used for analysing the potassium supplying parameter, i.e., cumulative K following Haylock (1956).

Cumulative K-release pattern from two depths are presented in Fig. 1 and 2. Differences in cumulative

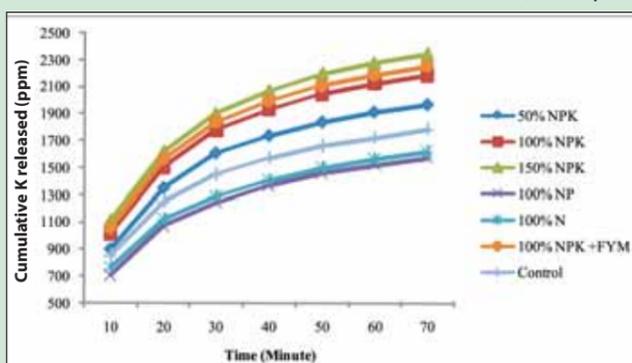


Fig. 1: Cumulative amount of non-exchangeable K released by successive extraction with 1N HNO₃ in surface soil (0-15 cm)

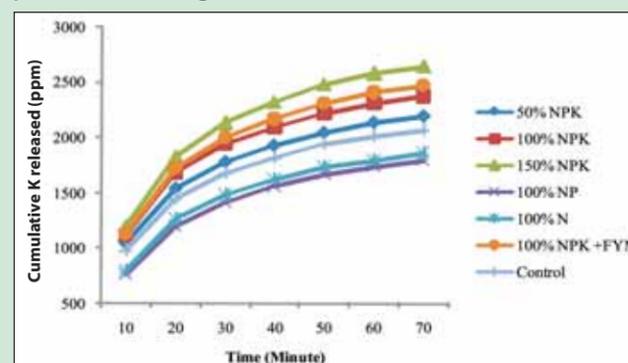


Fig. 2: Cumulative amount of non-exchangeable K released by successive extraction with 1N HNO₃ in surface soil (15-30 cm)

RESEARCH NOTES

K curves were less prominent at initial stages, and variations in K release became prominent among treatments at later stages of extraction. The cumulative K release in the NPK treated plots was higher than under the unfertilized plots. Incorporation of FYM along with NPK increased the cumulative non-exchangeable K release but the release was lesser than 150% NPK. Continuous application of increasing levels of potassic fertilizer maintained the content of non-exchangeable K at higher level at 150% NPK. It is interesting to note that release of non-exchangeable K from 100% NP/ 100%N was lesser than the unfertilized control which implies that application of inorganic fertilizer with exclusion of K depletes the NPK pool under intensive cropping. When crops are grown successively without K application, the demand for the nutrient increases and the soil available pool remains constantly under K stress. Hence, the flow of K in the

dynamic equilibrium system is from non-exchangeable to exchangeable to maintain the available pool of potassium thus leading to a considerable decline of non-exchangeable form. The appreciable fall in the levels of non-exchangeable K indicated the role of this form of K in meeting the crop requirement during prolonged periods of experimentation. Therefore, application of 150% NPK fertilizer or locally available organic resources such as FYM @ 10t ha⁻¹ per annum in conjunction with recommended dose of NPK could supply to the level of maintenance dose of K to sustain the long term productivity of the soils in Jute-Rice-Wheat cropping system.

Courtesy: **S.P. Mazumdar, D.K. Kundu, Debjani Ghosh, A.R. Saha, B. Majumdar and A.K. Ghorai**

Central Research Institute for Jute and Allied Fibres, Barrackpore, Kolkata

Growth and Fibre Yield of Sisal as Influenced by Irrigation and Application of Micronutrients

To study the effects of drip irrigation and application of micronutrients zinc and boron on growth and productivity of sisal an experiment was initiated at Sisal Research Station, Bamra, Odisha in June 2011. The experiment was laid out in a strip plot design with three main plot and four sub-plot treatments replicated three times.

It was observed that micronutrient has significant positive effect on leaf length, number of leaf (an important parameter for fibre yield) and fibre yield of sisal. Drip irrigation with discharge rate of 4 l/hr for 4hrs at 2 weeks interval and soil application of zinc sulphate @ 20kg/ha together with borax @ 15 kg/ha (I₃M₄) produced the longest leaves (82.30 cm long) as compared to check (60.23 cm). Maximum number of harvested leaves were

also recorded from I₃M₄ treatment (114400 leaves /ha) as compared to control I₁M₁ i.e. with no irrigation and no micronutrient (54266 leaves /ha). Maximum fibre yield of 0.693 t/ha was recorded with I₃M₄ which was followed by 0.660 t/ha obtained with I₂M₄. The fibre yields recorded with I₃M₄ and I₂M₄ treatments were statistically at par. Therefore the treatment combination I₂M₄ (drip irrigation with discharge rate of 4l/hr for 2 hrs at 2 weeks interval and soil application of zinc sulphate @ 20kg/ha together with Borax @ 15 kg/ha) may be recommended for growing sisal in Sambalpur district of Odisha.

Courtesy: **D.K. Kundu, S. Sarkar*, A.R. Saha, A. K. Jha* and S.K. Abdullah***

Central Research Institute for Jute and Allied Fibres, Barrackpore, Kolkata

*Sisal Research Station (CRIJAF), Bamra, Sambalpur, Odisha

Mainplot treatments:

- I₁: No Irrigation
- I₂: Drip irrigation (discharge rate 4 l/hr) for 2 hrs at 2 week interval
- I₃: Drip irrigation (discharge rate 4 l/hr) for 4 hrs at 2 week interval

Sub-plot treatments:

- M₁: No micronutrient
- M₂: Zn as Zinc Sulphate @20 kg/ha soil application
- M₃: Boron as Borax @15 kg/ha soil application
- M₄: Zn as Zinc Sulphate (20 kg) + B as Borax (15 kg)/ha as soil application

RESEARCH NOTES

Effect of drip irrigation and micronutrients application on the growth and fibre yield of sisal

Treatment	Leaf length (cm)				Number of harvested leaves/ha ($\times 10^3$)	Weight of harvested green leaves (t/ha)	Dry fibre weight (t/ha)
	May-12	Aug-12	Nov-12	Feb-13			
I ₁ M ₁	60.230	64.703	58.030	59.266	54.266	9.426	0.336
I ₁ M ₂	64.340	67.200	61.213	63.450	81.600	11.706	0.380
I ₁ M ₃	66.360	69.413	64.170	66.470	89.733	13.866	0.420
I ₁ M ₄	66.550	71.263	65.886	68.143	91.066	14.240	0.453
I ₂ M ₁	69.090	73.183	67.500	68.206	95.200	15.146	0.488
I ₂ M ₂	73.446	76.770	69.040	70.843	97.733	16.613	0.573
I ₂ M ₃	74.923	77.323	70.090	71.896	101.600	17.026	0.594
I ₂ M ₄	79.980	82.300	75.590	77.616	107.200	18.626	0.660
I ₃ M ₁	71.353	74.746	68.040	70.190	102.666	16.013	0.513
I ₃ M ₂	75.503	78.686	70.736	73.736	103.066	17.240	0.620
I ₃ M ₃	79.003	80.720	72.620	74.990	106.400	17.760	0.626
I ₃ M ₄	82.306	85.740	79.740	82.120	114.400	20.000	0.693
SEm (\pm)	1.349	1.031	1.348	1.261	7.962	0.649	0.044
CD (P=0.05)	2.719	2.372	2.295	2.125	21.329	1.070	0.045

Stem Rot of Roselle: A Major Limitation for Seed Production

Stem rot of roselle (*Hibiscus sabdariffa* L.) used to be a minor disease however, during last two years (2012-2013) its incidence was as high as 50% in seed crops at the CRIJAF Farm, Barrackpore. The disease first appeared in December and continued till boll formation. However, became severe during end of December and January. The infected plants failed to yield seed. The disease appeared as water soaked lesion on stem which turned into brown patches. The affected parts were covered with white stands of fungus mycelium. Dark brown to black coloured sclerotia were also observed on this mycelial mat. The affected plants wilted above the infection site. The stem tissues became soft and easily peeled off into shreds. The pith region was often filled with sclerotia. The sclerotia were also noticed in bolls. The fungus (*Sclerotinia sclerotiorum* (Lib.) de Bary) was isolated from the infected portion and pathogenicity was established



Courtesy: **A.N. Tripathi, S.K. Sarkar, H.K. Sharma and P.G. Karmakar**
Central Research Institute for Jute and Allied Fibres, Barrackpore, Kolkata

Cost of Cultivation of Ramie in North Eastern Regions

Improved technological intervention in ramie cultivation through use of plantlets, improved planting technique and mechano-chemical weed management could reduce the cost of cultivation drastically about 50% over conventional cultivation. These technologies have

generated interest among farmers/NGO for taking up ramie plantation North Eastern Regions.

Courtesy: **A.K. Sharma and S.P. Gawande**
Ramie Research Station (CRIJAF), Sorbhog, Assam

RESEARCH NOTES

Cost of cultivation for ramie crop

Operation /input	Operation wise cost (Cost/ha in Rs.)	
	Ist Year	IInd year on-wards
Preparation of land	4000.00	0.00
Planting material	6050.00	0.00
Planting cost	2000.00	0.00
Fertilizer and chemicals	6000.00	12,000.00
Mechno-chemical weed management (herbicide spray)	2000.00	4000.00
Staging /harvesting (Rs. 3000/cutting)	9000.00 (3 cuttings)	18000.00 (6 cuttings)
Irrigation	1000.00 (1 irrigations)	2000.00 (2 irrigations)
Labour cost in decortication and fibre washing (2000/cutting)	6000.00 (3 cuttings)	12000.00 (6 cuttings)
Decortication charges (fuel) 400/cutting	1200.00 (3 cuttings)	2400.00 (6 cuttings)
Total input cost	37250.00	50400.00
Return/ Output (Raw fibre @ Rs 7000 per q.)	49,000.00 (7 q yield)	1,26,000.00 (18q yield)

First Report of Bacterial Leaf Spot on Jute Seed Crop

Small, brown, circular spots; usually less than 5 mm in diameter were noticed on the leaves of jute seed crop and some of the spots were surrounded by yellow halo. The lesions on the stem were elongated in shape and in some cases the lesions were found to girdle the stem. In the later stage, brown colored sunken spots were found on the green capsules. The incidence of the disease varied from about 20% to 90% of the total plants in different affected fields of CRIJAF Research Farm. The bacterial colonies isolated on nutrient agar medium from infected young leaves were *Xanthomonas*-like pale yellow cream in color. PCR was carried out with *Xanthomonas campestris* specific primer NZ8F3/NZ85R3 which generated an amplicon of 530 bp from all the symptomatic samples. But no amplification was obtained from asymptomatic plants. The sequences from the five symptomatic samples showed 100% identity with one another, and one of them (isolate JB-CO-13) was deposited in GenBank. The BLASTn analysis revealed that the present bacterial strain

JB-CO-13 recovered from inoculated jute plants had 100% identity with *X. campestris* pv. *olitorii*. This is the first report of bacterial leaf spot on *tossa* jute (*Corchorus olitorius*) caused by *Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *olitorii* from India.



Bacterial spots on jute (*C. olitorius*) leaf and capsules

Courtesy: **C. Biswas, Piyali Dey, Amit Bera and S. Satpathy**
Central Research Institute for Jute and Allied Fibres, Barrackpore, Kolkata

First Record of *Protapanteles obliquae* on *Spilarctia obliqua* in Jute Ecosystem

Adult parasitoids emerging out of the ventro-lateral region of the field collected larvae of *S. obliqua* were slender wasps with long antennae and black in colour. Based on morphology, the parasitoid was identified as *Protapanteles obliquae* (Hymenoptera: Braconidae) at IARI, New Delhi. It was a gregarious endoparasitoid, specific to *S. obliqua*. The activity of this parasitoid was noticed from mid-May to mid-July during the cropping season. The preliminary studies indicated that, the early instars (up to third instars) of *S. obliqua* were more vulnerable to this parasitoid. Hence, insecticidal interference may be avoided during the early instar stages so as to obtain high (to the extent of 40%) parasitization of the pest.



S. obliqua parasitized by *P. obliquae* and an adult parasitoid of *P. obliquae* (inset)

Courtesy: **K. Selvaraj, S. Satpathy, B.S. Gotyal and V. Ramesh Babu**
Central Research Institute for Jute and Allied Fibres, Barrackpore, Kolkata

RESEARCH NOTES

Outbreak of Vascular Wilt of Flax

Flax (*Linum usitatissimum* L.) is an important bast fibre producing cash crop grown in temperate as well as tropical countries including India. So far, flax wilt was not serious at CRIJAF research farm, Barrackpore. But due to continuous monoculture of flax during last five years, localized outbreak of the disease was noticed at research plot during December 2012. Out of seven genotypes, JRF2 was the most susceptible (80% disease incidence) followed by JRF-1 (60%) and JRF-3 (40%). However, JRF-4, FT-850, FT-896 and FT 897 were less affected. Initially wilt infected plants appeared yellow and started wilting from the top. Eventually the plant died, dried up with brown discolouration both on stem and leaves. The pathogen was isolated from the stem section of the infected plant and identified as *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *lini*.



Healthy and wilt affected flax plants

Courtesy: **A.N. Tripathi, S.K. Sarkar and Yogiraj Meena**
Central Research Institute for Jute and Allied Fibres, Barrackpore, Kolkata

Farmers' Response on Improved Jute Varieties in West Bengal

Jute is one of the important fibre crops of West Bengal. Most of the farmers used to grow the jute variety JRO 524 prior to the demonstrations conducted by CRIJAF in its extension centres which are located in five different districts of West Bengal like 24 Parganas (N) (Goaldah), Nadia (Karimpur), Murshidabad (Beldanga), Malda (Manikchak) and Hooghly (Gauribati). Varieties like JRO 204, JBO 1, JBO 2003-H, S 19 are being demonstrated in farmers' fields since 2009.

A study on the level of acceptance of the jute varieties by the farmers (n=120) revealed that JRO 204 is the highly scored variety among all the selected respondents from the extension centres (Fig. 1 - 4).

The respondents were also asked about the reason for likeness towards the new varieties. An analysis of feedback collected from farmers regarding their choice of jute variety was also carried out.

JRO 204 was adopted by farmers because all the attributes of adoption like relative advantage, compatibility, complexity, triailability and observability where very well established during the period demonstration.

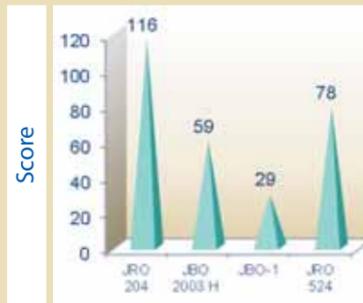
Among all the four varieties demonstrated JBO 1 had better fibre quality than others. Because of its light weight the formers could not make profit out of this variety.

Response given by farmers on different varieties

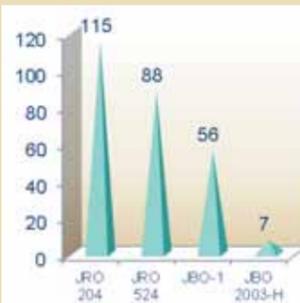
Jute Variety	Feedback
JRO 204	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very well accepted by the farmers at all the extension centers. • Could fit well in to the cropping system • Good growth and higher yield.
JRO 524	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The local variety which gives good fibre yield. • Can withstand slight changes in the sowing time.
JBO -2003-H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yields were good when the climatic conditions were favorable
S-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performed well in drier areas of Beldanga, Murshidabad. • The only variety which could withstand drought conditions in the initial period of the jute crop. • Preferred for late sowing due to lack of water in the actual sowing period.
JBO-1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The variety has good stand in the field • Fibre yield is less as the fibre is light in weight • Fibre quality is superior to other varieties.

Courtesy: **Shamna. A, S. K. Jha and S. Kumar**
Central Research Institute for Jute and Allied Fibres, Barrackpore, Kolkata

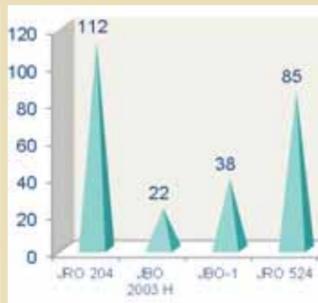
RESEARCH NOTES



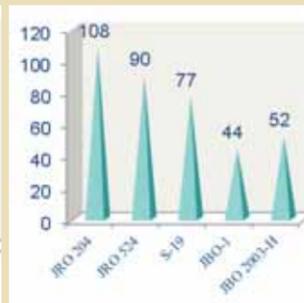
Gauribati, Hooghly



Goaldah, 24 Parganas (N)



Karimpur, Nadia



Beldanga, Murshidabad

DISTINGUISHED VISITORS

Name of the visitor	Affiliation	Date
CRIJAF, Barrackpore		
Dr. N. Gopalakrishnan	ADG (Commercial Crops), ICAR, New Delhi	03.01.2013 10.02.2013
Dr. P. Raghava Reddy	RAC Chairman, CRIJAF and Former Vice Chancellor, ANGRAU, Hyderabad	03.01.2013 10.02.2013 07.03.2013
Dr S. K. Biswas	Director, DJD, Govt. of India, Kolkata	10.02.2013
Dr. A.N. Sharda	Member, ASRB, New Delhi	22.02.2013
Dr. K. K. Satapathy	Director, NIRJAFT, Kolkata, West Bengal	07.03.2013
Dr. Atanu Purkayastha, IAS	Joint secretary, DAC, Ministry of Agriculture, Gol	14.06.2013
Dr. Anupam Barik	Additional Commissioner, Govt. of West Bengal	14.06.2013
Padmashree Prof. E.A. Siddiq	Former, DDG (CS), ICAR, New Delhi	22.06.2013
Dr. A. Bandyopadhyay	National Coordinator, NFBSFARA, ICAR	22.06.2013
Dr. S. K. Chattopadhyay	Director, CIRCOT, Mumbai	22.06.2013
Sri Moloy Ghatak	Hon'ble Minister-in-charge for Agriculture, Govt. of WB	27.06.2013
Sri Arup Roy,	Hon'ble Minister-in-charge for Agriculture Marketing, Govt. of WB	27.06.2013
Prof. S. K. Datta	DDG (Crop Science), ICAR, New Delhi	22.06.2013 27.06.2013
Sri Pradip Majumdar	Agricultural Advisor to Chief Minister of West Bengal	27.06.2013
Sisal Research Station Bamra, Odisha		
Dr. N. Gopalakrishnan	ADG (Commercial Crops), ICAR, New Delhi	06.01.2013
Mr. S. K. Mitra	Director (CS), ICAR, New Delhi	06.01.2013

HRD

Participation of scientists in seminar/symposia/conferences

Seminar/Symposia/conferences	Place and date	Name of the participant/s
National seminar on "Jute and Allied Fibres in Changing Times: Issues and Strategies"	NIRJAFT, Kolkata, 3-5 th January, 2013.	All Scientists of CRIJAF
International Conference on "Agriculture and Climate Change"	TERI, New Delhi, 29-30 th January, 2013	Dr. S. B. Choudhary Dr. H. K. Sharma
International Conference on "Bio-resource and Stress Management"	Science city Kolkata. 6-9 th February, 2013	Dr. R. K. De, Dr. S. Sarkar Dr. P. Satya, Dr. S. Sarkar Dr. C. Biswas, Dr. S. K. Jha Dr. C. S. Kar, Dr. M. K. Tripathi Dr. S. R. Singh, Dr. S. K. Pandey Dr. B. Chaudhary, Dr. M. Kumar Dr. Shamna, A., Dr. H. K. Sharma Dr. S. B. Choudhary, Dr. A. Bera
27 th Annual Workshop of AINP on "Jute and Allied Fibres"	CRIJAF, Kolkata, 10-11 th February, 2013	All Scientists of CRIJAF
International Conference on "Insect Science"	GKVK, Bangalore, 14-17 th February, 2013	Dr. V. Ramesh Babu
15 th Indian Agricultural Scientists and Farmers Congress on "Agriculture and Global Climate Change"	BRIAT, Allahabad 22-24 th February, 2013	Dr. M. K. Tripathi
National Symposium on "In Quest of A Second Green Revolution"	University of Calcutta, Kolkata 26-28 th February, 2013	Dr. S. Sarkar
ARRW Golden Jubilee International Symposium on "Sustainable Rice Production and Livelihood Security : Challenges and Opportunities"	CRRI, Cuttack, 2-5 th March, 2013	Dr. A. K. Ghorai

Training undergone by the Scientist and Staff Members

Training Programme	Place and date	Name of the participant/s
Training on "Data Analysis Using SAS"	NIRJAFT, Kolkata 25 th February-2 nd March, 2013	Dr. A. N. Tripathi Dr. Amarpreet Singh Dr. Asim Chakravarthy Dr. V. Ramesh Babu
Recent Advances in Statistical Modelling Techniques	IASRI, New Delhi 31 st May-20 th June, 2013	Dr. Mukesh Kumar
Training on "Advances in Improved Production Technology and Fibre Quality Assessment of Jute and Allied Fibre Crops"	CRIJAF, Barrackpore 24 th -29 th June, 2013	Dr. A. N. Tripathi Dr. V. Ramesh Babu

PERSONNEL

Awards and Recognitions

Dr. Debarata Sarkar, Principal Scientist (Plant Biotechnology), Division of Crop Improvement has been elected as Fellow of the National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS) during the year 2013 for his contribution in the field of potato and jute Biotechnology.



Dr. M. K. Tripathi, Senior Scientist (Agronomy) was awarded the Fellowship of Research Institute of Bioed Research Society for outstanding contribution in the field of Agronomy on the occasion of 15th Indian Agricultural Scientists and Farmers Congress on Agriculture and Global Climate Change during 22-24th February 2013 at Vigyan Parishad, University of Allahabad, Allahabad, India. He also received the best paper presentation award during the occasion.



Dr. M. K. Tripathi Senior Scientist (Agronomy) was awarded with Kunwar Saxena Bahadur SRDA Award by the Society for Recent Development in Agriculture for Valuable Contribution in the area of Agricultural Science on the occasion of "International Conference on Impact of Technological Tools on Food Security under Global Warming Scenario" (ITTFS-2012) held at Shobhit University, Meerut, India on 11-12 May, 2013.



Dr. Babita Chaudhary, Senior Scientist (Plant Breeding) received young scientist award for outstanding contribution in the field of plant breeding by the Society for Scientist Development in Agriculture and Technology on the occasion of annual general body meeting held at Meerut (UP), India during 23rd June, 2013



Our New Colleagues

Dr. Sunanda Biswas joined CRIJAF as Scientist (Soil Science) in the Crop Production Division on 10th April, 2013 after successful completion of 97th FOCARS at NAARM, Hyderabad. Dr. Biswas pursued her M.Sc and Ph.D degree from BCKV, Kalyani in the discipline of Soil Science.



Mr. M. Ramesh Naik joined as Scientist (Agronomy) in the Crop Production Division on 10th April, 2013 after successful completion of 97th FOCARS at NAARM, Hyderabad. Mr. Naik pursued his M.Sc at College of agriculture, Pune (MPKV, Rahuri) in the discipline of Agronomy.



Mr. Maruthi, R.T joined CRIJAF as Scientist (Plant Genetics) in the Crop Improvement Division on 10th April, 2013 after successful completion of 97th FOCARS at NAARM, Hyderabad. Mr. Maruthi persued his M. Sc. at ANGRAU, Hydrabad in the discipline of Genetics and Plant Breeding.



Mr. P.N. Meena joined CRIJAF as Scientist (Plant Pathology) in the Crop Protection Division on 11th April, 2013 after successful completion of 97th FOCARS at NAARM, Hyderabad. Mr. Meena pursued his M.Sc at MPUAT, Udaipur in the field of Plant Pathology.



Dr. Madhusudan Behera, Senior Scientist (Agronomy) joined in Crop Production Division at CRIJAF, Barrackpore on 11th June, 2013 through direct selection. Prior to joining CRIJAF, Dr. Behera was working as T9 (Farm Manager) at Directorate of Water Management (DWM), Bhubaneswar, Odisha.



PERSONNEL

Promotion

Dr. Rajib Kumar De promoted to Principal Scientist (Plant Pathology) with effect from 26th December, 2009 through carrier advancement scheme. Dr. De was working as senior scientist at Crop Protection Division mainly in the areas of Plant Pathology/Fungal Disease Management.



Dr. Sabyasachi Mitra promoted to Principal Scientist (Agronomy) with effect from 19th October, 2010 through carrier advancement scheme. Dr. Mitra was working as senior scientist at AINP on JAF mainly in the areas of Soil and Water Management.



Dr. Surja Kumar Sarkar promoted to Principal Scientist (Plant Pathology) with effect from 15th September, 2011 through carrier advancement scheme. Dr. Sarkar was working as senior scientist at Crop Protection Division mainly in the areas of Seed Pathology.



Farewell to Prof. B. S. Mahapatra

Prof. B. S. Mahapatra successfully completed his tenure as the Director, CRIJAF on 11 May, 2013 who joined the institute on 12 May, 2008. Prior to that he was professor of Agronomy at G B Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar. Prof. Mahapatra provided new direction to the institute to make it more vibrant for technology generation and promotion of new technologies. Jute seed production in the non-traditional areas of Bankura and Purulia districts of West Bengal was envisioned by him. Prof. Mahapatra encouraged and motivated all the scientists to obtain external funds to strengthen the research facilities which resulted in grant of two mega projects under the NFBSFARA of the ICAR and RKVY. He was instrumental in successful implementation of many plans and programmes related to research and development in jute sector.

On the last day of his office at CRIJAF a humble farewell party was arranged. Staff members shared their experiences about working with Prof. Mahapatra. He was presented with small memento as token of gratitude. He handed over the charge of Directorship to Dr. S. Satpathy, Head, Crop Protection.



Superannuation

Name of the Employee	Designation	Date of superannuation
B.M. Prushti	Technical Officer, (T-5)	31.01.13
Tapan Kumar Adhikary	Technical Assistant (T-4)	28.02.13
Ajoy Kumar Bhattacharjee	Technical Officer (T-5)	28.02.13
Dipali Ghosh	Skilled Supporting Staff	28.02.13
Bharati Das	Assistant	31.03.13
Anand Kumar Das	Technical Officer, (T-7/8)	30.04.13
R.N. Paith	Technical Officer, (T-5)	30.04.13