

Chickpea Scientists' Meet organized at ICRISAT, Patancheru

A Chickpea Scientists' Meet was organized at ICRISAT, Patancheru, India on 4–5 January 2007. Thirty-one chickpea scientists representing 12 states of India participated, along with 20 scientists from ICRISAT. The Chickpea Scientists' Meet is organized by ICRISAT every alternate year to promote exchange of information among scientists from the national agricultural research systems (NARS) and ICRISAT and to provide NARS scientists an opportunity to visit ICRISAT's chickpea research experiments and select germplasm and breeding materials of their interests.

Dyno Keatinge, Deputy Director General (Research) of ICRISAT, in his opening remarks expressed concern about the slow growth rate of global chickpea production. He encouraged scientists to work on restructuring of plant type for enhancing the productivity potential. He suggested that biotechnological approaches, like marker assisted selection and transgenic technology should be exploited in the breeding programs for rapid progress. The research progress for the past two years from the Indian national program and ICRISAT was presented by Masood Ali and PM Gaur, respectively. The research progress of ongoing ICAR-ICRISAT projects was also discussed. The participants visited various field and laboratory experiments and research facilities and selected germplasm and breeding lines of their interest.

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