

ICAR-CTRI

News

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

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Dr. D. Damodar Reddy is new Director of ICAR-CTRI



Dr. D. Damodar Reddy, hitherto Head - Division of Crop Chemistry and Soil Science at the institute, assumed charge of Director, ICAR-CTRI, Rajahmundry on 9th September, 2014 following his appointment by the ICAR, New Delhi. Expressing his happiness over the new assignment, Dr. Reddy highlighted the increasing need for the institute to remain relevant, and called upon all scientists and other employees to extend willing support for enhancing productivity and visibility of the institute. Congratulating Dr. Reddy on his elevation and new responsibility, the institute's scientific, technical, and administrative and support staff have assured full cooperation to the new Director in all his research and development endeavours.

Dr. D. Damodar Reddy, born in 1967 in an agrarian family of a tiny village, has a strong passion for agriculture and agricultural research. After obtaining BSc (Ag.) in 1988 from the then Andhra Pradesh Agricultural University, he pursued higher studies in the professional field of Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry during 1988 - 1994 at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi from where he obtained his MSc (SSAC) and PhD (SSAC) with rare distinction of securing 4.0/4.0 OGPA at both levels. On selection to Agricultural Research Service and after undergoing professional training, he started his research career at the ICAR - Indian Institute of Soil Science, Bhopal and served there as Scientist (1995 -2001), Senior Scientist (2001 - 2007) and Principal Scientist & I/C Head-Soil Chemistry and Fertility (2007 - 2009) for about 15 years. Dr. Reddy joined the ICAR - Central Tobacco Research Institute (CTRI) as Head - Division of Crop Chemistry and Soil Science in 2009, and became its Director in 2014.

Dr. Reddy, an eminent soil scientist by profession, is widely known for his contributions in the field of soil fertility and nutrient management in agro-ecosystems. His research interests include tropical soil fertility and quality, nutrient use efficiency and agricultural solid waste management. His work on role of organic inputs in soil phosphate dynamics, and integrated nutrient management for long-term soil fertility sustenance has been of particular interest and received a wide recognition. Development of a novel soil test maintenance P fertilization technology for Vertisol is another note worthy contribution made by Dr. Reddy. He has also developed simple and rapid analytical methods. Dr. Reddy's research, published mostly in reputed international scientific journals with high impact factor, has been cited very widely, with current H-index of 10.

With over two decades of experience behind him, Dr. Reddy has a track record of research achievements that were best highlighted by the large number of awards and recognitions. The most important of his awards include: Lal Bahadur Shastri Young Scientist Award of ICAR (1999-2000), Dr. B.C. Deb Memorial Award for Soil/Physical Chemistry of ISCA (2010-2011), Shri B. Lakshminarayana Memorial Award of IARI (2002-03), NAARM Merit Award (1995), IMPHOSFAI Award, FAI (2003 & 2009), Golden Jubilee Commemoration Young Scientist Award, ISSS (2001) and Dr. S.P. Raychoudhary Gold Medal, ISSS (1994). He is NAAS associate from 2006. Dr. Damodar Reddy executed a number of special assignments as a chairman and member of various committees including IMC Member-Indian Institute of Soil Science, Bhopal (2008-10) and Member, FAD 4-BIS since 2012.

It is hoped that under the able and dynamic leadership of Dr. Reddy, the Institute will be able to meet the daunting challenges facing tobacco by appropriately reorienting and expanding its research framework and by exploring and exploiting new possibilities and opportunities.

MEETINGS

IRC Meetings

The Institute Research Committee (IRC) Meetings of ICAR-Central Tobacco Research Institute were held during 3-5 September, 2014 at Rajahmundry. Scientists of CTRI, its Research Stations, Tobacco Board officials and representatives of tobacco trade and industry were participated in the meetings.

During the deliberations in these meetings, the progress of research work carried out during the year 2013-14 was reviewed and the technical programme for the crop season 2014-15 was discussed and finalized.



VIII Group Meeting of AINPT

The Annual VIII Group Meeting of All India Network Project on Tobacco was held at ICAR-CTRI, Rajahmundry during 27-28 September, 2014.



Dr. N. Gopalakrishnan, ADG (Commercial Crops), ICAR, New Delhi graced the occasion as Chief Guest and delivered the inaugural address. Dr. D. Damodar Reddy, Director, ICAR-CTRI and Co-ordinator, AINPT addressed the gathering and presented the timeline and importance of AINPT along with salient research achievements.

Technical sessions were chaired by Dr. R. Lakshminarayana, Former Co-ordinator, AICRPT, Dr. K.S. Rao, Former Head, Crop Production, CRRI, Cuttack, Dr. K.V. Ramana, Former ADG (Plantation Crops), ICAR. All the scientists from ICAR-CTRI, ICAR-CTRI RS, SAU centres were participated and presented the results of the experiments conducted during 2013-14. The technical programme for 2014-15 was finalized. Representatives from Tobacco Board, trade and farmers were also participated in the Group Meeting.

Four pipeline varieties viz., JS-117, TBST-2, NBD-209 and BSR-1 were identified for release.

Other Meetings

Scientists of ICAR-CTRI participated in the CM-FARMERS Interface held on 16.07.2014 at Kamavarapukota, W.G. Dist. Sri N. Chandrababu Naidu, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh Inaugurated the exhibition put up by the State Dept. of Agriculture, YSR Horticultural University, RARS & APRRI, Maruteru.

Tobacco Board, Guntur has organized an Interaction Session with the Scientists of ICAR-CTRI and trade members on 07.08.2014 at ICAR-CTRI, Rajahmundry. The Chairman, Tobacco Board, Guntur attended the meeting. Focus areas for improving yield and quality of tobacco were discussed during the Session.

Meetings/ Visits of Dr. T.G.K. Murthy, Director-Acting, ICAR-CTRI from 01.07.2014 to 08.09.2014

- Attended 51st meeting of the Executive Committee and 79th Registration Committee for Growers and Others at Tobacco Board, Guntur and inspected the ICAR-CTRI Research Station and Farm, Guntur on 23.07.2014.
- Attended 138th meeting of the Tobacco Board at Hyderabad on 25.07.2014.
- Attended 86th Foundation Day, Award Ceremony - 2014 of ICAR and Vice-Chancellors of Agril. Universities & Directors of ICAR Institutes Conference at New Delhi during 29-30 July, 2014.
- Attended a meeting organized by ICAR in connection with the visit of Dr. Jose Graziano da Silva, Director-General, FAO at New Delhi on 08.09.2014.

Meetings/ Visits of Dr. D. Damodar Reddy, Director, ICAR-CTRI from 09.09.2014 to 30.09.2014

- Attended the Selection Committee Meeting at ASRB, New Delhi as the Nominee of Director-General, ICAR on 12.09.2014.
- Inspected the ICAR-CTRI Research Station, Guntur and interacted with staff on 20.09.2014.

AWARDS

ICAR Award

'Swamy Sahajanand Saraswati Outstanding Extension Scientist Award' was conferred to Dr. K. Suman Kalyani, Principal Scientist by ICAR, New Delhi. This award comprises of citation, certificate and a cash prize of Rs. 1,00,000/-. The award was presented to Dr. K. Suman Kalyani for her outstanding contribution in the field of agricultural extension during ICAR foundation day held at AP Shinde Auditorium, NAS Complex, New Delhi on 29.07.2014.



Crystal National Agri Award 2014

Dr. U. Sreedhar, Principal Scientist received Crystal National Agri Award 2014 for his exceptional contribution in enriching agricultural practices and outstanding contribution to agricultural research from Krishi Anusandhan and Kisan Vikas Foundation.



Plant Biotechnologist & Computational Biologist Awards

Dr. K. Sarala, Principal Scientist received the award "Plant Biotechnologist-2014" and Dr. H. Ravisankar, Senior Scientist received the award "Computational Biologist-2014" at the International Conference on "Biosciences : State of the art advancements" conducted by Society for Education and Scientific Research, Kerala on 11.09.2014 at Kumarakom.



Netherlands Fellowship

Netherlands fellowship (NUFFIC) was offered to Dr. K. Suman Kalyani, Principal Scientist for attending a short course entitled 'Lost Harvest and wasted food' at centre for Development Innovation Wageningen, University, Netherlands during 15-26 September, 2014.



TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY

Publications

- ❖ Suman Kalyani, K. and T.G.K. Murthy. 2014. Prevention & control of blood pressure with improved and balanced diet (in Telugu). **Annadata** 46(7):44-5.
- ❖ Suman Kalyani, K. and T.G.K. Murthy. 2014. Prevention & control of diabetes by the use of back berry (in Telugu). **Annadata** 46(9):50-2.
- ❖ Ravisankar, H., V.S.G.R. Naidu, K. Sivaraju, B. John Babu and P.V.V.S. Sivarao. 2014. Expert system for dairy cattle management. **Indian Journal of Animal Sciences** 84(8):891-6.

Conferences/ Trainings/ Workshops

- ❑ Dr. H. Ravisankar, Senior Scientist participated in the 'DST National Conference on Recent Trends in Data Mining & Bioinformatics' at Grandhi Varalakshmi Venkatarao Institute of Technology, Bhimavaram on 15.07.2014.
- ❑ Dr. K. Sarala, Principal Scientist and Dr. H. Ravisankar, Senior Scientist attended the International Conference on 'Biosciences : State of the art advancements' at Kumarakom, Kerala during 11-12 September, 2014.
- ❑ Sri Md. Elias, Sr. Technical Assistant attended the 9th Convention 'Planner – 2014' at Dibrugarh University, Dibrugarh during 25-27 September, 2014.
- ❑ Dr. L.K. Prasad participated in the 'Annual Zonal Workshop (Zone V) of KVK' at KVK, Barapani from 29.09.2014 to 01.10.2014.
- ❑ Head, Scientists and Technical Officers of ICAR-CTRI RS, Hunsur participated in 24 programmes organised by Tobacco Board during the quarter and imparted training on various aspects of tobacco cultivation.
- ❑ Organised 21 days training program to ICAR-CTRI staff members on FIM / MIS program during 9 -29th September, 2014.

CELEBRATIONS

ICAR Foundation Day

The 86th Foundation Day of ICAR was celebrated at ICAR-Central Tobacco Research Institute, Rajahmundry on 16.07.2014. Farmers, faculty and students from Agricultural College, Rajahmundry, Scientists, representatives of tobacco industry, retired scientists of ICAR-CTRI and other stake holders participated in the function.



Hindi Fortnight Celebrations

Hindi Fortnight Celebrations were organized at the Institute from 15.09.2014 to 29.09.2014 for the promotion of use of official language, Hindi. In this connection, Dr. D. Damodar Reddy, Director, ICAR-CTRI appealed to all the officers and staff to learn and use Hindi in day-to-day official correspondence. Officers/ Staff of ICAR-CTRI have participated in various events/ competitions held during the Hindi Fortnight. Valedictory Function of this Fortnight, held on 29.09.2014, was graced by the Chief Guest, Dr. N. Gopalakrishnan, ADG (CC), ICAR, New Delhi, who also gave away the prizes to the winners.



Independence Day Celebrations

Dr. T.G.K. Murthy, Director- Acting hoisted the National Flag on the eve of 68th Independence Day on 15th August, 2014. He requested all the staff to rededicate themselves to the duty without any fear or favour so as to take the Institute to the greater heights. On this occasion, the Tobacco Institute Club of ICAR-CTRI organized the cultural programmes. Meritorious children of the employees who secured the highest marks in SSC and Intermediate were awarded medals and certificates under the ICAR Welfare Fund Scheme and ICAR - CTRI Employees Co-operative Credit Society Ltd., Rajahmundry.



QRT VISIT

The QRT team visited ICAR-CTRI RS, Hunsur and AINPT Centre, Shimoga during 18-19 September, 2014 and reviewed the progress of research work carried out for the period 2009-13. The team visited the research farm and inspected the infrastructure.



PERSONALIA

Appointments

- Sri M. Mohan and Sri K. Venkateswarlu, SSS, ICAR-CTRI RS, Kandukur have been promoted to the post of Technician w.e.f. 08.09.2014.
- Sri S. Sambasiva Rao, SSS, ICAR-CTRI RS, Guntur has been promoted to the post of Technician w.e.f. 08.09.2014.
- Smt. R. Indrani, SSS, ICAR-CTRI RS, Vendasur has been promoted to the post of Technician w.e.f. 08.09.2014.
- Sri P. Kumar, SSS, ICAR-CTRI RS, Jeelugumilli has been promoted to the post of Technician w.e.f. 11.09.2014.

Retirements

- Sri S. Jitendranath, Chief Technical Officer, KVK, Kalavacharla retired from the Council's service on 31.07.2014.
- Sri Pasupuleti Raju, SSS, ICAR-CTRI, Rajahmundry retired from the Council's service on 31.07.2014.
- Sri D.V.S.C. Sastry, Senior Technical Assistant, ICAR-CTRI, Rajahmundry retired from the Council's service on 31.08.2014.
- Sri Suranjan Chanda, Technical Officer, ICAR-CTRI Research Station, Dinhatra retired from the Council's service on 30.09.2014.

KRISHI VIGYAN KENDRA

KVK organised the following programmes:

- Annual Zonal Workshop of KVKs, Zone-V: during 29.09.2014 to 01.10.2014.
- Research-Extension-Farmers interface meeting on crop production and allied activities at KVK, Kandukur on 04.08.2014.
- Awareness programme on Protray vegetable seedlings production and Kitchen gardening.
- Three Vocational Training Programmes during 01.06.2014 to 11.06.2014; 23.06.2014 to 01.08.2014; 18.09.2014 to 27.09.2014.