



# GURBACHAN SINGH FOUNDATION

for  
**Research, Education and Development**

## GSFRED NEWS LETTER

Vol. 2

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- From Chairman Des

#### **Research Highlights**

- Evaluation of Promising Rice Varieties Under Changing Climate Scenario
- Seed Production of Promising Rice Varieties
- Water Saving Climate Smart Crops and Management Practices
- Rice Residue Management Strategy

#### **Celebration**

- Kissan Day Celebrated

#### **Visitors**

- Dr. Neeraj Kulshrestha, Head, Sugarcane Breeding Institute, Karnal Centre
- Dr. Om Prakash Yadav, Director, Central Arid Zone Research Institute (CAZRI), Jodhpur
- Shri Yoginder Nehra, IG Police, Karnal along with four others
- Sh. Gagan Kumar, Assistant General Manager, SBI, Karnal
- Sant Kashmir Singh Ji, Gurudwara Nanaksar Sahib, Sec-6, Karnal
- Noble Soil Scientist Dr. N. T. Singh, FNA, Former Director, CSSRI, Karnal with
- Dr. B S Ghuman, Advisor, CRRID, Chandigarh
- Retired Scientist Drs. Jaipal Dhindsa and Ashok Dhawan

#### **Students Exposure Visits**

- Linking Primary School Students with Agricultural Research and Education and Development
- Linking Agriculture Science and Practices with School Students
- Adarsh School Students
- International Scientists
- M.Sc. Dairy Economics and Sociology Students from NDRI, Karnal

#### **Chairman's National/ International Visits**

- CII Northern India Head Quarters in Chandigarh
- Bali Indonesia
- Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research (IISR) Regional Centre, Karnal
- Centre for Research in Rural and Industrial Development (CRRID), Chandigarh
- National Agriculture Science Centre, New Delhi
- National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), ANAND
- SBI KISSAN MELA, CSSRI Karnal

#### **MOU**

- Alpha Planters
- CSSRI

## From Chairman's Desk

One of the most significant achievement during period is publication of state of the art edited book entitled "Crop Residue Burning and Management Strategies for Safe Environment". The book was distributed to all stake holders and helped in moderating paddy straw burning problem. Another MOU was signed with alpha planters to test the efficiency of pots and trenches fabricated by the company in terms of water use efficiency, plant growth, nutrition and to suggest modifications in structural design to provide favourable micro climate conducive to rest growth in pots and trenches. The long and short term experiments such as identification of water saving climate smart crops and management identification practices; evaluation of promising rice varieties under changing climate scenario; rice residue management strategy and seed production of promising rice varieties were continued. A Kissan Divas was also organized to link agricultural research innovations with farmers and to supply quality seeds as mini kits.

Several working and retired scientists visited the research and education centre, school students exposure visits were organized to link them with theory and practical of agricultural sciences. The Chairman visited Bali, Indonesia and presented a paper in the ICID conference. Being Chairman of CRIDA, RAC visited Hyderabad and conducted First RAC meeting. The Chairman also visited IISR, Lucknow; CIIRD, Chandigarh; NASC, New Delhi; CSSRI, Karnal; CII, Chandigarh and NDDB, Anand to deliver key note addresses and to Chair technical sessions in workshops and seminars.

We shall welcome feedback and suggestions from readers.

  
(Gurbachan Singh)

## Celebrations

### Kissan Day Celebration

A Kissan Divas was organized on 30<sup>th</sup> October, 2019 to show various agricultural technological innovations being demonstrated the research farm to farmers, unemployed youth and students. More than 700 farmers, students and

stakeholders participated. The Kissan Mela was inaugurated by Dr. S. K. Malhotra, Agriculture Commissioner, Govt. of India and Dr. P. C. Sharma, Director, CSSRI, Karnal and Dr. Rajbir Singh, Director, ATARI, Ludhiana were guests of honour.



## Visitors

### Dr. Neeraj Kulshrestha, Head, Sugarcane Breeding Institute, Karnal Centre

Dr. Neeraj Kulshrestha visited the research centre during the period and discussed the possibilities of collaboration with GSFRED in the area of sugarcane research and extension. The Chairman of the Foundation showed the intercropping experiment in sugarcane to the visiting scientist.



### Dr. Om Prakash Yadav, Director, Central Arid Zone Research Institute (CAZRI), Jodhpur

Director, Central Arid Zone Research Institute (CAZRI), Jodhpur paid a visit to the GSFRED research, education and development centre. The Chairman of the Foundation showed various experiments and demonstration to the visited scientist. Dr. Yadav visited highly appreciated the Foundation activities and desired to visit again for longer period.



## Other Visitors

### Noble Soil Scientist Dr. N. T. Singh, FNA, Former Director, CSSRI, Karnal



Dr. B S Ghuman, Advisor, CRRID, Chandigarh



Retired Scientist Drs. Jaipal Dhindsa and Ashok Dhawan

## Students Exposure Visits

### Linking Primary School Students with Agricultural Research and Education and Development

As a part of farm visit and an agro-eco tourism venture a group of about 150 students of standard first accompanied by their teachers and supporting staff visited G S Foundation for Research, Education and Development Centre near Kachhwa today (30 Sept, 2019) in the morning. The visiting students had the opportunity to see all kind of rabi crops, vegetables, fruits, aromatic and medicinal plants grown at the research station.

They also interacted with the animals particularly goats, poultry, rabbits, ducks, dairy animals and mare kept at the farm as a part of an integrated farming system model to double farmers income. The Chairman demonstrated the functioning of gobar gas plant established for generating cooking gas for domestic use and slury for application in the field to improve soil fertility.



## Linking Agriculture Science and Practices with School Students

About 300 students of Fifth Standard of Adarsh School visited GS Foundation for Research, Education and Development Centre today Morning. They had a round of the various activities established at the Centre such as cereal crops, pulses, oilseeds, fruits, vegetables, multi-purpose trees, aromatic and

medicinal plants grown at the farm. The Chairman demonstrated the functioning of Gobar Gas Plant, water conservation practices and production of manure from farm waste to the visiting students.



## Adarsh School Students on Educational Tour to GSF Research, Education and Development Centre on 18 October, 2019



International Scientists



M.Sc. Dairy Economics and Sociology Students from NDRI, Karnal

## Chairman's National/Internationals Visits CII Northern India Head Quarters in Chandigarh

Dr. Gurbachan Singh, Chairman, GSFRED participated in the Progressive Farmers Meet organized at the CII Northern India Head Quarters in Chandigarh on 3 July, 2019 and delivered a special lecture on "Agrarian Crisis and Strategies for Sustainable Agriculture". Progressive farmers, NGO representatives, private sector and industry leaders participated in this conference. The prominent delegates included Sh. Ajay Vir Jhakar, Chairman, Punjab State Farmer and Farm Workers Commission; Sh. Subhash Chander Katyal, Chairman, HAFED; Sh. Balwinder Singh, Commissioner Agriculture, Govt. of Punjab; Sh. Harish Chavan, CII Punjab State Council Chairman and CEO Mahindra and Mahindra (Swaraj Division) and Dr. Rajesh Kumar, CII Director. One of the major outcome of this Innovative Farmers Meet organized by CII was for conserving and protecting sources of water which was considered the single largest limiting factor for the future of agriculture in India. Dr. Singh in his Special Lecture also shared activities initiated under the Gurbachan Singh Foundation for Research, Education and Development (GSFRED), an NGO he established after retirement for linking agricultural science innovations to farmers, unemployed

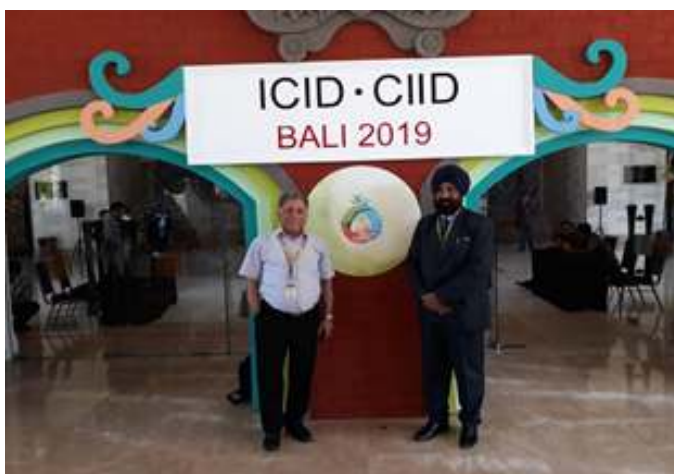


youth and students. One of the major thrust areas of GSFRED included conservation of natural resources and livelihood security through skill and entrepreneurship development in small and marginal farmers. He invited participants of the Meet to visit GSFRED Research, Education and Development Centre established near Karnal ([www.gsfred.org](http://www.gsfred.org)).

## Bali, Indonesia

Dr. Gurbachan Singh participated in the Global Irrigation Forum meeting of International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID) in Bali, Indonesia. He presented a paper

entitled "Reclamation and Management of salt-affected soils : Indian experience" in this international event.



## Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research (IISR) Regional Centre, Karnal

Dr. Gurbachan Singh visited on IISR Regional Centre, Karnal 28 Sep, 2019 to participate as Chief Guest in the valedictory function of celebration of Hindi Pakhwada from 14-28 September, 2019. Dr. Singh also used the opportunity to visit excellent research work being done in the field and in laboratories. He also watered the palm plant which he planted about 6 years back in front of IISR Administrative Building. He also distributed certificates to the participants who got prizes for the good work done in promotion of Hindi during the year.



## Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA)

Dr. Gurbachan Singh visited CRIDA, Hyderabad to chair Research Advisory Committee (RAC) Meeting of the institute scheduled for 24-25 October, 2019.



## CRRID, Chandigarh

Dr. Gurbachan Singh Chairman GSFRED participated and presented a paper entitled “Evergreen Revolution for Safe Environment, Peace and Happiness of Humanity” in the International Conference organized by CRRID, Chandigarh on the eve of 550th Birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev Ji. Honourable Dr. Manmohan Singh Ji, Former Prime Minister of India was the Chief Guest and Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi Ji was

Guest of Honour during the valedictory function of the International Conference. The opportunity was also used to handover a copy of the book entitled “Crop Residue Burning Management Strategies for Safe Environment” published by G S Foundation for Research, Education and Development to honourable Sardar Manmohan Singh Ji.





## National Dairy Development Board (NDDDB), ANAND

Dr. Gurbachan Singh visited National Dairy Development Board, ANAND on 21 November to participate and present a key note paper entitled 'Spineless Cactus and Prosopis as unconventional Fodder for Semi-arid/ Arid Regions of India' in the National Seminar on Nutritional Strategies for Optimizing

Production Cost and Milk Quality. A complimentary copy of the recently published book by GS Foundation (Crop Residue Burning : Management Strategies for Safe Environment) was also presented to Sh. Dilip Rath, Chairman, NDDDB, Anand



## SBI KISSAN MELA

Amongst the dignitaries participated included Chief General Manager, General Manager and assistant General Managers of SBI, Director CSSRI, Shri Ravi Beri and Padam Sri Sultan Singh .

This is the first time SBI organized such Mela to link bank schemes for welfare of farmers.



## MOU Alpha Planters

GSFRED signed an MOU with Alpha Advantech LLP, Karnal (Alpha Planters) for research collaboration on the project "Testing efficiency of Alpha Planters pots and trenches developed by Alpha Advantech LLP in terms of growth and productivity, water use efficiency and credit worthiness of the new innovation". The MOU was signed by Dr. Gurbachan Singh, Founder Chairman, GSFRED and Mr. Nitin Lalit, Co-Founder, Alpha Advantech LLP, Karnal.



## CSSRI

GSFRED signed an MOU with CSSRI, Karnal on 30 October,

2019 in the area of soil salinity and water quality research.

