

# TNAU NEWS



## TAMILNADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY NEWS LETTER

Patron : Dr. P. MURUGESA BOOPATHI- Vice Chancellor

Editor : Dr. P. SIVASUBRAMANIAN - Director, Planning & Monitoring

### ← Gene bank facility launched

A gene bank facility was inaugurated by Our Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Murugesha Boopathi on 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2010. The gene bank was named after the legendary rice breeder Dr. K. Ramiah. An estimated area of 3000 cubic feet of cold storage space is available for medium and long term storage of plant genetic resources. The cold rooms in Ramiah gene bank have been commissioned with the state-of-the-art technology for maximum storage efficiency, energy conservation and eco-friendliness.

The Ramiah gene bank apart from being a storage repository of plant genetic resources, is also endowed with facilities to characterise and document germplasm resources. To accomplish this, well equipped



field, laboratory and information technology support has been provided. It has also been planned to create an internet based

database of TNAU's germplasm resources to promote exchange and utilization among plant breeders and crop scientists.

### TNAU graduates excel in UPSC examination

The Tamil Nadu Agricultural University graduates have bagged 6 civil services out of 127 passed out from Tamil Nadu in the recently concluded UPSC examination, 2010. This would not have been possible without the keen interest and efforts taken by the Directorate of Students' Welfare. The staff and students of TNAU take this opportunity to congratulate the winners.

### German scientist visits TCRS, Yethapur

Dr. Gerobenkicer, Professor, Justus Liebig University, Germany along with his Research Scholar Mr. R. Ranjith Kumar visited Tapioca

and Castor Research Station, Yethapur on 12.04.2010 accompanied by Dr. K. Kumar, Professor and Head, Dr. D. Balachander, Professor and Ms. Sujatha, Research Scholar, Department of Agricultural Microbiology, TNAU, Coimbatore. Dr. V. Palanisamy welcomed them and explained about tapioca cultivation technologies, water conservation through drip irrigation and management of waste water during



starch extraction. They visited the tapioca germplasm field and also propagules developed through true seeds. They also visited a farmer's field at Selliampalayam village to observe the drip fertigation and moisture conservation practices operated in the farmer's field under TN-IAMWARM project.

### DSW brings bountiful Jobs to farm graduates

During the period from April 2009 to March 2010, 16 Campus Interviews were organized, where 58 companies participated. The number of candidates who attended the interview sums-up to 1987, of which, 535 candidates were selected for various organizations. The placements were made in National



and Multinational companies which includes financial institutions, sugar industries, other agro-based industries, NGOs, agri-business, food industries, plantation and government agencies. The candidates were graduates and post graduates in the disciplines of Agriculture, Horticulture, Agricultural Engineering, Forestry, Home Science and Biotechnology.

**Pilot project launched at RRS, Paiyur**

A pilot project on "Augmenting Productivity of Lead Crops" was launched at RRS, Paiyur on 14.05.2010. Chief General Manager of NABARD Shri R. Narayanan launched the project in the presence of the District Collector Shri V.K. Shanmugam. Shri Narayanan opined that the Rs.50 lakh project would focus on increasing the productivity of lead crops in Krishnagiri District.

**Placement for TNAU graduates**

During April 2010, Seven Campus Interviews were conducted in the Directorate of Students' Welfare. National and International renowned Agricultural Business Institutions and NGOs participated in the Campus Interview. The Post Graduates and Graduates of TNAU numbering 171 attended the interview, of which 20 candidates secured their placement.

**HC & RI, Peiryakulam students bagged prizes**



Swadesh Prem Jagriti Sangosthi,

2010 has been organized by Lt. Amit Singh Memorial Foundation, New Delhi and University of Horticultural Sciences, Bagalkot from 28<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2010 at Bangalore. Selvi. Aparna Srinivasan and Selvi. Tissy Raichel Thomas, the I B.Sc. (Horticulture) students of HC & RI, Periyakulam, have received second and third prizes respectively along with valuable certificate, shield and prize money from the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka, Dr. B. S. Yediyurappa on 28.05.2010 for National Horticulture Talent Search Award on the topic entitled "Horticulture has means of Livelihood, Economic Development and Health Care".

**TNAU bags rolling cup in flower show, 2010**



The annual flower show 2010, was conducted in a grand manner at Government Botanical Gardens, Ooty from 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2010. The Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture, Th. Veerapandi S. Arumugam inaugurated the flower show. The Institute of Commercial Horticulture (ICH), Ooty of TNAU participated in the flower show and was awarded with the rolling cup for "The outstanding cut flower stall in public garden". The award was given by the Hon'ble Union Minister for Communication and Information Technology, Th.A. Raja.

**Field day on groundnut**

A field day on "Integrated crop management in Groundnut" was conducted at Mahadevapattanam of Thiruvavur district on 16.04.10 by KVK, Needamangalam. In this



programme, more than 50 progressive farmers of Mahadevapattanam cluster villages have actively participated and interacted about their practical experiences on groundnut cultivation.

In the field day, they expressed their views that the new groundnut variety VRI 6 performed better than the local variety. Besides, the cultivation practices like recommended seed rate, seed treatment with fungicide and biofertilizers and foliar nutrition of groundnut tonic were able to earn more income from the groundnut cultivation. The progressive farmer, Th. Govindaraj proposed vote of thanks.

**Research grant award for TNAU scientist**

Dr. V. Saravanakumar, Assistant Professor (Agrl. Economics), Department of Trade and Intellectual Property, Coimbatore was awarded with competitive research grant of Rs.7 lakhs for the scheme on "Economic Impact of Climate Change on Yield Variability of Major Food Crops in Tamil Nadu" by the South Asian Network for Development and Environmental Economics (SANDEE) during the 19<sup>th</sup> biannual workshop held in Pokhara, Nepal for a period of 18 months.

**Students brings laurels to TNAU**

Mr. Sangeeth Kumar Vijayan, IV B.Sc. (Ag.) and Ms. Saishree Ganesan of II B.Tec. (FPE) passed the Business English Course (BEC) Examination (Vantage) creditably securing "A" (Exceptional) grade with a percentage of 92 and 80 respectively. The examination was



conducted by the University of Cambridge, United Kingdom.

### Workshop on briquetting of agro residues

The Department of Bio energy, AEC&RI, Coimbatore has organized one day workshop on "Briquetting of Agro Residues" recently. Dr.D. Manohar Jesudas, Dean (i/c), AEC&RI, welcomed the gathering. Our Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Murugesu Boopathi, inaugurated



the workshop. Dr. Anil Kumar Dubey, Programme Coordinator (Principal Scientist), CIAE, Bhopal briefed about the programme and

Dr.P.Venkatachalam, Professor and Head, Department of Bio energy, AEC&RI, proposed vote of thanks. In this workshop, 32 participants including farmers, Briquette manufacturers, Briquette machine manufacturers and Briquette suppliers were participated.

### Exposure visit to farmers by KVK Sirugamani

An exposure visit was organized for a week recently by the KVK, Sirugamani to the farmers of Trichy,

## NSS Special Camp-2010

### AC&RI, Coimbatore



The special camp of NSS unit of Coimbatore was conducted at Devarayapuram village of Thondamuthur Panchayat union for a week from 02.05.2010 to 08.05.2010. Two hundred and fifty students belonging to eight undergraduate courses participated in the camp. The valedictory function was organized on 08.05.2010. Our Vice Chancellor, Dr. P. Murugesu Boopathi, graced the occasion and delivered valedictory address. Mr. M. N. Kandasamy, MLA, Thondamuthur and Member, Board of Management, TNAU visited the exhibition organized by our students and appreciated the agrotechnology dissemination activities. In his special address, he emphasized the need to uplift the rural poor by improved and useful technologies. Dr. P. Subbian, Registrar; Dr. S. Santhana Bosu, Dean, AEC&RI, Coimbatore and Dr. N. Kumar, Dean, HC&RI, Coimbatore took part in the programme.

### HC & RI, Periyakulam

A special camp of National Service Scheme (NSS) was conducted for the students of HC&RI, Periyakulam at Alagarnaikenpatti village from 3.05.10 to 9.05.10. Dr. V. Ponnuswami, Dean, in his inaugural address stressed the importance of youth in rural upliftment. Mrs. Madhavi, Project Officer, DRDA, Theni; Mr. Vellaichami, President of the village; ward councilors and Presidents of the various farmers associations felicitated the programme.



A special eye camp was conducted by Aravind eye hospital, Theni and students of HC&RI, Periyakulam, in which, 125 people participated. A general health camp was conducted in association with Rotary club of Periyakulam. Farm women were trained in the preparation of juice and jam. The villagers were also trained on bee keeping and home gardening. The students rendered their help in cleaning the temple premises, planting of trees and made a march

to create awareness on the role of youngsters in environmental protection. The veterinary camp had an overwhelming response wherein 200 animals were treated for various ailments. Sports events were held for the children of the village.

### ADAC&RI, Trichy

The NSS volunteers of ADAC&RI, has organized NSS special camp from 01.05.2010 to 07.05.2010 at Inam Navalur Village in Manikandam Block, Trichy. The NSS special camp was inaugurated on 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2010 by the Hon'ble Minister for Transport Thiru. K. N. Nehru. He emphasised the importance of Agricultural field in future and hailed the active participation of NSS volunteers in various services. Dr. G. Kathiresan, Dean, Presided over the inaugural function. NSS Programme Officer, Dr. M. Chandrasekaran, organized the camp. All the staff members of the college have participated. NSS student volunteer Mr.V. Mohanraj proposed vote of thanks.







Karur and Erode districts to the Karnataka state. The farmers were exposed to the important technological interventions of UAS, Bangalore; Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, Bangalore; JSS, KVK, Mysore and Karnataka (KR) markets of Bangalore.

This exposure visit was a newer experience to the farmers to learn new technologies in the management aspects of pulses and oilseeds. The farmers expressed that the technologies they learnt and experiences would be adopted in their field for better productivity and increase their farm income.

#### Press meet on UG admission

A Press meet on UG Admissions 2010-2011 was conducted on 29.04.10 at the Vice Chancellor's committee room. Our Vice Chancellor, Dr. P. Murugesha Boopathi, delivered the press message. The message widely covered all information that includes mission of the University, details of courses offered, details of admission procedures with dates, eligibility criteria, NRI Quota and Industrial Sponsorship, Dual Degree Programs, Syllabus and curriculum, ICT enabled education system etc.



#### Training on paddy seed production

One day training programme on "Paddy Seed Production and Multiplication" was organised at Soil and Water Management Research Institute, Thanjavur in collaboration with IFFDC and IFFCO. Dr. B. Chandrasekaran, Professor and Head, inaugurated the training. Around 30 farmers participated in the programme. Technical details have been given by the JDA, DD (seed inspection), ADA (Seed certification), Seed certification officers and the scientists of SWMRI. Mr. B. Krishnan, Chief Area Manager of the IFFCO and Mr. B. Shanmuganathan, emphasized on seed production and propagation techniques of tree crops. Farmers were clarified about



the various procedures to be followed in seed production, multiplication and registration.

#### Training on small millets for nutritional security

Training on small millets for nutritional security was organized from 26.04.2010 to 28.04.2010 at Urban Horticulture Development Centre, Chennai. Twenty women candidates in and around Chennai city participated in the above programme.

Training programme was initiated on 26.4.2010 by planting 15 tree saplings at DAV school campus. Dr. P. P. Ramasamy, Board Member, TNAU, Coimbatore; Mr. Banthu Santale, DAV School, Joint Secretary, Chennai and Dr. P. Banumathy, Dean, HSC & RI,

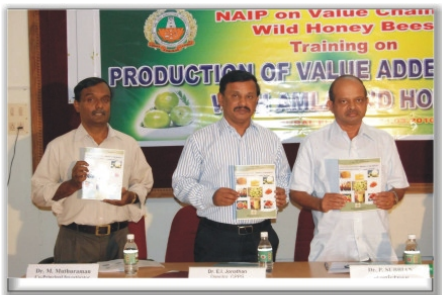


Madurai planted the trees. Dr. P.P. Ramasamy, Board Member; Dr. P. Santhi, Professor and Head, UHDC, Chennai and Mr. C. Venkatesan, programme Assistant delivered lectures on different aspects of millets.

Dr. A. Manjula, Associate Professor (HSc), conducted skill demonstration on millet based products. Dr. M. Velmurugan, Assistant Professor (Hort), created awareness on different types of millets.

#### NAIP- Training for tribal women

The department of Agricultural Entomology and Post Harvest Technology Centre jointly organized two days training programme for the tribal women from Sathyamangalam reserve forests recently, on "Production of value added products with amla and honey" as part of "NAIP -A Value Chain on Wild Honey Bees" at Coimbatore. A total of 21 tribal women participated in the training. Dr. G. Pushpa, Professor (Food Science) and CO-PI of the scheme trained the women on making value added products from honey and amla. The women underwent hands on training on making 14 value added products. Dr. E.I. Jonathan, Director, CPPS, welcomed the gathering. Dr.





## Minister of state for finance visited SWMRI, Thanjavur



the field demonstrations organized on farm mechanization. He launched the NABARD assisted project with an outlay of Rs 65 lakh, in a meeting, attended by large number of elite farmers; District Collector; members of Legislative assembly; representatives of local bodies; Th.R.Narayan, Chief General Manager, NABARD, Chennai; Th. T.S. Ravikumar, AGM, NABARD, Thanjavur; Th.S.Krishna Prasath, Regional General Manager, IOB, Thanjavur; Th.S.N.Misra, General Manager (Priority Sector), IOB, Chennai; Director, TRRI, Aduthurai and Officials from Government Departments and non governmental organizations.

During the meeting, the Minister released 4 technical bulletins and distributed perennial redgram (BSR 1) of TNAU, Eco-friendly torch lights of IFFCO, Free tree saplings and Cocoa and mango seedlings to the farming community.

Hon'ble Minister of State for Finance, Th. S. S. Palanimanickam visited Soil and Water Management Research Institute, Kattuthottam, Thanjavur on 24.04.2010. He was accompanied by the District Collector Th.M.S. Shanmugam, I.A.S.,

Thanjavur and Hon'ble members of Legislative assembly, Durai Chandrasekaran and Th. K. T.Maheskrishnasamy.

Hon'ble Minister declared open the Agriculture technologies exhibition. He keenly observed

P.Subbian, Registrar, TNAU inaugurated the training. Dr. N. S. Bhat, Professor and Head, Department of Apiculture, UAS, Bangalore and Consortium Principal Investigator, was the special guest. Dr. M. Muthuraman, Professor (Agrl.Entomology) gave an introduction about the training programme to the participants. Dr. Santhana Bosu, Dean, AEC and RI, Coimbatore was the chief guest for the valedictory function and gave away participation certificates to the trainees. Dr.P.Karuppuchamy, Professor and Head, Department of Agricultural Entomology proposed vote of thanks.

### Project Director of maize research visits MRS, Vagarai

Dr. Sain Dass, Project Director, Directorate of Maize Research, IARI Campus, New Delhi, visited Maize Research Station, Vagarai on 19.04.10. This was his first visit to this station after the implementation of ICAR – AICRP



maize scheme at MRS, Vagarai. He inspected the hybrid seed production plots of Maize. He interacted with all the scientists and suggested to identify the pest and disease free resistant maize genotypes and to concentrate more on integrated pest and disease management practices. He emphasized the need to train the farmers in hybrid seed production of Maize which is remunerative.

### Annual research meet on Horticulture

The Annual Research Meet – Horticulture was conducted on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2010 at Coimbatore.

The horticultural scientists and plant protection scientists working in horticultural crops from various campuses and research stations participated. Dr. M. Paramathma, Director of Research welcomed the participants and gave the introductory remarks. Dr. N. Anand, Vice – President, Namdhari Seeds, Bangalore delivered special address.

Our Vice – Chancellor, Dr. P. Murugesu Boopathi, while flagging off issues, stressed the scope and need for strengthening research in major horticultural crops for increasing production to meet the demand of growing population





and changing food habits. Dr.N. Ajjan, Director (CARDS) made a presentation on "Economy of Horticultural Crops in Tamil Nadu". Dr. N. Kumar, Dean (Hort) and Dr. E. I. Jonathan, Director (CPPS) presented the action taken on the recommendations made during the last meet. The Heads of Departments of Coimbatore and Periyakulam campuses presented the progress of on - going research sub-projects which were critically reviewed. A session on breeder seed production and quality planting material was chaired by Dr.K.Ramamoorthy, Special Officer (Seeds) and targets were fixed for 2010-11.

In the concluding session, the Vice - Chancellor highlighted the mission for the horticultural scientists in the years to come. Dr.V.Ponnuswami, Dean, HC&RI, Periyakulam proposed vote of thanks.

**7<sup>th</sup> meeting of DBT task force**



The 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of DBT task force on Agril. Biotechnology was inaugurated by our Vice-Chancellor, Dr. P. Murugesha Boopathi, on 6<sup>th</sup> April, 2010. In his inaugural address, he suggested that plant molecular biology and its applications to agricultural biotechnology could help researchers exploit the genetic potential of crops for increasing yield.

Dr. S. Nagarajan, Chairperson, PPV

& FR Authority of India and Chairman of this task force, Dr. R. R. Sinha, Adviser, DBT, Dr. R. Samiyappan, Director (CPMB) and Dr.V.Udayasuriyan (P&H, DPMB&B) were also present.

**Awards for Biotech students**

Tmt. Ammani Ammal Memorial Award is being awarded to the first two top rankers in M.Sc., Biotechnology every year. A function in this regard was arranged on 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2010 at CPMB seminar hall.



**TNAU participates in exhibition cum seminar on technologies** ➡



The one day exhibition cum conference on Technologies available on "Value addition of Agricultural, Horticultural, Livestock, Poultry and Fisheries products" was held at Namakkal on 17.4.2010.

The exhibition was inaugurated by Thiru. V.C. Duraisamy, Deputy Speaker, Tamil Nadu Legislative

Assembly. Thiru. K. P. Ramalingam, President, Farmers' and Workers' Welfare Board; Thiru. U. Sagayam, I.A.S., District Collector, Namakkal; Dr. P. Murugesha Boopathi, Vice - Chancellor, TNAU, Coimbatore; Dr. S. Prabhu Kumar, Zonal Project Director, VIII Zone, Bangalore; Dr. P. Kalaiselvan, DEE, TNAU; Dr. T. Kathiresan, DEE, TNAUVAS; Thiru. S. Durai, JDA,

Namakkal; Thiru. K.P. Ganesan, President, Agricultural Marketing Committee; Dr. K. Alagusundaram, Director, IICPT, Tanjore; Thiru. K.P. Ramasamy, M.L.A., Rasipuram and Thiru. S. Periyasamy, Panchayat president participated.

Our Vice - Chancellor, Dr. P. Murugesha Boopathi, while addressing the gathering, suggested that the farmers and livestock producers should adopt the new technologies and improve their production.

TNAU has participated in the exhibition cum conference and this was coordinated by the Programme Coordinator, KVK, Sandhiyur. Six lectures were delivered on value addition, entrepreneurship development, avenues of finance for entrepreneurship, marketing opportunities etc. About 1800 farmers from Salem, Namakkal, Erode and Coimbatore districts participated.



## Training on 'Upscaling of e-velanmai in Tamil Nadu' ➡



One day training Programme on 'Upscaling of e-velanmai in Tamil Nadu' was held on 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2010. About 25 scientists of TN-IAMWARM project participated in the training. Dr. N. Ajjan, Director CARDS, Welcomed the gathering. Dr. S. Chellamuthu, Director (WTC), made Opening Remarks. Dr.P.Kalaiselvan, DEE, facilitated the function.

Our Vice- Chancellor, Dr. P.

Murugesu Boopathi, during his inaugural address expressed that the e-velanmai programme is the first of its kind in the entire country. At present there are about 80 lakh farm holdings in Tamil Nadu and therefore it is not possible for the extension workers to reach each and every farmer, which has resulted in a wide gap in technology transfer. In this background, the e-velanmai has been launched by TNAU on pilot

basis in three sub- basins (Palar, Aliyar and Varahanadhi) as part of TN-IAMWARM project funded by World Bank. This new concept of technology transfer is based on application of ICT tools for solving farmers' problems, answering their queries and clearing their doubts.

Currently, e-velanmai, which is being operated in few sub- basins, is planned to be upscaled to cover all the phase I & II sub- basins. It is also planned to send a proposal to the Tamil Nadu Government to extend this service to entire Tamil Nadu. The Vice-Chancellor also launched the e-velanmai website ([www.evelanmai.com](http://www.evelanmai.com))

Dr. C. Karthikeyan, Associate Professor and Principal Investigator of this project, said that in order to enhance the participation of farmers, paid model of e-velanmai was introduced. A nominal fee of Rs.50/- to Rs.300/- is collected from farmers towards membership based on the size of the farm holding. Finally, Dr. B. J. Pandian, Professor & Head, (TN-IAMWARM), proposed vote of thanks.

Dr.V. Udayasuriyan, Professor and Head, Department of Plant Molecular Biology and Biotechnology, welcomed the gathering. Dr. C. Udayasoorian, Dean (SPGS) felicitated the students. Dr. M. Rangarajan (Former Dean, AC&RI, Killikulam, TNAU ) who instituted the award spoken about the award. The top two M.Sc., Biotechnology students (2008-2009 batch) Ms. Parvathy Krishnan (1<sup>st</sup> Rank) and Ms. Jadhav Prakash Kashmiri (2<sup>nd</sup> rank) were given with prizes by Dr. M. Rangarajan and Dr. C. Udayasoorian, Dean, School of Post Graduate Studies. The function was concluded with vote of thanks by the PG co-ordinator, Dr.N. Senthil.

### Flourishing job opportunities for Agricultural Engineering graduates

Among 32 students who have graduated with B.Tech (Agrl. Engg.) degree this year, 24 have got their jobs in various industries. This year an Agricultural Engineering graduate Ms.M.Kanagavalli of 1996 - 2000 batch from Agricultural Engineering Collage and Research Institute, Kumulur got selected for I.A.S., scoring 15<sup>th</sup> rank in All India Level.

### Training on cashew productivity

A training programme on "Improved technologies for increasing cashew productivity"

was inaugurated recently. The training programme consisted of two batches of farmers for five days each for transfer of technologies for achieving improved productivity in cashew. The inaugural session was presided over by Dr. Jayaraj, Director, Tamil Nadu Rice Research Institute, Aduthurai. Dr.N.Sathiah, Professor and Head, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Vridhachalam felicitated the farmers. Dr.R. Marimuthu, Professor and Head, Regional Research Station, Vridhachalam organized the training programme with the coordination of the scientists of All India Co-ordinated Research Project (c). A total of hundred farmers were benefited by the above training programme.



## New schemes

Name of the scheme	Principal Investigator	Amount (Lakh Rs.)	Funding Agency
Standardization of Package of Practices for organic cotton	Dr. S. Jeyaraman, Director (DCMS)	24.00	GOI
Management of Nematode fungal disease complex of tomato using flyash	Dr.S.Ramakrishnan, Professor (Nematology)	16.00	DST
Development of wilt resistant heterotic gene pool in castor ( <i>Ricinus communis</i> L) through induced mutagenesis	Dr.S.R.Venkatachalam, Assoc. Prof. (PB&G)	12.82	BRNS
Evaluation of wellgro soil, wellgro soil pellets (PHF) and wellgro grains on growth and yield of turmeric and banana under irrigated conditions.	Dr. E. Somasundaram, Assoc. Prof. (Agronomy)	9.40	ITC
Engineering rice for drought tolerance using dreb1 transcription factor	Dr. D. Vijayalakshmi Prof & Head (Crop Phy.)	8.91	UGC
Exploiting genotypic efficiency for effective zinc sequestration by green gram in zinc deficient soils	Dr.T.Chitdeshwari, Assoc. Prof. (SS&AC)	8.49	UGC
Network project for establishment of nucleus seed garden for production of quality planting materials of recently released coconut cultivars	Dr.R.Vaithilingam, Prof. & Head (PB&G)	6.96	CDB
AICRP (C) special grant on "Studies on Ultra High density Planting in Cashew"	Dr. N. Kumar, Dean , HC&RI, Cbe.	4.20	ICAR

## Important visitors

- ▶ Th.Steve Jung and Kim Wan Chae, from a South Korean Farm Implement company visited TRRI, Aduthurai on 03-05-2010.
- ▶ Dr.Kumari Ananthan, President, Palmyrah Workers Development Board, Chennai visited the Dean (AEC & RI), Coimbatore on 10.05.2010.
- ▶ Dr.S.Subramanian, VP, Rasi Seeds visited, CPMB on 18-5-2010
- ▶ Drs. Misra and Dr. M.K. Sharma of M/s Mahyco visited DPMB&B on 21-5-2010.

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