Newsletter



January-June, 2024

From the Director's Desk / निदेशक की कलम से





Dear Readers,

It gives me immense pleasure to release the Newsletter of ICAR-NRCP for the period of January to June 2024. It's a matter of pride that NRCP's pomegranate variety 'Solapur Anardana' meant for *anardana* purpose is notified by State Variety Release Committee (SVRC -2024).

During this period, an international assignment for export of irradiated pomegranate to USA was achieved due to combined efforts of NRCP, APEDA, MSAMB, DPP & QS and INI Farms Pvt. Ltd., NRCP has developed sea protocol for export of the pomegranate fruits to USA through static trial at NRCP, Solapur.

SSR marker based multiplex assays were developed for detection of promising Pomegranate varieties. Scientists have identified potential donors for bio-fortification purposes which will be useful for pomegranate breeders for selection of parental material for development of nutritionally superior bio-fortified varieties.

Scientists of NRCP brought laurels by bagging several prestigious fellowships and awards. The centre has organised seventeen training programmes besides its participation in three agricultural exhibitions. During this period, NRCP has signed three MoU with different stakeholders. I extend my hearty congratulations to the dedicated efforts of scientists and other staff of ICAR-NRCP.

- Director's Desk
- Research achievement

Contents

- Events organized
 Trainings
 National seminars/
 workshops
 Resource person
- Extension Activities
 Trainings
 Agri. Exhibitions /
 Melas
- Technology Transferred/ MoU
- Distinguished Visitors
- Farmers & Students Visit
- Personnel
 - > Awards
 - **Promotions**
 - Publications
 - > New Projects sanctioned
 - > Meetings attended

Produced & Published by	Compiled & Edited by
Dr. R. A. Marathe, Director ICAR-NRC on Pomegranate, NH-65, Solapur-Pune Highway, Kegaon, Solapur Ph: 0217-2354330 Email: nrcpomegranate@gmail.com Website: https://nrcpomegranate.icar.gov.in	Dr. Pinky Raigond, Sr. Scientist (Plant Physiology) Dr. Somnath S. Pokhare, Sr. Scientist (Nematology) Dr. Namrata A. Giri, Scientist (Food Technology)



Dr. R. A. Marathe, Director, ICAR-NRCP Solapur received Prestigious Fellowship of "National Academy of Agricultural Sciences" New Delhi on January 1, 2024





Dr. R. A. Marathe, Director, ICAR-NRCP Solapur receiving the prestigious award from President NAAS & DG, ICAR at NASC, New Delhi

Flagging off the first sea consignment of irradiated pomegranate fruits to United States of America

Under the leadership of Dr. R.A. Marathe, Director, team of Scientists including Dr. Nilesh Gaikwad, and Dr. Namrata Giri, contributed in the export of irradiated pomegranate fruits to USA. Sea protocol for export of the pomegranate fruits to USA through static trial at NRCP, Solapur has been developed. Detailed study report for the same has been sent to APEDA, New Delhi. On the basis of the study

report first sea shipment of pomegranate has been exported to USA on 28th Feb. 2024. This activity was conducted by NRCP in collaboration with APEDA (Min. of Commerce and Industry, GOI), MSAMB (Govt. of Maharashtra), Directorate of plant protection, quarantine & storage (DAC, GOI), and INI Farms Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai. The development of sea protocol, static trial and sea shipment of the pomegranate to USA has opened up the economical export opportunity to pomegranate exporters from India and reduce the



transportation cost of the pomegranate fruit by approximately 1/3rd and thereby making our farmers and exporters competitive in the international market.

Research achievements/ Highlights/ Technology developed

Pomegranate var. Solapur Anardana: SVRC -2024 notified

Pomegranate variety of the NRCP 'Solapur Anardana' meant for preparation of *anardana* is notified by State Variety Release Committee (SVRC -2024). It is a high yielding variety (22-23 tons/ha); rich in titrable acidity (4.8%); Anthocyanin (456 mg/100 g) with high anardana recovery from the arils (21.6%). This is red rind variety with red arils. It is notified by the State Variety Release Committee (SVRC) of 2024 through 53rd SSSC meeting, held on 08.02.2024, Mantralaya, Mumbai, for cultivation in the state of Maharashtra.







Fresh fruits of Solapur anardana variety





Fresh arils of Solapur anardana

Dried arils of Solapur anardana

(K. D. Babu)

Introduction and evaluation of pomegranate germplasm under humid and sub-humid regions of Uttarakhand, India

Collaborative project on "Introduction and evaluation of pomegranate germplasm in Humid and Subhumid regions of Uttarakhand, India" with VPKAS, Almora was initiated with the planting of temperate pomegranate cultivars (23 accessions) to evaluate their performance under Humid and Subhumid regions of Uttarakhand.





Planting of pomegranate germplasms at VPKAS, Almora

(P. Shilpa, P. Roopa Sowjanya, C. Awachare, K. D. Babu, Rahul Dev, N K Hedau, Lakshmikant, & R. A. Marathe)

Survey cum exploration for collection of new pomegranate germplasm accessions

Survey cum exploration has been made and collected 50 new pomegranate germplasm accessions from Jolikote, Garampani, Chhra, Kafliger, Bageshwar, Takula, Basoli, Katura, Patiya, Batgaon, Kasoon,



Mehatgaon, Pathalibagad, Kosi, Hawalbagh areas of Uttarakhand. Successfully established germplasm collections will be screened for various biotic and abiotic stresses to identify the resistance sources for utilizing in pomegranate breeding programmes.





Collection of wild Pomegranate germplasm by NRCP scientists

(P. Shilpa; P. Roopa Sowjanya, C. Awachare & R. A. Marathe)

Identification of polymorphic SNPs in 95 germplasm line of Pomegranate

Sequencing of selected pomegranate lines has been completed using Illumina platform at Eurofins Genomics India Pvt. Ltd. Bengaluru. The sequenced raw data was processed to obtain high quality clean reads to remove adaptor sequences, ambiguous reads and low quality sequences using Trimmomatic v.038. The reads of the sample were aligned to the reference pomegranate genome using Burrows-Wheeler Aligner v0.7.17 and the read group information was added to the alignment files using Picard v2.27.5 and the duplicate read groups were marked. A total of 626.7 million raw reads were generated covering 173.8 Gb of sequence data with an average of 6.5 million reads per sample, the raw reads were trimmed to obtain 525.4 million clean high quality reads with an average of 5.5 million reads per sample. Subsequently, the clean reads of each sample that have been trimmed were mapped to the pomegranate reference genome (Genome length = 320.30Mb). Above 99% mapping percentage has been acquired in the study with the total number of mapped tags ranged from 1,44,298 to 1,85,10,279 across all samples. SNPs were identified from the sorted BAM file of the samples using FreeBayes (v1.0.2) and filtered based on minimum read depth of 10 and mapping quality threshold of 25 using. The SNPs were further filtered with VCFtools (v0.1.016) to retain sites with genotypes present in 80% of the sample which revealed 36,471 polymorphic SNP sites out of 9,56,531 total filtered SNPs across 95 genotypes (10,069 SNPs/sample).

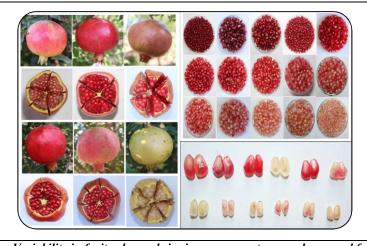
(P. Roopa Sowjanya, Manjunatha N., Shilpa P., N. V. Singh & R. A. Marathe)

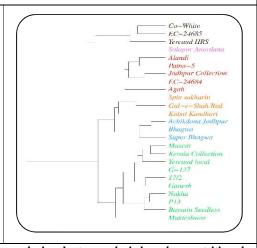
Expedition of nutritional diverseness of Pomegranate (Punica granatum) germplasm

Twenty-five pomegranate germplasm lines comprising of commercial pomegranate varieties and exotic/indigenous cultivars were evaluated for nutritional quality viz. carbohydrates, antioxidants, and



minerals. Significant variability was reported in germplasm for parameters such as acidity (0.32-2.69), total soluble solids (9-16°Brix), ascorbic acid (12.5-19.2 mg/100ml), monomeric anthocyanin (0.7-46.9 mg/100ml), reducing sugars (1.1-32.3 g/100ml), total soluble sugar (3.6-22.9 g/100ml), total phenols (697-3854 mg/L), iron (25-193 mg/Kg), zinc (10-36 mg/kg), calcium (12-25 mg/100g), magnesium (6-16 mg/100g), potassium (564-1093 mg/100g) and phosphorus (0.062-0.118%). TSS showed significant negative correlation with manganese (r = -0.58), potassium (r = -0.53) and phosphorous (r = -0.66), whereas correlated positively with calcium (r = 0.53). Euclidean distance based on 17 parameters, 25 genotypes were classified into two major clusters consisting of 9 germplasm in sub cluster I and 16 germplasm in sub cluster II with two sub clusters. The highest inter class distance was found between Co-white and Mukteshwar. The lowest intra class distance was shared between co-white and EC-24685. Among tested germplasm, Solapur Anardana and EC-24684 contained highest concentration of iron and zinc hence can be used in breeding programmes for development of bio-fortified pomegranate varieties.





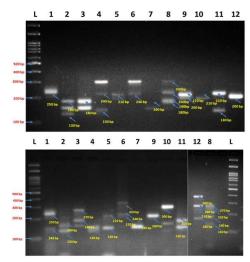
Variability in fruit color and size in pomegranate germplasm used for analysis; cluster analysis based on nutritional quality

(P. Raigond, Roopa Sowjanya P., Shilpa P., N. A. Giri, K. D. Babu, P. G. Patil & R. A. Marathe)

Development of SSR marker based multiplex assays for detection of promising Pomegranate varieties

Microsatellite profiling usually amplifies more than two alleles per locus, making it challenging to

analyse and compare different varieties. Therefore, in order to depict more clearly the examined pomegranate varieties. The SSRs with rare alleles, and combinations of rare and unique allele sizes were converted to barcodes. The allele size bars are drawn to a linear scale for all of the analysed 12 varieties i.e. Ganesh, Mridula, Arakta, Ruby, Super Bhagawa, Dholka, Kandhari, Solapur Lal, Jallore Seedless, Jyoti, Bhagawa and Yercaurd-I to develop barcode representation for multiplex assays. As a result, we developed and confirmed the multiplex assays through wet lab experiments for eight core SSRs producing rare alleles with two to four primer combinations to identify pomegranate cultivars *i.e.* Mridula, Ruby, Solapur Lal, Jallore Seedless and Bhagawa. Twenty-two SSRs that are





producing both rare and unique alleles in specific cultivars *i.e.* Ganesh, Mridula, Arakta, Super Bhagawa, Dholka, Bhagawa, Yercaurd-I and Solapur Lal. These profiles indicated maximum of four primer combinations can be used for multiplex assays based on rare alleles for Solapur Lal (NRCP_SSR30, NRCP_SSR97, HvSSRT_605and HvSSRT_868), three for Bhagawa (NRCP_SSR30, HvSSRT_695 and HvSSRT_437), and two each for Mridula (HvSSRT_868 and HvSSRT_437), Ruby (NRCP_SSR97 and HvSSRT_437) and Jallore Seedless (HvSSRT_695 and HvSSRT_348). Similarly, multiplex assays having both rare and unique alleles with four primer combinations for Solapur Lal (NRCP_SSR34, HvSSRT_463, NRCP_SSR91 and HvSSRT_826), Yercaurd-I (NRCP_SSR82, NRCP_SSR28, HvSSRT_504 and HvSSRT_827), three for Dholka (NRCP_SSR61, NRCP_SSR97 and NRCP_SSR20), and two each for Ganesh (HvSSRT_81 and NRCP_SSR62), Mridula (HvSSRT_432 and HvSSRT_437), Arakta (NRCP_SSR11 and HvSSRT_868), Super Bhagawa (HvSSRT_695 and HvSSRT_437) and Bhagawa (HvSSRT_746 and HvSSRT_437) were developed. We assume that the variety specific multiplex assays developed here could be highly useful for quick detection of pomegranate varieties.

(P. G. Patil, D. S. Kulkarni, Shilpa P., C. Awachare, K. D. Babu K & R. A. Marathe)

Efficacy evaluation of trap with ethanol and Lure and against shot hole borer

The experiment was conducted to evaluate the efficacy of the trap with ethanol and Lure and against shot hole borer. The three different concentrations of ethanol (99% 70% and 50%) were evaluated against the Shot hole borer. However, no trapping of the beetle was observed in both in vitro and in vivo conditions using the Kisan X mini solar trap (Agshop) and funnel trap. The Pomotrap with Pomo lure from Green Revolution Pvt. Ltd., Sangli, was evaluated. However, under both in vitro and in vivo conditions, no trapping of the shot hole borer was observed. Fungus discs were prepared to assess their effectiveness as attractants. In the controlled setting of a Petri plate, the beetles were consistently drawn to the Fusarium disc, actively creating tunnels within it.







Mini solar trap

Funnel trap

Pomotrap with Pomo lure (Mallikarjun M.H.)

Pomegranate based Iron rich RTS drinks

The blended juices are superior to single fruit juice beverage with artificial colour and flavor. The mixing of fruit juices to beverages not only improves the nutrition but also the sensorial characteristics. The D-optimal mixture design of Response Surface Methodology was used with levels of factors such as Pomegranate Juice: 40 to 65%, Karonda Juice: 20 to 35% and Aonla Juice: 15 to 25% for preparation of iron rich RTS drink. The responses were considered as iron content (mg/100ml), ascorbic acid content (mg/100ml), total phenols (mg GAE/ 100ml), in-vitro antioxidant activity (%) and overall acceptability. The nutritional composition of pomegranate, karonda and aonla juice were evaluated and karonda juice was found rich in iron (20.87mg/L) as compared to pomegranate and aonla juice.



However, ascorbic acid content was found highest in aonla juice (185 mg/100ml). The nutritional evaluation of the optimized pomegranate iron rich drink showed that the iron content was increased by 31.91% and ascorbic acid content by 10.66% as compared to control (pomegranate RTS drink without blend of karonda and aonla juice). The prepared drink may fulfil the iron requirement of 32.63% (Men), 21.37% (women) & 22.96% (pregnant women) when consumed 100ml per day according to RDA.









Pomegranate based Iron rich drinks prepared using Karonda and Aonla juice

(N. A. Giri, N. N. Gaikwad & R. A. Marathe)

Foam Mat Drying of Pomegranate Juice for retention of Bioactive Compounds

The effect of addition of whey protein isolate (WPI; 0, 5, 7.5 and 10 %) and carboxy methyl cellulose (CMC; 0, 0.25, 0.5 and 0.75 %) was studied for its foaming properties and stability in pomegranate juice (PJ). High-quality powders can be produced from fruit juices and heat-sensitive food items using foam mat drying (FMD). The PJ foam with 10 % WPI, a foaming agent, and 0.25 % CMC, a stabilizer had high foam expansion (FE) (455.28 %) and low foam density (FD) (0.2030 g/cc) and foam drainage volume (FDV) (20.10 ml). The PJ foam was subjected to different drying temperatures (50, 60 and 70 °C) and



thickness (3 and 6 mm). The drying temperature of 60 °C and foam thickness of 3 mm were found to be the acceptable drying conditions based on drying time (180 minutes) and retention of bioactive compounds. At optimum drying conditions, the retention of phenols, anthocyanin, ascorbic acid, and antioxidant capacity was 97.86 %, 83.90 %, 77.29 %, and 87.11 % respectively. The sensory evaluation of the reconstituted foam-mat dried pomegranate juice powder (FPJP) showed lower overall acceptability scores than fresh juice (FJ), but the overall acceptability of the powder dried at optimum drying conditions was within liking limits (>6). FPJP has an amorphous nature with a particle size of 3564 nm and a porous and irregular structure. Bioactive compounds in FPJP were studied after eight months of storage, with higher retention of bioactive compounds in refrigerated conditions.

(N. N. Gaikwad, N. A. Giri & R. A. Marathe)

Events organized (Seminar / Webinar / Symposia / Conferences etc.)				
Details of the event	Course Director/ Co-coordinators/ Team			
World IP Day 2024 seminar entitled "IP and the SDGs:				
Building our common future with innovation and	Organizing Secretary: Dr. Nilesh N.			
creativity" on 30 th April 2024 at ICAR-NRCP, Solapur	Gaikwad & Dr. Namrata A. Giri			
International Plant Health Day with the theme "Plant	Programme Chairman: Dr. R. A. Marathe			
Health, Safe Trade and Digital Health" on 12 May,	Organizing Secretary: Dr. Roopa S.			
2024 at ICAR-NRCP, Solapur	Speaker: Dr. Manjunatha N.			



Institute Research Council Meeting

The meeting of the 18th Institute Research Council (IRC) of ICAR- National Research Centre on Pomegranate was held on January 10, 2024 at NRCP under the guidance of Dr. R.A. Marathe, Hon'ble Chairman, IRC & Director, ICAR-NRCP, Solapur. The IRC meeting commenced on January 10, 2024 at 9.30 am in the Director's Board Room. At the outset, Dr. K. Dhinesh Babu, Principal Scientist & Member Secretary IRC extended a warm welcome to Dr. R.A. Marathe, Chairman, IRC & Director, ICAR-NRCP and all scientists of the institute. This was followed by individual presentations by PIs of respective project on salient achievements of 15 on-going research projects and future line of work besides three new research project proposals.





Dr. K. Dhinesh Babu, Member Secretary welcomes Dr. R.A Marathe, Director & Chairman during 18th IRC meeting

Institute Management Committee (IMC)

Institute Management Committee meeting was held at NRCP, Solapur on 08.04.2024 through physical and online mode under the chairmanship of Dr. R. A. Marathe, Director, NRCP, Solapur. The committee has revived the on-going institutional activities and recommended to procure essential research requirements. The IMC members were Dr. V. B. Patel, ADG, HS-1, ICAR, New Delhi; Dr. P. G. Patil, Vice-Chancellor MPKV, Rahuri; Dr. Ashutosh Murkute, Director, MGIRI, Wardha; Dr. DV Sudhakar Rao, Principal Scientist, ICAR-IIHR, Bengaluru; Dr. Anuradha Upadhyay, Principal Scientist, ICAR-NRCG, Pune; Dr. T D S Prakash, SF & AO, ICAR-IIRR, Hyderabad; Dr. P.S. Shirgure, Principal Scientist, ICAR-NRCP, Solapur; Sh. Ramdas Patil, Progressive farmer from Satana, Nashik; Sh. Shankar Waghmare, Progressive farmer from Mohol, Solapur and Sh. R. B. Rai, AO, ICAR-NRCP, Solapur.





IMC meeting under the chairmanship of Dr. R. A. Marathe, Director, NRCP



New Year Celebration - 2024

The Recreation Club of NRCP celebrated New Year 2024 with enthusiastic participation from all staff members in the esteemed presence of the Director. The programme commenced with a New Year address by Dr. R. A. Marathe, Director, followed by a ceremonial cake cutting. Staff members who made significant achievements during the previous year were felicitated by the Director in recognition of their contributions. On this occasion, the Director encouraged all employees to strive for excellence in research and to work towards the betterment of pomegranate farmers. The event was successfully coordinated by Dr. Namrata Giri.





New Year 2024 celebration with institute staff

International Plant Health Day

International Plant Health Day was celebrated on May 12th, 2024 with the theme Plant Health, safe trade and Digital Health. Dr. R.A. Marathe, Director, ICAR - NRCP addressed all the gathering about importance of Plant Health and related issues in day to day life and its impact on agriculture sustainability. In this connection a lecture on "Plant Health is main driver of Environment & Economy "was also delivered by Dr. Manjunatha, N. Sr. Scientist (Plant Pathology). A total of 40 Participants witnessed this event and made the event successful. The program was coordinated by Dr. P. Roopa Sowjanya.





Address by the Director and lecture by Dr. Manjunatha N. on the the occasion of Interanational plant health day.

Events attended by the NRCP staff (Seminar/ Webinar/ Symposia/ Conferences)

Events attended by the ivites		mair wesinar sympo	sia, conferences,
Title of the event	Date	Organizers	Participants
Relevance of Ideology of Swami	12 January,	ICAR	Dr. Mallikarjun M.H
Vivekanand and Sri Ram Krishna	2024	(Virtual)	
Paramhansa in man making and			



Nation Building' by							
Brahmanand, PD, WTC							
Progressive Horticultur		18-20	Progressive Horticulture-		Dr	. Shilpa Parshuram	
	orticultural	January,	Soci	•	orticultural		
	Self-Reliant	2024		Researc	ch &		
India" at Navsari A	Agricultural		De	velopment	t (SHRD),		
University, Gujarat			J	^J ttarakhan	d, India		
SVRC Meeting of	'Solapur	08	At N	/Iantralaya	ı, Mumbai.	D	r. K.Dinesh Babu
Anardana'		February,		(Virtu	al)		
		2024					
One day webinar o	on "Value	29	iND	EXT-a,	an	D	r. Nilesh Gaikwad
addition and Proce	essing of	February,	Agri	business	Extension		
Pomegranate: Scop	pe and	2024	Bure	au, of	GAIDC,		
Opportunities" during	g "Pomo-		Gov	ernment o	f Gujarat.		
Preneurship: Unleashin	g potential			(Virtu	al)		
of processing and value	addition of						
Pomegranate"							
District Investor Summ	it 2024	6 March,	I	District Inc	dustries	D	r. Nilesh Gaikwad
		2024		Centre, S	olapur		
ITII/EAO W 1 1		10.10	Т	1	• ,•	D	D ' 1/2 C' 1
ITU/FAO Worksh	op on tomorrow:	18-19 March,	Telecommunication Engineering Centre		Di	r. Ranjan K. Singh	
"Cultivating Advancing digital	agriculture	2024					
through IoT and AI"	agriculture	2021	`	IASC, Ne			
	Vorkshop on Digital Agriculture 20 Mar			AR, New		Dı	r. Ranjan K. Singh
		2024		IASC, Ne			,
IP and the SDGs: Bu	_	26 April,		NAAS Co		Dr.	. Pinky Raigond
Common Future with	Innovation	2024		(Virtu	al)		
and Creativity World IP Day		26 April,	DDV	& ED A	New Delhi	Dr	. Shilpa P.
World II Day		20 April, 2024	II V	(Virtu		D1.	. Simpa i .
28th AGM, AICRP on	Arid Zone	21-23 June,	A)	CRP-AZI		Dr.	. K. Dinesh Babu
Fruits at SDAU, S		2024		CIAH, B			
Gujarat	-						
Trainings/ FLDs/ C)FTs orga	nized for the	e farı	ners/ stu	idents/ en	trer	oreneurs etc. by
NRCP (on campus)						•	·
Title	Date	Sponsoring	/		Director / C		Participants and
		collaborating	3	coordi	nators/ Tea	m	Venue
2.4 days Dasidantial to		agency					
3-4 days Residential tr Training Programme	aining prog	grams Govt. of Guj	arat	Program	me Direct	tor.	32
on "Quality	January	Govi. of Guj	urut	\mathcal{L}	Marathe	.01.	ICAR-NRCP,
Pomegranate	2024				Coordinate	ors:	Solapur
Production and Value					Pokhare &		1
Addition for Doubling				N. N. Ga	ikwad		
Farmers Income" for							
101		<u> </u>					



the pomegranate farmers of Gujarat				
Training program on "Package of Practices for Pomegranate Cultivation"	7-9 February 2024	ICAR-NRCP in collaboration with ATMA, Dhule	Programme Director: Dr. R.A. Marathe, Coordinators: Dr. P. Raigond & Dr. S. S. Pokhare; Co- coordinator: Dr. N. A. Giri.	27 ICAR-NRCP, Solapur
Training program on "Harnessing Biocontrol Agents for Sustainable Pomegranate Pest Management"	12-14 February 2024	Bio-control project of RKVY, Govt. of Maharashtra	Programme Director: Dr. R.A. Marathe Coordinators: Dr. Mallikarjun M. H. & Dr. Manjunatha N., Co-coordinators: Dr. S. S. Pokhare & Dr. Shilpa P.	28 ICAR-NRCP, Solapur
Training program on "Diagnosis of Pomegranate pest & diseases & their integrated management"	21-23 February 2024	Plant Health Clinic Project of RKVY, Govt. of Maharashtra	Programme Director: Dr. R.A. Marathe Coordinator: Dr. Manjunatha N., Co-coordinators: Dr. S. S. Pokhare & Dr. Roopa Sowjanya	25 ICAR-NRCP, Solapur
Training Program on "Good Horticultural Practices for Quality Production in Pomegranate"	27-29 February 2024	ATMA, Dhule	Programme Director: Dr. R.A. Marathe Coordinator: Dr. Shilpa P.; Co-coordinators: Dr. S. S. Pokhare & Dr. Roopa S.	25 ICAR-NRCP, Solapur
Hands on training to pomegranate farmers on Training and pruning practices in Pomegranate for the farmers of Rajasthan	14-18 May 2024	NRCP and Shiv Kisan FPO, Budiwada, Rajasthan	Mr. Mahadev Gogaon	275 Budiwada, Asada, Chaudhari ki Dhani, Dhanva Kheda, Padru, Balotra & Jodhpur area.
One day events				
Agriculture Technology Festival	17 January 2024	KVK, Solapur	Dr. S. S. Pokhare	200 KVK, Solapur
Training Program on Awareness & Demonstration of NRCP Technologies for Insect, Pest &	01 February 2024	ICAR-NRCP in collaboration with ISHA foundation	Dr. R. A. Marathe, Dr. Manjunatha N., Dr. S. S. Pokhare & Dr. Mallikarjun M. H.	110 Tharad APMC, Banaskantha, Gujarat



Disease Management				
in Pomegranate				
Export Quality	26	ATMA, Solapur	Dr. S. S. Pokhare, Dr.	120
Pomegranate Quanty	February	in collaboration	Mallikarjun H. & Dr. C.	Salgar Bk.,
Production	2024	with ICAR-NRCP	Awachare	_
	2024	with ICAR-NRCP	Awacnare	Mangalvedha
Technology	11 March	123.712	D. M. '. (1. N.	00
One day workshop on		KVK,	Dr. Manjunatha N.	90
Wilt management in	2024	Chintamani,		KVK,
Pomegranate	136	Karnataka	D G A 1 D	Chintamani
Educational Training	1 May	Under SCSP	Dr. C. Awachare, Dr.	75 students
& Agricultural	2024	scheme at NRCP	Shilpa P. & Mr.	
awareness program			Mahadev Gogaon	
Field Day on	10 May	Bayer Crop	Organizer: Dr. R. A.	150
Pomegranate	2024	Science Ltd.	Marathe; Co-organizer:	NRCP, Solapur
			Dr. C. Awachare & Dr.	
			S. S. Pokhare	
Training program on	14 May	ICAR-NRCP in	Dr. R.A. Marathe	300
'Residue Free Export	2024	collaboration with	Dr. R. K. Singh	Goudwadi, Tal.
Quality Pomegranate		Coromandel &	Dr. S. S. Pokhare	Sangola, Dist.
Production'		Gurukrupa Agri.	Dr. N. A. Giri	Solapur
		Mart	Dr. Shilpa P.	
Training cum	21 May	jointly organised	Programme Director:	120
interaction program	2024	by ICAR-NRCP	Dr. R. A. Marathe	Mhaswad Dist:
on "Residue free		with Mann Deshi	Coordinators: Dr. S. S.	Satara
export quality		Foundation,	Pokhare; Dr.	
pomegranate		Mhaswad	Manjunatha, N.; Dr.	
production"			Mallikarjun M. H.; Dr.	
			S. S. Dhumal & Dr. R.	
			K. Singh	
Kharif Aadhava	29 May	DSAO, Solapur	Resource Person: Dr.	350
Baithak under	2024	22110, Solupui	S. S. Pokhare	Agriculture Dept.
HORTSAP for				staff of Solapur
Solapur District				District
Nematode problem	1 June	Bharti Green	Resource Person: Dr.	80
and their integrated	2024	Tech, Satara	S. S. Pokhare	At Satara
Management in	2027	1 con, Satara	D. D. I UKHAIC	Ai Baiaia
Pomegranate III				
Training program on	9 June	Karnataka	Resource Person: Dr.	250
Pest & Disease	2024			
	2024	Pomegranate	Manjunatha N.	Hagaribommana
Management in		Growers		halli, Karnataka
Pomegranate		Association		
		(KPGA)		



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Field visit of trainee farmers from Gujarat

Pomegranate farmers training at Tharad, Gujarat



Farmer trainee participants of February 12-14, 2024 batch at NRCP



Farmer trainee participants of February 21-23, 2024 batch at NRCP

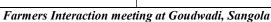


Farmers training program at Salgar (Bk) of Mangalvedha tehsil



Training program on Residue free Export quality pomegranate production at Mhaswad









Training attended by NRCP staff			
Title of the training	Date	Organizers	Participants
Enhancing Pedagogical Competencies for	Jan 29- Feb	ICAR-IARI,	Dr. Roopa S.
Agricultural education	02, 2024	New Delhi	
Massive open online course (MOOC) on	1-31 March,	ICAR-	Dr. K. D. Babu
Artificial Intelligence in Agriculture (Virtual)	2024	NAARM,	
		Hyderabad	
5 th Batch of Pedagogy Development Programme	4-8 March,	ICAR-IARI,	Dr.
Enhancing Pedagogical Competencies for	2024	New Delhi	Mallikarjun
Agricultural Education			M.H.
Online short course on Patents in Agriculture	5-15 February,	IP & TM Unit,	Dr. Nilesh N.
'AgriIP' jointly organized by IP&TM, New Delhi,	2024	ICAR, &	Gaikwad
and ICAR-CIFT, Kochi (Virtual)		CIFT, Kochi,	
		Kerala	

Resource Persons in var	rious in-house training programmes at ICAR-NRCP
Resource person	Title of the topic
Dr. R. A. Marathe	Integrated nutrient management practices for Sustainable pomegranate
	production
Dr. K.D. Babu	Establishing new pomegranate orchards and their management at the
	initial stage
Dr. P. S. Shirgure	Water management in pomegranate
Dr. Sangram Dhumal	Establishment of pomegranate nurseries for the production of quality
	planting materials
Dr. Ranjan Kumar Singh	Natural and organic farming of Pomegranate
Dr. Nilesh Gaikwad	Opportunities in the Pomegranate Processing
Dr. Pinky Raigond	Abiotic stress management in Pomegranate
Dr. Manjunatha N.	Integrated Disease Management in Pomegranate
Dr. Somnath S. Pokhare	Integrated Nematode Management
Dr. Shilp Parshuram	Acquaintance with different varieties of Pomegranate and their
	characteristics
Dr. Namrata A. Giri	Pomegranate nutritional importance and development of functional
	foods
Dr. Chandrakant Awachare	Pomegranate canopy architecture management: Training and pruning
	system
Dr. Mallikarjun M.H.	Integrated insect-pest management in pomegranate

Agricultural Exhibitions/ Farmers fair attended/ Technology displayed

- 1. Shri. Mahadev Gogaon, participated in $53^{\rm rd}$ State level Shri. Shiddeswar Agri. Exibition, Solapur Krishi Mahotsav 2023-24 at Solapur from 1-4th January 2024
- 2. Shri. Mahadev Gogaon, participated in Regional Agricultural Fair (RAF) North Zone to be held on 3-5th February 2024 at ICAR-IIVR Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh)
- 3. Dr. Manjunath & Mr. Mahadev Gogaon participated in National Horticulture Fair 2024 at IIHR, Bengaluru, Karnataka from $05-07^{th}$ March 2024





Visit of Dr. A. K. Singh, DDG (HS); Dr. S. Pandey, ADG (FVS & MP) and Dr. T. K. Behera, Director, ICAR-IIVR, Varanasi to NRCP exhibition stall in the RAF at Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh



NRCP exhibition stall at National Horticulture Fair (NHF), IIHR, Bengaluru, Karnataka

Peer recognitions/ Awards/ Honours received by the NRCP staff

- Dr. R.A. Marathe, Dr. Nilesh Gaikwad and Dr. Namrata Giri were honored with an "Appreciation Certificate" for the significant contribution in the Special International Assignment to export irradiated pomegranate to United States of America during year 2023 and 2024.
- Dr. Shilpa Parshuram received "Best Oral Presentation" award for the paper "DUS characteristic features of new pomegranate variety 'Sharad King' In: Progressive Horticulture Conclave-2024 on Horticultural technologies for a self-reliant India organized by Indian Society for Horticultural Research and Development Uttarakhand, UP and ASPEE college of Horticulture, NAU, Gujarat from 18-20th January, 2024.
- Dr. K. Dhinesh Babu received "M. H. Marigowda Award" for outstanding contribution in the field of Horticulture on the occasion of Agri Export & Award ceremony organized by RVSKVV Gwalior M.P & Agri Meet Foundation U.P. on 6th February 2024.
- Dr. R.A. Marathe nominated as Member of the Committee for reviewing the cases related to label expansion of Glyphosate on cotton and Grape, AD (WS), CIB&RC, Min. ACo & FW, GOI on 12th January 2024.
- Dr. R.A. Marathe nominated as Member of Selection Committee (1.1.2024 to 30.12.2024) for the recruitment or promotion of Asstt. Professor / Professor VNMKV, Parbhani (3.1.2024) to be held on 17-18th January 2024.
- Dr. R.A. Marathe honored as Chief Guest of National Seminar on 'Cutting Edge Research in Life Sciences Methodology and Patents on 17.02.2024 organized by V.G. Shivdare College of Arts, Commerce and Science, Solapur.
- Dr. R.A. Marathe honoured as Chief Guest, AAVUSHKAR 23-24, Workshop for Selected Participants held on 09.01.2024 organized by PAH Solapur University, Solapur.
- Dr. Somnath S. Pokhare nominated as Expert for the selection of Subject Matter Specialist at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Sagroli, Nanded Maharashtra on 1st April 2024



Technology Commercialization/Linkages/Collaborations / MoU signed

- MoU signed on 22nd April 2024 with **ISHA Outreach** for the Promotion of Sustainable Pomegranate production with the emphasis on save soil at Banaskantha Region of Gujarat.
- MoU signed on 14th May 2024 with M/s Tradecorp Rovensa India Private Limited for Contract Research Project 'Evaluation of Bioefficacy of Calcium, Biostimulant & silicon based products on Pomegranate's quality, yield & ROI'.
- MoU signed on 21st May 2024 with **Mann Deshi Foundation, Mhaswad** for the Promoting Pomegranate cultivation with increased productivity and fruit quality with Climate resilience.



MoU signed between ICAR-NRCP, Solapur and Mann Deshi Foundation, Mhaswad on 21st May 2024 at Mhaswad

P	ub	li	ca	tio	ons

I dibi	icutions —
S.N.	Title of the publications
Resea	arch papers
1.	Giri, N. A., Bhangale, A., Gaikwad, N. N., Manjunatha, N., Raigond, P., & Marathe, R. A. (2024). Comparative study on effect of pomegranate peel powder as natural preservative and chemical preservatives on quality and shelf life of muffins. <i>Scientific Reports</i> , 14(1), 10307. (NAAS Score:10.60).
2.	Maity, A., Babu, K. D., Basak, B. B., & Marathe, R. A. (2024). Integrated use of NPK chemical fertilizers and bio-stimulants improved soil fertility, fruit yield, quality and net returns in pomegranate (<i>Punica granatum</i> L.). <i>Journal of Plant Nutrition</i> , 47(8), 1287–1304. https://doi.org/10.1080/01904167.2024.2308187 (NAAS Score:8.10).
3.	Gaikwad, N. N., Giri, N. A., Suryavanshi, S. S., & Marathe, R. A. (2024). Osmotic assisted convective drying of pomegranate arils: Process optimisation, structural characterisation, and bioactive compound evaluation. <i>International Food Research Journal</i> , 31(3), 624-636. (NAAS Score:7.10).
4.	Gaikwad N. N., Kadam, A. A., Giri N. A., Suryavanshi S. K., Marathe, R. A. (2024). Enhancing bioactive compounds retention in pomegranate juice powder through foam mat drying. <i>Journal of food Process Engineering</i> , 47(8), e14707, 1-14. https://doi.org/10.1111/jfpe.14707 (NAAS Score: 9.00)



Book Chapter

- 1. Pal, R.K., Gaikwad, N. & Babu, K. D. (2024). Pomegranate. In K. L. Chadha and R. K. Pal (Eds.), *Managing Postharvest Quality and Losses in Horticultural Crops* (Revised 2nd ed., pp. 347-358) Daya Publishing House, New Delhi.
- Pokhare, S.S., Mhatre, P.H., Manjunatha, N., Patil, D., Agarrwal, R. (2024). Fungal Biocontrol Agents for Nematode Management in Organic Agriculture. In: Chaudhary, K.K., Meghvansi, M.K., Siddiqui, S. (eds) Sustainable Management of Nematodes in Agriculture, Vol.2: Role of Microbes-Assisted Strategies. Sustainability in Plant and Crop Protection, vol 19. Springer, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-52557-5

Popular article

1. Namrata A. Giri, Nilesh N. Gaikwad and R.A. Marathe (2024). By-Products from pomegranate juice processing industries and its applications. Agro India Magazine, 15-16.

Extension folders

- 1. ज्योत्सना शर्मा, मंजूनाथा एन., सोमनाथ पोखरे, मिल्लिकार्जुन एच., राजीव मराठे. तेलकट डाग रोग व्यवस्थापन प्रक्रियेचे सहा टप्पे विस्तार पत्रक/रा. डा. सं. के./२०२४/१. पाने १-८.
- 2. सोमनाथ पोखरे, मंजूनाथा एन., ज्योत्सना शर्मा, मिल्लिकार्जुन एच., राजीव मराठे. डाळिंबतील डाळिंबातील सुत्रकृमींचे एकात्मिक व्यवस्थापन विस्तार पत्रक/रा. डा. सं. के./२०२४/२. पाने १-८.
- 3. मिल्लिकार्जुन एच., राजीव मराठे, मंजूनाथा एन., सोमनाथ पोखरे, ज्योत्सना शर्मा. डाळिंब खोड भुंगेरा (पिन / शॉट होल बोरर) निदान आणि व्यवस्थापन. विस्तार पत्रक/रा. डा. सं. के./२०२४/३. पाने १-८.
- 4. सोमनाथ पोखरे, ज्योत्सना शर्मा, मंजूनाथा एन., मिल्लिकार्जुन एच., राजीव मराठे. डाळिंबतील मर रोग: ओळख आणि व्यवस्थापन विस्तार पत्रक/रा. डा. सं. के./२०२४/४. पाने १-८.

New Projects sanctioned

Contract Research Project: "Evaluation of Bio-efficacy of Calcium, Bio stimulant & silicon based products on Pomegranate's quality, yield & ROI" (Budget Rs. 15.96 Lakh) (PI: Dr. Pinky Raigond)

Republic Day Celebration

ICAR-NRCP, Solapur celebrated 75th Republic Day on 26th January, 2024 by unfurling of the Indian National flag by Dr. R. A. Marathe, Director, ICAR-NRCP in presence of all the scientific, technical, administrative, contractual staff of the centre. The gathering was addressed by the speech of the Director followed by the felicitation of the farm labour and children of the staff who scored highest in academics. Different event and competition such as musical chair, lemon-spoon etc. was conducted on this occasion and prize were given to the winners.





Dr. R. A. Marathe, Director addressing to staff during Republic day



International Day of Yoga

ICAR-NRCP, Solapur has observed 10th International Day of Yoga (IDY) on 21st June, 2024 under the guidance of Director, ICAR-NRCP, Solapur. The day was celebrated to create awareness about importance of Yoga among scientific and non-scientific staff of ICAR-NRCP, Solapur. Mrs. Snehal S. Pendse, Yoga Teacher, Solapur was the chief guest. Total 50 participants attended this program. Mrs. Snehal S. Pendse delivered the lecture on 'Importance of Yoga in modern life'. It was followed by mass yoga demonstrations of yoga asana to all the participants by Yoga Teacher.





NRCP staff performing Yoga asana

World IP day celebration

ICAR-National Research Centre on pomegranate, Solapur has organized a seminar entitled "IP and the SDGs: Building our common future with innovation and creativity" on 30th April 2024. The programme was chaired by Dr. R.A. Marathe, Director, ICAR-NRCP. During the guest lecture, Ms. Megha Agrawal, Founder & Designated Partner of Intellectual Coolie LLP, IP Firm, Nagpur, MS enlightened the audience on the topic of "IP Management in Agriculture" in virtual mode. She has covered the different types of intellectual properties, procedure to file a patent, priorities for the researchers in research organizations. She has also elaborated about the protection of plant varieties and discussed about the management of IP in agriculture. The programme ended with the vote of thanks by Dr. Namrata Giri, organizing secretary of the seminar. The programme was attended by 40 participants, including scientific staff, technical staff, young professional, SRF and students. The seminar was organized by the Dr. Nilesh N. Gaikwad and Dr. Namrata A. Giri ICAR-NRCP, Solapur.





Celebration of World IP day at NRCP Solapur



Outreach activities

Events organized under SCSP

One-day 'Educational Awareness cum Training Program on Agriculture" under SCSP Scheme' was organized at ICAR – NRCP, Solapur on 1st May, 2024. During the programme, lectures were delivered on 'Importance and Scope in Agriculture' for the SC students of S.M. Shankarrao Mohite Patil School, Kegaon, Solapur. During the training, the educational materials like school uniforms, shoes and note books, *etc.* were distributed to 75 SC students.



One-day "Farmer – Scientist Interaction and Input Distribution Program" was organized at KVK,

Kalaburagi on 10th June, 2024. During the training lectures were delivered on orchard establishment, commercial pomegranate varieties and management of disease, insects and pests. A group of 71 farmers from Gola B village, Aland Taluka in Kalaburagi, Karnataka actively participated in the training and 50 SC farmers got benefitted with the farm inputs like vegetable seeds and organic manures like vermi-compost. Farmers were also motivated to start pomegranate cultivation for up-liftment of their economic status.



Research Collaboration

A team of scientists (Dr. Manjunatha N. and Dr. Somnath Pokhare) visited National Institute of Technology Karnataka (NITK), Surathkal near Mangalore Karnataka to discuss the ongoing work on use of AI for pomegranate disease identification, development of mobile based application for the farmers and other possible collaborations in the field of pomegranate protection, biochemical analysis.



Meeting with Solapur District Collector at NRCP

Solapur Distrct Collector Shri. Kumar Ashirwad visited ICAR-NRCP on 23rd May 2024 to know the ongoing research and extension activities of this national centre and to prepare the roadmap to increase the pomegranate area and production of the Solapur district. Dr. Rajiv Marathe, Director of the institute welcomed the district collector at the campus and brifed about the establishemnt of the institute and its role in pomegranate production and export at national level. Dr. Somnath Pokhare presented about the ongoing research and extension activities of the centre in the state of Maharashtra in general and Solapur district in particular. The District Supredent Agriculture Officer, Shri. Dattatray Gavasane, Project Director ATMA Shri. Madan Mukane and other staff of the agriculture department were



present during the meeting. All the officials also visited the different laboratories and the demonstration block of the institute.





Visit and interaction of Shri. Kumar Ashirwad, Solapur Distrct Collector at ICAR-NRCP, Solapur

Clean Plant Programme (CPP)

In a pioneering initiative to revolutionize the horticulture sector in India, Govt. has approved nine world class state-of-the-art CPCs (Clean Plant Centres), equipped with advanced diagnostic therapeutics and tissue culture labs, to be established across India. CPP for the Pomegranate will be established at NRCP, Solapur.

A team of experts from Asian Development Bank and National Horticultural Board visited ICAR-NRCP to inspect the site alloted for CPP and had a interaction with the scientific staff of the centre. CPP is set to significantly boost India's horticultural sector while aligning with Mission LiFE and the One Health initiatives. It will promote sustainable and eco-friendly agricultural practices and reduces dependence on imported planting materials. This programme will be a crucial step toward establishing India as a leading global exporter of fruits and driving transformative change across the sector. This programme will be implemented by the National Horticulture Board in association with Indian Council of Agricultural Research.





Clean Plant Program consultation meeting at ICAR-NRCP with Experts

Farmers Visitors

- 40 DAESI, Participants from MVSS, Akkalkot visited NRCP for interaction meeting related to Pomegranate cultivation & Pest & Disease Management on 16th February 2024.
- 53 Farmers from Vidhisha, Madhya Pradesh visited ICAR-NRCP for getting information on Pomegranate cultivation on 16th March 2024.
- 25 Farmers from Indapur tehsil of Pune district visited ICAR-NRCP for interaction with expert regarding pomegranate cultivation & pest & disease management on 19th March 2024.



- About 20 pomegranate farmers from Karnataka visited NRCP and interacted with scientist to update their knowledge about the package of practices for export quality pomegranate production on 22nd March 2024.
- Directors of Yuva Mitra FPO, Sinnar Maharashtra visited NRCP on 27th June 2024.





Farmers from Vidisha, Madhya Pradesh at NRCP

Directors of Yuva Mitra FPO, Sinnar at NRCP

Students Visit

10 000	-11-65 151-6		
S.N.	Date of visit	Name of College	No. of students
1.	27/02/2024	Walchand College of Arts and Science, Solapur	80
2.	07/03/2024	Department of Botany, D.B.F. Dayanand College of Arts & Science, Solapur	70
3.	12/03/2024	Department of Microbiology, D.B.F. Dayanand College of Arts & Science, Solapur	27
4.	14/03/2024	College of Horticulture, S.D. Agriculture University, Jagudan, Gujarat	54
5.	15/03/2024	Department of Microbiology, Dayanand Science College, Latur	27
6.	05/04/2024	College of Agriculture, Pathri, Dist. Parbhani	45
7.	08/04/2024	Lokmangal Agriculture Polytechnic College Wadala	31





Student Visits at ICAR-NRCP, Solapur





NCC students of BMIT, Solapur at ICAR-NRCP, Solapur

Meet	tings attended by the NRCP staff
S.N.	Title of meeting
1.	Dr. R.A. Marathe attended Annual Conference of Vice Chancellors and ICAR Directors during
	February 26-27, 2024 at NASC Complex, New Delhi.
2.	Dr. R.A. Marathe attended Review meeting of DUS centres organized by PPV & FRA on
	02.03.2024 at ICAR – DFR, Pune under the chairmanship of Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra,
	Chairperson PPV & FRA.
3.	Dr. R.A. Marathe attended Review meeting under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister of
	Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, GoI at Krishi Bhawan in respect of ICAR-NRCP, Solapur
	held on 31st May, 2023
4.	Dr. Mallikarjun M.H. attended online Interaction Meeting of AICRP on AZF, on 04.01.2024.
5.	Dr. Mallikarjun M.H. participated in the State-Level Project Approval Committee (SLSC)
	online meeting under the RKVY-DPR-based stream on 07.01. 2024.
6.	Dr. Nilesh Gaikwad Sr. Scientist (AS&PE) participated in BOS subcommittee meeting of
	Cosmetic Technology, PAHSU, Solapur for finalization of syllabus as per NEP on 6.03.2024.
7.	Dr. Roopa S. attended the BRNS Project Review on May 24, 2024 in online mode
8.	Dr. Somnath S. Pokhare attended ATMA DFAC meeting on 13th February 2024 at ATMA
	office Solapur.

Infrastructure/Facilities developed at NRCP



Well digging at NRCP



Creation of Water source point in well





Semi-automated poly-house



Tractor Parking shed bhoomipoojan



Purchase of Office utility vehicle



Farm connecting Road development

Bee keeping

Five beehives were procured from the Maharashtra State Khadi and Village Industries and installed at five locations within the NRCP premises-two at Kegaon and three at the Hiraj-I and II blocks of NRCP, Solapur. These beehives were set up to provide pollination services and to facilitate training and demonstrations on beekeeping for pomegranate farmers and stakeholders.





Joining

- Dr. Ranjan Kumar Singh joined as Principal Scientist (Fruit Science) at ICAR-NRC on Pomegranate, Solapur on 04 March 2024
- Dr. Sangram S. Dhumal joined as Principal Scientist (Fruit Science) at ICAR-NRC on Pomegranate, Solapur on 17 May 2024



Electronic and Print Media Coverage











निर्यातक्षम डाळींव उत्पादनासाठी रोगमुक्त रोपे तसेच उत्तम एकात्मिक व्यवस्थापन आवश्यक

डाळिब उत्पादक शेतकऱ्यांना सहकार्य करणार : डॉ. राजीव मरावे

तरुण भारत ख़ब

राष्ट्रीय डाळिंब संशोधन केंद्र येथे डाळिंब शिवार फेरी व चर्चासत्राचे आयोजन





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National Research Centre on Pomegranate (Indian Council of Agricultural Research)

Solapur-413 255, Maharashtra (INDIA)

Email ID: director.nrcp@icar.gov.in https://nrcpomegranate.icar.gov.in Phone: 0217-2354330 Fax: 0217-2353533



