



# ONION - GARLIC --- NEWS



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View of the research farm of NRCOG

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## FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



During the last six-month period, onion has become a very sensitive commodity, with the vast power to even bring down Governments with the prices skyrocketing beyond reason. The causes behind this are varied and include vagaries of monsoon, outbreak of fungal diseases, use of low quality seeds, absence of disease tolerant / resistant varieties for *kharif* as well as late *kharif* (*rangda*) season. *Kharif* as well as late *kharif* produce contributes nearly 40% of supply from September to February. The stored onion of the main season, i.e. *rabi*, meets the demand of domestic supply upto September only. Failure of *kharif* crop and subsequent late *kharif* crop results in utter chaos in the supply system, thereby resulting in price hike.

Since there is hardly any control over nature, successful management of *kharif* and *rangda* crop by way of selection of the most adapted genotypes and effective management of diseases and pests seems to be the only alternative under the present situation. A survey was carried out by the scientists of the centre for studying incidence and intensity of various diseases and pests in onion growing area of Pune and Ahmednagar districts. Farmers were advised for adopting proper remedial measures.

After taking over the new location at Rajgurunagar, efforts were made to plant *kharif* germplasm along with some exotic lines. Trials for increasing productivity of *kharif* onion have been laid out. Efforts were also being made to renovate old infrastructure facilities such as office building, pipelines, roads, quarters, etc. for making the farm presentable.

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## RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

- Planted 219 accessions of onion in *kharif* season and 117 accessions in late *kharif* (*rangda*) season.
- The centre has been selected as one of the participatory Centres under the International Onion Trial for conducting research on exotic varieties to study their adaptability and other important horticultural traits in our agroclimatic conditions. Genotypes have been planted in *kharif* and late *kharif* seasons.
- A survey for studying the disease incidence was carried out in Tal. Khed. About ten villages were covered in this tour. Purple blotch and *Colletotrichum* were observed to cause serious damage to the crop. Remedial measures of spraying 0.2% carbendazim (Bavistin) alongwith sticker was advised to the farmers.
- With a view to identify suitable variety for late *kharif*, different advanced varieties were planted at 15 days interval in August and September.



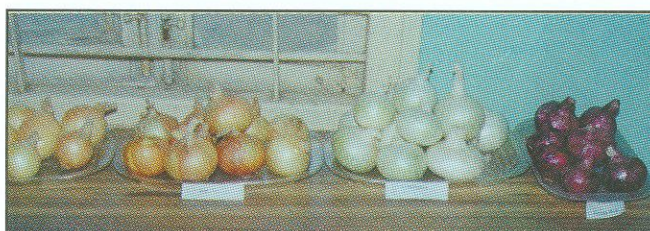
Heavy infestation of purple blotch and *Colletotrichum*

### Extension Services:

The Centre is also providing extension services to the farmers in the form of on-field advice



Onfarm advice to the farmers by the Director



Exotic genotypes for late *kharif*.

### Collaborative Research:

NRCOG is collaborating with the Department of Botany, Pune University for mutation breeding studies in Onion.

### Consultancy Services:

In the first year of its inception at Rajgurunagar, NRC for Onion and Garlic has generated resources through contract research. Also the centre helps farmers/industry by providing necessary information in the form of literature regarding its production and processing.

## HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

### Training:

- Ms. A. Asha Devi, Scientist (Genetics) underwent NAARM Training in the 64<sup>th</sup> FOCARS w.e.f. 21 July, 1998 to 13 Nov. 1998 at NAARM Hyderabad.

### Paper Presentations/Publications:

- Dr. K.E. Lawande, Director attended a consultancy seminar organised by IIHR, Bangalore from 7 - 8 August, 1998 and presented a paper on "National Consultation on Horticulture Research Development and Export."
- Dr. Md. A. Aziz Qureshi, Scientist (Soil Science) attended a two day seminar on "Recent Advances in Nutrient Management of Horticultural Crops" from 1-2 Dec. 1998 at K.V.K., Dapoli and presented a poster titled, "Soil Fertility Status in Onion Growing Areas of Nashik District".



- Dr. K.E.Lawande, Director, has published a popular article, "Kanda Utpadan Ek Avahan", in the Marathi newspaper, Arthamanthan, Sakal, Pune 30 Nov. to 6 Dec., 1998 issue.
- Shinde, K.G, K.E.Lawande, B.T.Patil and S.V.Nirmal (1998). Correlation studies in pea (*Pisum sativum* L.) *Ad. Plant Sci.* 11(2): 177-180.

### Participation in Meetings / Seminars:

- Dr. K.E.Lawande, Director participated in the Horticultural Conference organised by Horticulture Division, Govt. of India, Min. of Agriculture (DARE), Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi from 20 - 21 Nov. 1998.
- Dr. K.E.Lawande, Director delivered a lecture on 'Vegetable Cultivation' in the farmers' training and visit programme organised by KVK, Sharadanagar, Tal. Baramati, Dist. Pune on 26 Nov. 1998.
- Dr. K.E.Lawande, Director attended the first meeting of the Expert Group on Onion at the Maharashtra State Agricultural Marketing Board, Pune on 16 Dec. 1998.

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

### Sports:

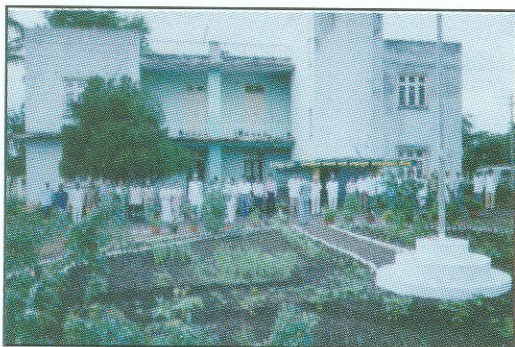


NRCOG's first participation in sports at Nagpur

The Centre has made its maiden entry in the Zone – II Inter Institutional sports, which was held at Nagpur from 23 to 26 October 1998. The contingent of ten members was led by Dr. Aziz Qureshi as Chief – de Mission, Mr. Anil Khar as Sports Officer and Mr. S.C. Sharma as Sports Manager.

### Independence Day Celebration:

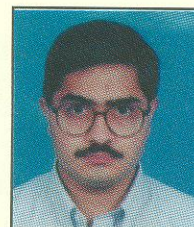
The 51 Independence Day was celebrated with grandeur by the NRC staff. The Director addressed the gathering and called upon the Staff to do their duties with utmost sincerity and dedication. The Director also did flag hoisting. The staff organized various entertainment programmes where every member participated enthusiastically to make the programme a grand success.



Director's address to the staff on the eve of the 51 Independence Day celebration

### Our New Colleague:

Sh. P. Satya Srinivas, Scientist (Ento.) joined NRC O & G on 30.11.98. He completed his graduation from Acharya N.G.Ranga Agricultural University, Bapatla in 1993 and his post graduation from the same University in 1995 with specialisation in Agricultural Entomology. He is at present doing his Doctoral Degree at IARI, New Delhi. He will be concentrating on the IPM aspects of Onion and Garlic.





## INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

The Centre which was recently shifted to Rajgurunagar, is functioning at the old CPRS building. As the buildings are about 30 years old, renovation work was badly needed. About six petty works like renovation of Residential Quarters, Library, Office Buildings, Wiring of all the buildings, Tarring of the roads, Painting works, etc. were taken up.

Some instruments like Digital Flame Photometer, Centrifuge, etc. have been purchased during this period.

## DISTINGUISHED GUESTS



Director discussing the research activities with Dr. S. P. Ghosh on his maiden visit to the centre

- Dr. S. P. Ghosh, DDG (Hort.), ICAR, New Delhi (18.08.98).
- Dr. Y. S. Nerker, Vice Chancellor, MPKV, Rahuri (03.09.98).
- Dr. C. R. Hazera, Agricultural Commissioner, Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India (11.09.98).
- Dr. H. P. Singh, Commissioner of Horticulture, Govt. of India, New Delhi (26.09.98).

## PERSONNEL

### Joined on Transfer:

#### Technical

- Sh. N. L. Gore, T-II-3 (FA) from CPRS, Rajgurunagar (06.09.98).

#### Administrative

- Smt. S. S. Joshi, Asst. from CPRS, Rajgurunagar (06.09.98).

#### Supporting

- Sh. S. K. Said, Beldar (SSG – II), from CPRS, Rajgurunagar

### Transfer on Promotion:

#### Administrative

- Sh. S. C. Sharma, A.F.A.C.O, from NRC for Weed Science, Jabalpur (24.07.98).
- Sh. D. B. Mundharikar, Stenographer, from NRC for Soybean, Indore (29.10.98).
- Sh. P. S. Tanwar, Sr. Clerk, from CIAE, Bhopal, (02.12.98).

### New Appointments:

#### Scientific

- Sh. P. Satya Srinivas, Scientist (Ento.) (30.11.98).

#### Administrative

- Smt. U. V. Rasker, Hindi Typist (06.11.98).
- Sh. R. K. Dedge, Jr. Clerk (25.11.98).