



ONION - GARLIC --- NEWS



INAUGURAL ISSUE

JUNE, 1998



D. G.'S MESSAGE

India is next to China in onion production and among vegetables onion ranks at the top. But in the present context, onion prices are skyrocketing and getting handy information about what is going on in this field in the form of onion-garlic news is a boon to the researchers in particular and farmers in general. I am happy that this Newsletter with a vast information on onion and garlic will be published by the National Research Centre for onion and garlic. This newsletter will serve in formulating policies to regulate the market needs alongwith maintaining our superiority in international market. I have no doubt in my mind that this newsletter will serve as a beacon to all persons related with these crops.

I congratulate the Director for publishing this Newsletter and wish him success in this endeavour.

(R. S. PARODA)



D. D. G.'s MESSAGE

A National Research Centre for Onion & Garlic has been established by ICAR during the 8th Plan for strengthening both basic and applied research in Onion & Garlic. The Centre has been operational at Rajgurunagar in Maharashtra where various research projects are under implementation. This Centre has to contribute a lot keeping in view the present scenario of price fluctuation in onion and at this stage, a Newsletter containing R & D information will be very useful. I congratulate the Director of the NRC for his initiative in bringing the Newsletter within such a short period of existence of the NRC. I wish him success in this venture.

(S. P. GHOSH)

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Onion and garlic have become sensitive crops these days. ICAR has well anticipated the same and sanctioned NRC for Onion and Garlic during VIII plan in Nasik district of Maharashtra. The centre could not be established properly due to remoteness of farm, shortage of irrigation water and late appointments of scientific and technical staff including the Director.

After considering the problems and shortcomings, ICAR took the decision of shifting the centre from Nasik to Rajgurunagar, Distt. Pune. Accordingly the headquarter was shifted and established at Rajgurunagar on 16th June, 1998.

During the last year, efforts were undertaken to acquaint with the production problems by surveying potential onion growing areas of Nasik and adjoining areas. After shifting to Rajgurunagar, the centre is trying to develop laboratory facilities and shaping up of the farm. The efforts made by Dr. R.S.Paroda, DG (ICAR) and Dr. S.P.Ghosh, DDG (Hort.) in shifting the centre and Dr.G.S.Shekhawat, Director, CPRI, Shimla for accommodating the centre at Rajgurunagar are duly acknowledged.



NATIONAL RESEARCH CENTRE FOR ONION AND GARLIC

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ABOUT THE CENTRE

National Research Centre for Onion and Garlic was sanctioned in VIIIth plan and established on 4th July, 1994 with its headquarters at Pimpri Tal, Niphad, Dist. Nasik, Maharashtra, a major onion growing state of India. Dr. G.B. Raturi, Head, CHES, Godhra was holding the charge of Director and on 1st May 1997, Dr. K.E. Lawande was appointed as full time Director of this centre. Due to lack of irrigation facilities, remoteness of farm, meagre transportation facility and other lacunae the decision was taken by ICAR for shifting of NRC O&G from Nasik to Rajgurunagar, Distt. Pune. Accordingly, the headquarters was shifted on 16th June, 1998 on the regional station of CPRI, Shimla. The centre is 43 kms from Pune on Pune-Nasik highway and has a total area of 21.95 ha with 16.05 ha under research activities. At present, the strength of NRC O&G is 25 including Director, one senior scientist, three scientists, and rest technical and administrative staff.

Dr. K.E. Lawande, Director, NRC for Onion and Garlic assumed his office on 1st May, 1997. He served as Professor of Horticulture at MPKV, Rahuri before joining NRC O&G. He received his Bachelors' and Masters' degree in Agriculture from MPKV, Rahuri during 1971 and 1973. Dr. K.E. Lawande obtained his Doctorate in Horticulture from IARI, New Delhi and MPKV, Rahuri in 1988. A committed worker and a renowned vegetable breeder, he has developed new varieties namely 'Basawant-780' in onion, 'Godavari' in garlic, 'Krishna F1' in brinjal, 'Samrat' in bottle gourd, 'Hirkani' and 'Green Gold' in bitter gourd, 'Agni Rekha and Phule Jyoti' in chilli and 'Himangi' in cucumber. He has also worked on drip irrigation system in fruit crops and has undergone training on drip irrigation from Institute of Soil and Water, Volcani center, Israel. He has 60 research papers, 3 books and 26 popular articles to his credit. He is an expert advisor to Y.B. Chavan Open University, Maharashtra and member of NHRDF core committee. His agenda for NRCO&G in the next five years is to increase the productivity, exploit the full potential and to develop hybrids in onion. In garlic, he envisions the expansion of area with good quality traits to make it competitive globally.



Dr.(Ms) M.N. Maholay, Sr. Scientist (Pathology) joined NRCO&G on 12.09.94. She completed her graduation and post graduation from Pune University with specialisation in Mycology and Plant Pathology. She obtained her doctoral degree from Bangalore University in Seed Pathology. She has 24 research papers to her credit. Presently she is working on VAM and pathological area of onion and garlic.



Dr. Md. A. Aziz Qureshi, Scientist (Soil Science) joined this centre on 12th Feb., 1997. After doing his graduation from the College of Agriculture, Raichur, UAS, Dharwad in 1989, he received his Masters' degree in Agriculture from UAS, Dharwad in 1992 with specialisation in Soil Science. Thereafter, he worked as SRF at CSSRI, Karnal in 'Saline Water Scheme' for one year. He obtained his Doctoral degree in Soil Science from IARI, New Delhi in 1997. He has 2 research papers to his credit. He will be involved in nutrient management and irrigation studies in onion and garlic.



Ms. A. Asha Devi, completed her B.Sc. (Botany) from Kerala University in 1993 and her post graduation in 1995 with specialisation in Genetics & Plant Breeding. She had a brief stint of one year at CTCRI, Kerala and joined NRCO&G on 19.12.97 as Scientist (Genetics). Till date, she has three research papers and two professional abstracts to her credit. She will be working on biotechnological aspects of onion and garlic.



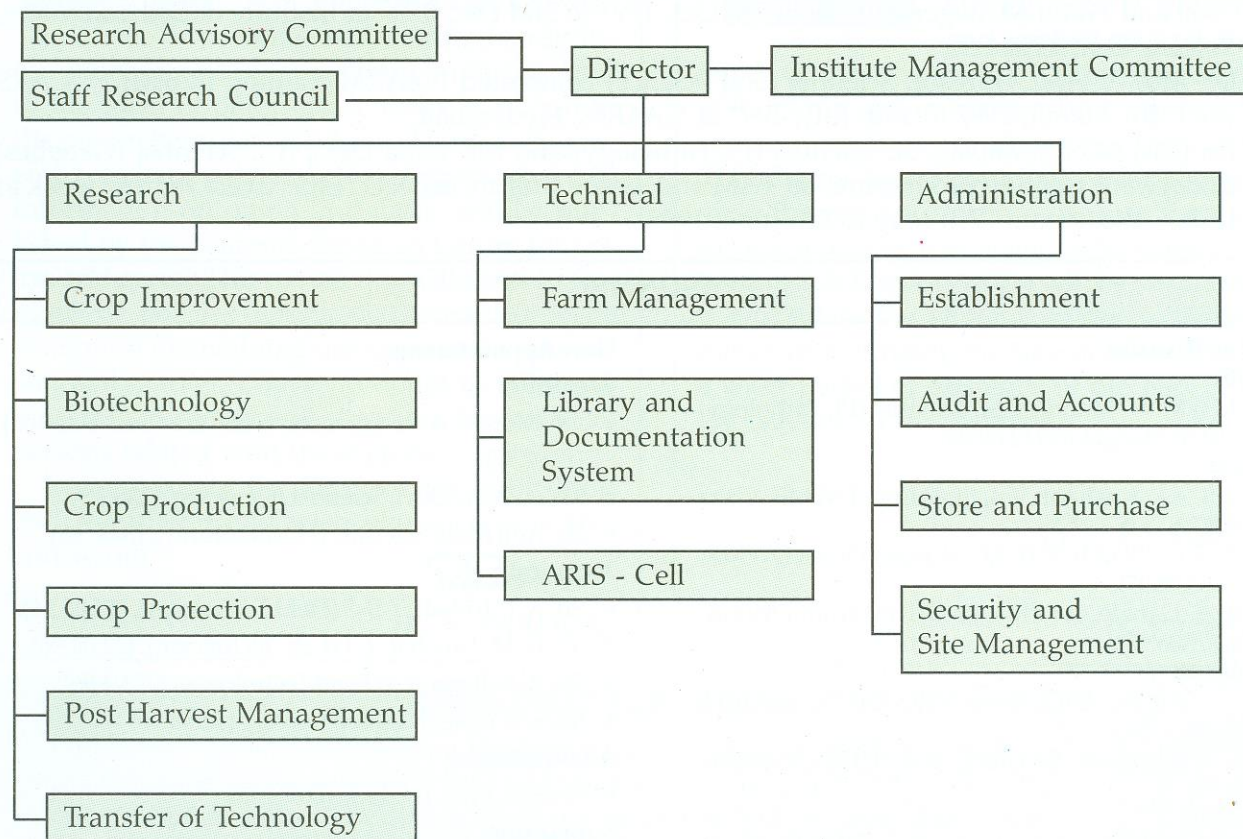
Mr. Anil Khar, Scientist (Horticulture) joined NRCO&G on 13.03.98. He completed his graduation in Horticulture from Dr. Y.S. Parmar Univ. of Hort. and Forestry in 1993 and M.Sc. (Agri.) from HPKV, Palampur with specialisation in Vegetable Breeding in 1995. He has two research papers and five popular articles to his credit. He will be studying the breeding and biotechnological areas of onion and garlic.



MANDATE

- To collect, maintain and act as national repository for onion and garlic germplasm
- To develop hybrids/varieties suitable for domestic as well as export market coupled with resistance to biotic and abiotic stresses
- To enhance and sustain productivity and quantity of seed as well as bulb crop through agro-economic manipulations
- To develop packages for post harvest handling and value addition
- To act as clearing house of research and general information relating to onion and garlic

ORGANOGRAM OF NRC ONION & GARLIC



RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

Surveys in relation to soil science, pathology and horticulture in onion were carried out in Nasik District. Exploration trips were carried out in District Nasik, Bhavnagar (Gujarat) and Karnal (Haryana) for collection of germplasm in onion and garlic. Germplasm was also procured from international agencies viz., AVRDC, Taiwan ; NRI, UK and Hazera Seeds International, Israel for evaluation trials. At present the centre is maintaining 437 lines of onion and 269 lines of garlic germplasm.

TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY

All the scientists including the Director visited farmer's fields in Nasik District to appraise the cultivation practices in onion and garlic. Storage losses and bolting were identified as main problems faced by the onion growing farmers.

INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

The centre started functioning in the old CPRS building constructed 30 years back. Office cum laboratory, store room, tractor shed and two type I and II and one type III quarters are available..

Laboratory Equipments : Incubator, oven, refrigerator, UV-Visible Spectrometer, pH meter etc. have been procured. The centre has two computers alongwith one laserjet printer. ARIS cell and E-mail facilities are yet to be installed. Office and general equipments - Xerox machines, Manual Typewriter and Cyclostype machine have been purchased.

HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

- Dr. K.E. Lawande, Director, NRC for Onion & Garlic attended two months training course on "Soil and Water Management" from 7th Oct. 1997 to 2nd Dec. 1997 at Institute of Soil and Water, Volcani Center, Israel.
- Dr. Md. A. Aziz Qureshi, Scientist (Soil Science) completed NAARM training in 59th FOCARS w.e.f. 4th March, 1997 to 10th July, 1997 at NAARM, Hyderabad.
- Dr. (Ms) M.N. Maholay, Sr. Scientist (Pl. Pathology) and Ms. Asha Devi, A. , Scientist (Genetics) underwent training programme on VAM and Tissue Culture aspects respectively for one week at IISR, Calicut from 27th May to 5th June, 1998.

PERSONNEL

Joined on Transfer

Scientific

- Dr. (Ms) M. N. Maholay, Sr. Scientist (Pl. Pathology) from IIHR, Bangalore (12.09.94).

Technical

- Sh. G. S. S. R. Krishnan, T-4 (SLA) from DWMR, Patna (01.08.97).
- Sh. H. S. C. Shaikh, T-II-3 (Computer) from DWMR, Patna (01.08.97).
- Sh. B. A. Dahale, T-1 (Tractor Driver) from DWMR, Patna (09.06.97).

Administrative

- Sh. B. Sathish, AAO, from NRC Oil Palm, Eluru (13.06.98).
- Sh. S. P. Kandwal, Sr. Clerk, from CHES, Godhra. (05.06.95)

Supporting

- Sh. R. S. Kulkarni, Lab. Atttdt., from DWMR, Patna (11.04.97)
- Sh. S. D. Waghmare, Watchman, from DWMR, Patna (11.04.97).
- Sh. N. H. Sheikh, Messenger, from DWMR, Patna (20.10.97).

New Appointments

Scientific

- Dr. Md. A. Aziz Qureshi, Scientist (Soil Science), (12.02.97).
- Ms. A. Asha Devi, Scientist (Genetics), (22.12.97).
- Sh. Anil Khar, Scientist (Horticulture), (13.03.98).

Technical

- Sh. A. P. Trivedi, T-II-3 (Field Technician), (15.01.96).
- Sh. D. M. Panchal, T-1 (Lab. Technician), (23.04.96).
- Sh. R. B. Baria, T-1 (Field Technician), (27.04.96)
- Sh. S. P. Yeole, T-1 (Jeep Driver), (12.08.96)

Administrative

- Sh. S. U. Vyas, Jr. Clerk, (08.02.96).

Supporting

- Sh. P. E. Tadge, Lab. Atttdt., (19.07.96).
- Sh. P. R. Sonawane, Lab. Atttdt. (19.07.96).
- Sh. M. S. Kale, Messenger, (23.07.96).

VISITORS

- Dr. G. Kalloo, Project Director, PDVR, Varanasi (11.04.98).
- Dr. Felix Serquens, Onion Breeder, Sun Seeds, USA (28.03.98).
- Dr. S.K. Tikoo, Research Manager, Sun Seeds, India (28.03.98).
- Dr. C.S. Pathak, Onion Breeder, AVRDC, Taiwan (14.04.98).

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