

GUBBA SEED UPDATE

Bi-monthly News Letter exclusively for Seed industry

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For Private Circulation only

CELEBRATING
Gubba
20
Years of trust

Dear Sir,

Wish you a very Happy and Prosperous New Year, Merry Christmas and Happy Bakrid to you all.

Hope your preparations for the new season is in full swing, production, storage area, marketing strategies, new packing methods and the list goes on. Hope this new year brings you alive all your cherished dreams. A new year and new news at Gubba, as conveyed earlier about our new State-of-the-Art Dehumidified cold storage for seeds is under the way. This new facility would meet the global standards in seed preservation which will be on a rack supported system assisted with folk lift for operations. As the seed industry is going global in your various endeavors including the mode of packing. To be at par with the seed industry, this new facility which will be operational by march 2008, is compatible to handle the new jumbo bags, bins and of course the regular secondary bags.

As a part of constant endeavor in implementing the series of value

Added services we are shortly implementing BAR CODED ACCESS CARD system. Your representative will receive Bar coded access card with his photo. On every transaction of the stock at Gubba as mandatory he needs to produce that access card for security reasons. Once your representative produces the access card, we at Gubba will check the authenticity of the said person on line. Once it is authenticated your representative will be able to Access the stock. However at this moment we are providing this services only to the Pre-Foundation and Foundation Seed at Gubba.

More news in our coming issues on our State of Art facility. May all your endeavours come true in this new year and wish you all the very best.




Regards
Gubba Kiran
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The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has sanctioned Rs. 6.05 crore



NEW FACILITY: Minister for Agriculture Veerapandi S. Arumugam (left) takes a look at the exhibits after inaugurating the new seed centre building at the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University in the city on Tuesday. Vice-Chancellor of the University C. Ramasamy (second left) is in the picture. —

COIMBATORE: The Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) has set up a seed centre on its premises to ensure the availability of quality seeds to farmers at a reasonable price.

Uniformity

This is also expected to bring about uniformity in seed production and develop quality control programmes. The centre that was inaugurated on Tuesday by Minister for Agriculture Veerapandi S. Arumugam has been set up at a cost of Rs. 50 lakh. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, had sanctioned Rs. 6.05 crore to the university under the Mega Seed Project to strengthen seed production in the university. According to A.S. Ponnuswamy, Special Officer (Seeds), the university has distributed the assistance to 20 centres for creating infrastructure facilities and purchase of machinery for seed production and processing.

Subsidised rates

The Government of India has also sanctioned Rs. 82 lakh under the "Seed Village Scheme" to the university to supply university-labelled seeds of paddy, maize, black gram and gingelly varieties to farmers at subsidised rates, and also to impart seed production training to them.

Quote on Gubba

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Mr.Niranjan Kumar GARC SEEDS PVT LTD

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Source: IRIS (03 November 2007)

Technology: Seed bank builds on frozen assets

From New Scientist Print Edition. ANDY COGLAN

Exotic fruits growing in a Malaysian garden mark a breakthrough in the technology of preserving seeds. This success may pave the way for botanists to 'bank' the genes of many important tropical plants, the seeds of which have so far proved impossible to preserve. The seeds of many economically important tropical species, including rubber, coconut palm, cocoa and coffee, and some from temperate regions, such as oak and chestnut, are described as 'recalcitrant' because they cannot be dried slowly and frozen like 'orthodox' seeds, which can survive in this state for many years.

With care, orthodox seeds can be dried until they contain only 5 per cent moisture. So there is little risk that ice will form, disrupting the seed's tissue and killing it. Recalcitrant seeds contain so much water that until now they could not be dried enough to risk freezing them. Around 70 per cent of tropical species may produce recalcitrant seed. To the frustration of botanists and conservationists, the only way to preserve the genetic diversity of these species has been to collect the seeds and grow each succeeding generation. Lack of space makes it difficult to do this on a large scale. The jackfruits in Hoong-Fong Chin's garden are the products of the first recalcitrant seeds to be brought back to life after a period in the deepfreeze. 'We are the first to succeed with a truly recalcitrant species,' says Chin, who is based at the Malaysian University of Agriculture in Selangor.

'These are very difficult seeds to handle,' says Chin, 'because they are very variable in moisture content compared with seeds of wheat or barley, for example, which are very uniform.' Chin and his colleagues Yue-Luan Hor and Bashkaran Krishnapillay overcame this problem with jackfruit (*Artocarpus heterophyllus*) by preserving just the embryo, not the entire seed. 'The embryo is more like an orthodox seed, and contains much less moisture than the whole seed,' he says. 'Therefore, it's much more tolerant to cryopreservation.' He says that the trickiest part with jackfruit and other recalcitrant species is locating and extracting the embryo. Even in a seed the size of a coconut the embryo is only a few millimetres long. Before freezing the embryos, Chin coated them with a solution of dimethyl sulphoxide and proline, which protects them against cold injury from water in the atmosphere. He then blotted the embryos to remove excess moisture and dried them carefully for one hour.

Chin then freezes them slowly, at around 1 degree C per minute until they reach -40 °C, before immersing them in liquid nitrogen at -196 °C for permanent storage. He did this in a special freezer which steadily injects drops of liquid nitrogen into the refrigeration chamber. This allows the tissue of the seeds to acclimatise to the fall in temperature before the next drop is added.

Chin kept the seeds for between one day and a month and found that 60 per cent of them remained viable. 'It's our presumption that they're in suspended animation and in theory they should be able to survive in this state forever.' 'Chin's method is exceptionally important,' says Hugh Pritchard, who works at the seed bank at Wakehurst Place, the country offshoot of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. 'It's the only technique on the horizon that would work for recalcitrant seeds of tremendous economic and ecological value,' he says. Pritchard is developing similar techniques for preserving chestnut seeds. 'The difficulties we face are akin to those faced by medical people trying to preserve organs for transplant,' he says. He says that if recalcitrant seeds can be stored, it will be possible to preserve a much greater proportion of the genetic diversity of these species. 'Seed storage is probably the most cost-effective way of preservation because seeds are smaller, so you can preserve a large number in a small volume.'

Chin says that he is refining his technique, and has already had some success with rubber. He reports that the jackfruit in his garden seem to have no abnormalities, suggesting that the embryos were unharmed by their spell in the freezer.

Advanta India's arm buys stake in Long Reach

Advanta India announced that Pacific Seeds Australia, a subsidiary company of Advanta (Q, N,C,F)* India, purchased a controlling share of LongReach Plant Breeders (LongReach), a wheat seed breeding company based in Australia, for the sum of AUD 12 million, subject to the achievement of established breeding targets to 2011. The remaining share hold will continue to be owned by seeds and genetics company Syngenta Seeds. This acquisition bolsters the company's 2004 entry into the Australian wheat seed industry, providing a plant breeding and germplasm platform from which to grow this expanding business.

LongReach, through its links with Syngenta Seeds' global cereal breeding network, has access to the best available breeding technology and evaluation systems, as well as proprietary traits and germplasm from all major wheat producers. As a result, LongReach has one of the fastest wheat breeding cycles in the world, deployed in a solid commercial business structure.

The plan is to utilise Pacific Seeds' strong brand recognition in the Australian market and LongReach plant breeding and germplasm credentials to establish a leadership position in the Australian wheat seed business, the company said. Pacific Seeds has a marketing system of wheat seed associates based throughout the Australia wheat belt and similarly LongReach has breeding and evaluation programs throughout these areas as well.

Advanta India is one of the leading international companies in the business of manufacturing agronomic seeds. Operating mainly in India, Australia, Thailand and Argentina, the company is a global leader in technical plant breeding and in the application of biotechnology to develop new hybrids and varieties of crops and vegetable seed products including, sorghum, canola, sunflower, corn, hybrid rice and hybrid mustard. It is a wholly-owned subsidiary of United Phosphorus, an Indian company in the agrochemical business.

Shares of Advanta India declined Rs 13.9, or 1.26%, to settle at Rs 1,091.15. The total volume of shares traded was 3,282 at the BSE. (Friday)

LEARNINGS:



How does heat transfer?

Conduction: The transfer of heat through a material is by conduction, e.g. if we heat one end of a metal rod, the heat travels through the rod from the hotter end to the cooler end.

Convection: This occurs only in fluids, i.e. liquid and gas. When a material is heated it expands in volume and becomes lighter.

Radiation: Heat jumps across the space between two objects, one of which is higher in temperature than the other. The heat flow from the sun to the earth is an excellent example of radiation.

TNAU, Rasi Seeds tie-up for GM cassava

Attur-based Rasi Seeds Private Ltd and the Tamilnadu Agricultural University (TNAU) have entered into an agreement to develop transgenic cassava resistant to mosaic virus. The tie-up, supported by the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India under the small business innovation research initiative (SBIRI) scheme, will make use of an indigenous technology developed.

Source : Agriculture Today, December 2007

Supply of quality seeds boosts agriculture production

Staff Reporter

The seeds are supplied with 50 per cent subsidy to farmers



On the path to development:

Quality seed kit supplied to a woman farmer at Maruthurai.

ERODE: With the distribution of quality seeds to the small and marginal farmers, the production of agriculture products has increased. Although the agriculture department is planning to distribute quality seeds of paddy, maize, pulses, cotton and oilseeds, the distribution does not cover the total requirement for the particular crop. The agriculture department proposed to distribute quality certified seeds for paddy crop in 18 per cent of the total area. Groundnut seeds were distributed for five percent of the total requirement lands. For the remaining areas, the seed requirement is fulfilled by the private agencies and in some places the farmers use the seeds that they cultivate themselves.

"After realising the importance of providing quality seeds for the entire area of cultivation, the Tamilnadu Government with Union Government's assistance has introduced the seed village programme, in which the farmers are encouraged to raise the crop on seed farm standard. So, the seed produced by the agriculturists can be exchanged among the farmers to raise the crop in the next season," said the Assistant Director of Agriculture, Kangeyam A. Prabakaran on Wednesday at Kangeyam.

The seed village programme is now introduced in paddy, pulses and oilseed crops in Erode district. "A village in which a particular crop is predominantly grown would be selected under the seed village programme," said Prabakaran. He added that the seeds are supplied with 50 percent subsidy to the farmers and the seed raised by these farmers are periodically checked by the agricultural department officials to maintain the seed standard. In Kangeyam area, Maruthurai village has been selected under the seed village programme to raise groundnut crop. The farmers are being trained to adopt all technologies. They were given training thrice, one before sowing, second during the early stage of the crop growth and finally third training would be given at the time of harvest. "Seed village programme will bring self sufficiency in getting quality seeds among the farmers in subsequent years", said Prabakaran.

Quote on Gubba

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Mr.S Mohan,
Prof, TNAU, Coimbatore – 641003.

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HAU develops new bajra variety



Haryana Agricultural University has developed a promising variety of bajra called HHB- 197. Compared to the earlier varieties developed by the university, this variety gives higher yield. It matures early and is resistant to most diseases. Impressed by its qualities, the National Variety Notification Committee has released this variety for cultivation in Gujarat, Rajasthan, Harvana, Punjab, UP, MP and Delhi. Vice-chancellor J.C. Katyal said here today that this variety would prove to be a boon for the farmers. He said it would end the shortage of bajra seed in the state as the farmers could produce bajra seed themselves. He said the new variety was suitable for both rainfed as well as irrigated areas. Katyal said it would yield 50 quintals of grain per hectare and 110 quintals of fodder per hectare. Being a early-maturing variety, the farmers could harvest crop within 68 to 72 days, he said.

Source : Agriculture Today,
December 2007

National Seed Association of India (NSAI) Conducts First Ever Annual General Meeting Governing Council for 2008-2010

Announced New Delhi, Delhi, India, Tuesday, December 18, 2007 — (Business Wire India) The National Seed Association of India (NSAI), the apex association representing the needs and interests of the Rs.5000 Crore plus seed industry in India announced the unanimous election of the new Governing Council(GC) for the year 2008. More than 65 members of NSAI convened at New Delhi over the first Annual General Meeting to elect the members of the new Governing Council for the next year. The meeting commenced in the morning with the Annual General Meeting and was followed by the election of the GC. The election to the new GC was unanimous indicating a great sense of unity amongst the industry.

Following members were elected as office bearers to the new GC :

- **Mr. M. Prabhakar Rao**, *Managing Director*,
Nuzevedu Seeds Ltd has been elected as President, NSAI
- **Mr. Uday Singh**, *Managing Director*,
Namdhari Seeds Ltd is the new Vice President
- **Dr. Paresh Verma**, *Director, Research*,
Shriram Bioseeds is the Secretary General
- **Mr. Harish Reddy**, *Managing Director*,
Ganga Kaveri Seeds Ltd is the Treasurer

Thanking the members of the association, **Mr. M. Prabhakar Rao**, *M.D.*, Nuzevedu Seeds and the new President of NSAI said, "we take a solemn Vow to work towards the cause of the end beneficiary, namely farmers across the country and would like to take this opportunity to reiterate the Association's commitment to help create an ambience in the country conducive to the interest of the farmers and the growth of the seed industry."

About NSAI

National Seed Association of India (NSAI) is the apex association of the Rs. 5000 Crore Indian seed industry and comprises of more than 200 member seed companies.

Did you Know ?

When seed is packed in a sealed container, ethylene released by seed affects the long term preservation of the seed.

YEAR BYGONE HEADLINES OF THE SEED INDUSTRY for the year 2008

- ◆ AP BLOCKS MONSANTO'S BT-2 SEED - JAN
- ◆ SEEDS GET THEIR REGISTRY - FEB
- ◆ HEAT GETTING ON TO RICE - MAR
- ◆ VIDARBHA VILLAGE GIVES UP COTTON FARMING - MAR
- ◆ ADVANTA INDIA TO ENTER CAPITAL MARKETS - MAR
- ◆ CITY EXPERTS GROW SUPER RICE - APR
- ◆ MAHYCO TO DEVELOP INSECT-TOLERANT BRINJAL,RICE CROPS - APR
- ◆ INDIA NEEDS TO PRODUCE 100-110 MT OF RICE - APR
- ◆ RICE PRODUCTION BLAMED ON RISING METHANE EMISSION - MAY
- ◆ MONSOON TO KICKSTART EARLY SOWING SEASON - MAY
- ◆ SOUTH-WEST MONSOON DELAYED BY 4 DAYS - MAY
- ◆ GM CROPS FAVOUR LOCAL INSECT LIFE: STUDY - JUN
- ◆ CASTOR PRICES MOVE UP - JUN
- ◆ RAIN TAKES A BREAK, BUT WILL NOT IMPACT KHARIF CROPS - JULY
- ◆ COTTON SEEDS ON ESSENTIAL LIST - JULY
- ◆ GM CROP ISSUE TOO TECHNICAL FOR COURT: SC - AUG
- ◆ MYSTERY FUNGUS HITS BT COTTON - AUG
- ◆ AVESTHAGEN GETS PATENT TO GENERATE CYTOPLASMIC LINE - SEP
- ◆ SIMA CARRIES OUT TRIAL OF LONG-STAPLE COTTON - SEP
- ◆ GOOD KHARIF CROP EXPECTED WITH MORE RAINS: IMD - SEP
- ◆ COTTON OUTPUT TO GO UP; EXPORTS MAY RISE TOO - OCT
- ◆ HOLY SEEDS MAY HALT BIO-PROJECT - OCT
- ◆ ICRISAT DEVELOPS CURE FOR BOLLWORM ATTACK - OCT
- ◆ MONSANTO INDIA TO SELL SUNFLOWER BIZ - OCT
- ◆ STUDY BEGINS ON ARSENIC-RESISTANT RICE - NOV
- ◆ MONSANTO'S NEW SOYA STRAIN YIELDS 10% HIGHER - NOV
- ◆ BLOOD SEEDS FROM GUJARAT FARMS - NOV
- ◆ AVESTHAGEN SEES TOP-LEVEL REJIG - DEC
- ◆ MONSANTO TO DABBLE IN WHEAT, PULSES - DEC
- ◆ US RESEARCHES GENETICALLY ENGINEERED DROUGHT-TOLERANT PLANTS - DEC

Low acreage
to push
mustard
seed prices

Posted online:
Monday, November 26,
2007 at 2350 hrs IST

Mumbai, Nov 26 Mustard seed futures are expected to trade higher and reach new highs this week on trailing rabi, or winter crop, acreage, and soaring international crude oil prices, analysts said.

"Sowing is in its fag end and area under the crop is still down sharply...prices will move up further on supply fears," said Shardul Sharma, analyst, Sharekhan Commodities Pvt Ltd.

Area under rabi mustard seed crop was down 26% to 4.24 million hectares as on November 23, compared with the same period last year, farm ministry data showed.

"Sowing is likely to be completed in next two weeks and the area is not likely to increase significantly during the period," said a senior official in the state department of agriculture, Rajasthan.

Rajasthan is a major producer of mustardseed and plantings in the state are down by around 35% as of now due to low moisture levels, the official said. Mustardseed sowing starts from October and the crop is ready for harvest by mid-February.

"The prices are likely to remain strong in both spot and futures in the next two three months as spot market will see a supply crunch before new arrivals," Sharma said.



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with your recommendations and concerns to serve you better.*

Gubba

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