

# TNAU NEWS



## TAMILNADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY NEWS LETTER

Patron : Dr. P. MURUGESA BOOPATHI- Vice Chancellor

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

### National symposium – BIOCONCORRENZA '10



BIOCONCORRENZA '10 – A National level technical symposium was organized by the students of B.Tech (Biotechnology) and B. Tech (Bioinformatics), Department of Plant Molecular Biology and Biotechnology on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 2010, to

commemorate the National Science Day. Dr. R. Samiyappan, Director (CPMB) presided over the function and Dr. P. Subbian, Registrar, TNAU delivered the inaugural address. As a chief guest Dr. K. Sekar, IISc, Bangalore, attended the inaugural

session, delivered a special address and offered a guest lecture on, "Internet computing and structural bioinformatics". Dr. V. Jayabal, Dean (Agri.), AC&RI, Coimbatore, and Dr. V. Udayasuriyan, Professor and Head, Department of Plant Molecular Biology and Biotechnology, offered felicitations. The symposium served as an arena to discuss the current and future needs of research, education and training and to identify new directions, opportunities and challenges in biotechnology and bioinformatics. About 100 papers and 60 posters were presented in the symposium. Bio-buzzer - a technical quiz was also conducted during the symposium. Industrial conclave, an academic industrial meet, where scientists, industrialists and students shared a common platform to discuss the best practices and R&D strategies in the industry was also conducted as a part of symposium.

### Field day on pulse at SWMRI, Thanjavur

Field day was conducted at Soil and Water Management Research Institute, Kattuthottam, Thanjavur on 19.03.2010. Dr.B. Chandrasekaran,



Professor and Head of Soil and Water Management Research Institute spoke about the field day. Dr. V. Rajagopalan, former Vice Chancellor (TNAU), Thiru. N. Dharmaraj, Ex-President, Vandaiyariruppu, Thiru.V. Kaliyaperumal, Deputy Director of Agriculture, Thiru.S. Anbalaghan, Deputy Director of Seed Certification participated in the function. About 100 farmers and officials from the line departments participated.

In this field day, the farmers were enlighten with designer seed treatment, integrated nutrient management, integrated pest and disease management techniques, efficient water & weed management

practices. Further, the best produces of pulse crops brought by the farmers were evaluated by a team. The three best farmers were honoured with certificates and memento.

### VC visits SWMRI, Thanjavur



Our Vice chancellor, Dr. P. Murugesu Boopathi along with the Registrar and Director, TRRI, Aduthurai visited Soil and Water Management Research Institute, on 15.03.2010. He inspected the research farm and requested officers of Department of Agriculture / Horticulture / Agricultural Engineering to popularize the technology of using mobile sprinkler to protect and fetch good yield from Black gram sown in the delta area. The also inaugurated the mushroom production and training unit and opined that it is a viable agri-based enterprise suitable for the farmers in this district due to large scale availability of straw and leisure time.

**Training on Industrial agroforestry and value addition**

Two days farmers training programme on "Industrial Agroforestry and Value Addition" was organized during March 2-3, 2010 at FC&RI, Mettupalayam.

Dr.M.Govinda Rao, I.F.S., Dean, inaugurated the training programme and delivered presidential address. The Dean in his presidential address briefed about the scope and opportunities available for tree cultivation with special reference to industrial tree cultivation.

Dr.K.T. Parthibhan, Associate Professor and Principal Investigator of the scheme welcomed the gathering and appraised the facilities available in the scheme. Dr.P. Balasubramanian, Professor and Head, Forest Biology, Dr.K.K. Suresh, Professor and Head, Silviculture, Dr.S.Avudainayagam, Professor and Head, Forest Soil and Dr.A.Nandagopalan, Professor and Head, Agro Forestry delivered special address on their respective fields.



Interactive meeting was also organized with the Scientists, Officials of TNPL, Karur, Seshasayee Paper Boards Ltd., Erode, Vasan Match Works, Gudiyatham, Tree Growers Associations and participant farmers so as to make use of various resources.

Technical presentations were made by the scientists on various aspects of industrial tree cultivation and post harvest technologies. 120 farmers from 17 districts of the State have participated.

**National Best Centre Award for DWSRC, TNAU**

Directorate of Weed Science Research Centre operating in the Department of Agronomy, Centre for Soil and Crop Management Studies, Coimbatore since 1982 has been conferred with National Best Centre Award for the year 2009 - 10 by Directorate of Weed Science



Research (ICAR), Jabalpur. The award was presented by Mr. Joy Oomen, Chief Secretary, Govt. of Chattisgarh at Indira Gandhi Krishi Viswavidhyalaya, Raipur, during 19<sup>th</sup> DWSR Biennial Workshop held on 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2010.

**Annual workshop of NAIP on value chain on flowers**

The Annual Workshop of the NAIP on 'Value chain on flowers for domestic and export markets' was conducted on 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2010 at HC&RI, Coimbatore. The workshop was inaugurated by Dr. T. Thangaraj, Former Dean (Horticulture) and Chairman of Consortium Advisory Committee of the NAIP. Dr. N. Kumar, Dean, HC&RI, Coimbatore welcomed the gathering and offered introductory remarks. Dr. M. Jawaharlal, the Consortium Principal Investigator



of the project, appraised the progress made.

Sixty flower growers and entrepreneurs from the project areas located at Sathyamangalam, Coimbatore, Ooty and Salem and 15 women from Deepam Self Help Group of Kotagiri participated in the above workshop. Various aspects of flower production, post harvest technology, plant protection and value addition of flowers were discussed in the workshop

Certificates were distributed to the participants. Finally, Dr. M. Kannan, Professor (Horticulture) proposed vote of thanks.

**TNAU bags European Union project for jatropha research**

Centre of Excellence in Biofuels in TNAU, Coimbatore has been selected as one of the networking partners in the European Union funded project "JATROPT-245236" - Jatropha curcas : Applied and Technological Research in Plant Traits", with Dr. M. Paramathma, Director of Research, as the Principal Investigator and Project management Team Member in India for a period of 4 years from 2010 to 2013 with a budget of Rs. 69.56 lakhs.

The project involves nine countries viz., Brazil, France, Guatemala, India, Madagascar, Mexico, Netherlands, Spain and United Kingdom. The network partners include private companies, Universities and Research Institutes.

**VC's visit to KVK, Needamangalam**

Our Vice-Chancellor, Dr. P. Murugesu Boopathi has



### Hostel day at Killikulam

The 25<sup>th</sup> Hostel Day of AC&RI, Killikulam was celebrated on 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2010. Dr. V.K.Venkataramani, Director of Research and Extension, Fisheries College & Research Institute, Tuticorin, was the chief guest and distributed prizes to the winners of the

declared open the 'Slatted house goat rearing' unit on 15.03.10 during his visit to KVK, Needamangalam. He also visited the demonstration units on backyard poultry, protected cultivation of vegetables, precision farming, alternate cropping, SRI, machine transplanted paddy, direct sown paddy using drum seeder, etc.

Later, he interacted with the staff and briefly reviewed the activities. The Vice-Chancellor has also given valuable suggestions for better working conditions of the KVK and appreciated the steps of KVK, Needamangalam towards the farmers' prosperity.



competitions. He exhorted the students to set goals and work with dedication, towards achieving them. In his presidential address, Dr. A. Raja Rajan, Dean, highlighted the various developments in the hostel facilities made by the University to provide "a home away from home" to the students. Dr. D. Jawahar, Warden, presented the

Hostel Day report. Dr. A. Jeya Jasmine, Deputy Warden welcomed the gathering and Mr. S. Vijaya murugan, mess representative proposed a vote of thanks.

### MLA visits TCRS, Yethapur

Th.M.R.Sundaram, Member of legislative Assembly, Attur visited Tapioca and Castor Research Station on 10.03.2010. Dr.V.Palanisamy, Professor and Head of the station welcomed him and explained the research activities on tapioca, castor production technologies and System of Rice Intensification technology at Tapioca and



### VC inaugurates revived zonal workshop

Our Vice Chancellor Dr. P. Murugesu Boopathi, inaugurated the revived Monthly Zonal Workshop, which has been jointly organized by the Directorate of Extension Education, TNAU and Department of Agriculture, Coimbatore District, on April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2010. He called up on the Extension Officers and Farm Scientists to mutually learn from each other's experiences and expertise so as to make the Zonal Workshop as the real platform to get to know the current micro-level farm challenges of the district and ways and means to mitigate them.

Emphasising the need for right and timely feedback on the new technologies, the Vice Chancellor said that the "Best Feedback" could be obtained from the Extension Officers. This could be profitably used by the researchers in formulating research agenda based on farmers' needs and priorities.

Dr. P. Kalaiselvan, Director of



Extension Education in his address said that the right impact of Front Line Demonstrations conducted in the farmers' field would become an eye-opener to other farmers to adopt the critical techniques that give best crop yield and output.

Thiru. L. Sankararaj, Deputy Director of Agriculture in his

welcome address explained about the importance of the Zonal Workshop

Dr. R. Vijayaraghavan, Head, Training Division and Faculty Head, SAMETI, emphasized the need for the scientists and extension officers to closely working together for proper understanding.

Castor Research Station, Yethapur. Th.M.R.Sundaram visited tapioca germplasm field, lines multiplied through true seeds and also new castor hybrid YRCH1. He observed the estimation of starch content in tapioca by using point scale and also inspected the rice transplanter. Th.M.R.Sundaram suggested for new varietal release in tapioca also.

**Theni farmers cautioned about mass emergence of pests**

Scientists at AC&RI, Madurai have cautioned farmers of Theni districts about the mass emergence of white grub beetles, *Holotrichia* spp. Emergence of reddish brown beetles observed in Kodangipatti, Duraisampuram, Kuchanoor villages of Theni district following recent summer showers and suggested ways and means to control the pests.

**Farmers' awareness program**

A awareness program on “**Weather, Climate and Farmers**” was conducted on 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2010 by the Agro-Met advisory Unit, Aduthurai. 156 farmers from 6 Cauvery Delta Districts viz. Thanjavur, Thiruvarur, Nagapattinam, Trichy, Pudukottai and Pernambalore were participated. Dr.T.N. Balasubramaniam, Consultant to SDC Project on V & A, MSSRF, Chennai and Dr.M.V Soloman, Asst. Meteorologist, CDR, Karaikal, delivered lectures, stressing the importance of weather forecast and application on the farm operation. Manual Rain gauges were distributed to 5 progressive framers of the Cauvery Delta Zone. Earlier, Dr.T.Jayaraj Director, TRRI, Inaugurated the Awareness' programme. Joint Director of Agricultures from Thanjavur, Thiruvarur, Subject matter



specialist from 6 CDZ KVKs and Scientist from TRRI, Aduthurai were participated.

**Hostel Day at HC & RI, Periyakulam**

The 20<sup>th</sup> Hostel day was celebrated in a grand manner at HC&RI, Periyakulam on 01.03.2010. Dr. V. Ponnuswami, Dean presided over the function. Dr. P. Subbian, Registrar was the Chief Guest and he distributed prizes to the winners of various competitions conducted on the eve of the hostel day. Dr. N. Kumar, Dean, HC & RI, Coimbatore was the special guest. Dr. R. Sundaram, warden, presented the hostel day report. Earlier Dr. K.R. Rajadurai, Deputy Warden, welcomed the gathering and Thiru. K. Manivannan, Hostel Secretary proposed a vote of thanks. Students' cultural programme was also held during the function.



**TNAU commercializes insect egg removal device**

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed to commercialize the technology “TNAU Insect Egg Removal Device” to serve at industry level with M/s Indian Products Ltd., a Coimbatore based exporter of agri-products.

Dr. R.Ganesan, Director, Agri-Business Development, facilitated the technology commercialization initiative and the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by him representing TNAU and Mr.B.Rajagopalan, General Manager, Indian Products Ltd., Coimbatore in the presence of Vice-Chancellor.

Dr.S.Mohan, Professor of Agricultural Entomology being the innovator explained about



the technology. Our Vice-Chancellor, Dr.P.Murugesha Boopathi, opined that this mechanical device is a boon to the industry as it provides eco-friendly, toxicidal residue-free and cost-effective storage pest management at bulk quantities of storage.

Dr.E.I.Jonathan, Director, Centre for Plant Protection Studies, hoped for industry collaboration for entomological research activities. Dr.P.Karuppuchamy, Head of the Department of Agricultural Entomology, demonstrated the device to the industrialists.

**Seminar on pulses**

One day seminar on pulses cum Farmers' Day was organized by Department of Agriculture under ATMA at SWMRI, Thanjavur on 27.03.2010. About 120 farmers participated in the seminar. Dr. B. Chandrasekaran, Professor and Head, Soil and Water Management Research Institute inaugurated the various events of the day. The JDA, Thanjavur, DDA, ADA, AO, FTC, Sakkottai participated in the meeting. Dr.A.S.Ponnusamy, the Emeritus scientist of Seed Science and Technology delivered a special address to the farmers.

The main aim of conducting the seminar was to improve the pulse productivity in the Cauvery Delta Zone. The scientists of Soil and Water Management Research Institute delivered lectures on pulses production technologies. The farmers were enlighten with designer seed treatment, integrated nutrient management, integrated pest and disease management techniques, efficient water & weed management practices etc.

## Training Programme on Drip Fertigation Technology



A two day training programme on "Drip Fertigation Technology" was organized jointly by Indian Farmers Fertiliser Co-operative Limited, Coimbatore and Department of Agronomy, Centre for Soil and Crop Management Studies, Coimbatore between 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 2010. Around 40 farmers from Coimbatore, Erode, Tiruppur, Salem, Madurai and

Theni districts have attended the training programme. The training programme was inaugurated by Dr.S.Jeyaraman, Director, Centre for Soil and Crop Management Studies. During the inaugural address, the Director highlighted the importance of drip fertigation technology in enhancing crop productivity besides achieving efficient use of production

inputs like nutrient and water. Thiru.S.Govindarajan, South Zonal Manager, IFFCO, Bangalore; Thiru. M.Krishnan, State Marketing Manager, IFFCO, Chennai; Thiru. P. Mathiyalagan, Chief Area Manager, IFFCO, Coimbatore and Dr.P. Muthukrishnan, IFFCO Chair Professor and Head of the Department of Agronomy also spoke on the occasion highlighting the various aspects of drip fertigation technology.

Resource persons delivered series of lectures on drip irrigation technology for field and horticultural crops. The farmers were also taken for a field visit to IFFCO drip fertigation experiment and irrigation cafeteria at TNAU campus. The farmers also visited drip fertigation demonstration plots in Onion at Pullagounden pudur and Naraseepuram villages. At the end of the training programme, Dr.S.Jayaraman, Director, Centre for Soil and Crop Management Studies distributed participatory certificates to the farmers. Th.M.R. Kirubashankar, Field Officer IFFCO, Coimbatore proposed vote of thanks.

### Demonstration of mobile sprinkler to pulses

Dr.P.Kalaiselvan, Director, Extension Education visited SWMRI on 31.03.2010 and assessed the performance of mobile sprinkler for supplemental irrigation to pulses. Dr.B. Chandrasekaran Professor and Head SWMRI explained about the working of mobile sprinkler and its advantages. He further added that the area of wetting, depth of wetting, weedflora, rooting pattern due to mobile sprinkler irrigation has to be studied in detail.



Along with mobile sprinkler irrigation, the Azadirachtin is also mixed in the tank and applied to the pulse crop to manage leaf feeders. Pestigation is possible with mobile sprinkler.

### Sweden student trained under VCS at HSC&RI, Madurai

Ms. Lauriina, the final year student doing Masters Degree Programme in Nutrition at Stockholm University, Sweden a trainee from DHAN Foundation, Madurai was given a two days training on "Preparation of weaning food" at the Dept of Food Science & Nutrition, Home Science College and Research Institute, Madurai on 26.3.2010 and 27.3.2010. The student expressed that malting of grains is an entirely new technique that she has learnt, which is not a common practice in her country. She also informed that, this training has enlightened her on the various grains that can be used for preparing a nutritionally rich



complementary food using local foods. The Dean issued a certificate to the student.

### Workshop on product development

One day workshop on "Product development - Arecanut Plate Making" was jointly organized by NABARD, Salem and Tapioca and Castor Research Station, Yethapur on 11.03.2010 at TCRS, Yethapur. More than 100 farmers from different parts of Salem District have participated. Tmt.P. Manimegalai, Deputy General Manager, NABARD, Salem



district welcomed the gathering. Dr.V.Palanisamy, Professor and Head, TCRS, Yethapur explained the research and technology transfer to the farming community. He also explained about the Tapioca and Castor cultivation technologies and TN-IAMWARM activities being carried out in the station.

**Farmers' participatory market approach**

For co-ordinating the existing schemes viz., Uzhavar Shanthai, a **farmers' participatory market approach** has been initiated, by Delta farmers in a meeting at Thanjavur in the presence

of officials of Department of Agriculture, Agricultural marketing and Soil and Water Management Institute on 31-03-2010. It helps to augment the net return, strengthening the retailing of vegetables & fruit produces through market information linked price forecast and dynamic marketing information.

**Modernized PG lecture hall inaugurated**

Our Vice Chancellor, Dr. P. Murugesu Boopathi, declared open the modernized PG Lecture Hall of the Department of Soil and Environment, AC&RI, Madurai on 05.03.2010. The Vice-Chancellor delivered the inaugural address wherein, he stressed the importance of effective teaching as a tool for students' empowerment. He also released the department folder highlighting the major activities of the department. Dr.M. Paramathma, Director of Research, Dr.P. Kalaichelvan, Director of



Extension Education and Dr.K. Vairavan, Dean, AC&RI, Madurai offered felicitation. Dr. A. R. Mohamed Haroon, Professor and Head, Department of Soil and Environment welcomed the gathering and Dr. J. Prabhakaran, Assistant Professor (Soil Science) proposed vote of thanks.

**VC visits SRS, Melalathur**

Our Vice-Chancellor, Dr. P. Murugesu Boopathi, visited Sugarcane Research Station, Melalathur on 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2010. He stressed the need for development of sugarcane varieties suitable for

**ABI - TNAU facilitates research collaboration** ➡



The Agri-Business Incubator at TNAU (ABI-TNAU) has laid a new pathway through its co-incubation partner, the Agri-Business Incubator - ICRISAT (ABI - ICRISAT) to this process of commercialization by effectively enabling the research partnership between TNAU and Bioseed Research India Pvt. Ltd.(BSRIL),

Hyderabad. A MoU was signed recently by Dr.R.Ganesan, Director of Agri-Business Development representing TNAU and Dr. Paresh Kumar Verma, Director of Research representing BSRIL to take up the co-product development of commercial crops using the new

gene discovered by the scientists of the University. Our Vice-Chancellor, Dr. P. Murugesu Boopathi, appreciated the efforts of ABI-TNAU and ABI-ICRISAT in achieving this milestone.

According to Dr.R.Samiyappan, Director, Centre for Plant Molecular Biology (CPMB), TNAU Coimbatore, the new cry gene commercialized through this effort was discovered by Prof. V. Udayasuriyan and his team in the CPMB of TNAU can be used effectively for product development and commercialization.

Dr.P. Subbian, Registrar, TNAU expressed that it is a kind of new platform for commercially exploiting the technologies available with the University. Speaking at the event, Dr. Kiran K Sharma, Head, ABI-ICRISAT said that ABI-ICRISAT will work towards commercializing technologies developed by the University and to strengthen the relationship between the two institutes to complement each other in achieving many such milestones.

## Centenary Arch and pillar inaugurated at VRS, Palur ➡



Our Vice Chancellor Dr. P. Murugesu Boopathi, inaugurated the Centenary Arch and Centenary Pillar at the Vegetable Research Station, Palur on 23.03.2010. During the event, the Vice Chancellor also declared open the newly built Seminar Hall for conducting trainings to the farmers. He also met the progressive farmers of Cuddalore district and enlightened them to increase the productivity by

following the precision farming, high yielding varieties and proved technologies. He also opened the newly built shade net and mist chambers and encouraged the scientists to produce quality planting materials of fruit crops for the benefit of the farmers. The function was graced by the presence of the Director, TRRI, Aduthurai. Dr. T.Jeyaraj and Dr.P.Kalaiselvan, Director of Extension Education.



mechanical harvesting. He also suggested to raise pulses as intercrop in all experimental crops



of sugarcane and installation of mobile sprinkler in pulses seed crops to augment pulses seed production. The newly constructed vermi compost unit was inaugurated by the Vice-Chancellor. He interacted with TN-IAMWARM (Koundanyanadhi sub basin) beneficiaries and distributed VBN 4 blackgram seeds and coconut seedlings to the farmers. Dr.T. Jayaraj, Director, Tamil Nadu Rice Research Institute, Aduthurai and Dr.P. Kalaisevan, Director of Extension Education, accompanied the Vice-Chancellor. Dr.M. Suresh, Professor and Head, Sugarcane Research Station, Melalathur explained the salient activities of the station.

### TNAU signs MoU with Private firm

A memorandum of understanding was signed by TNAU and M/s. Poabs Biotech Pvt Ltd., Palghat for transfer of liquid biofertilizer production technology. The MoU was signed by Dr.R.Ganesan, Director, Agri-Business Development on behalf of TNAU and Mr.Abraham Jacob, Managing Director on behalf of M/s.Poabs Biotech Pvt. Ltd., in the presence of our Vice-Chancellor, Dr.P.Murugesu Boopathi. He expressed that the MoU envisages the transfer of technology for production of liquid biofertilizer developed by the Department of Agricultural Microbiology, Coimbatore on consultancy mode to M/s. Poabs Biotech Pvt. Ltd. for large scale production and marketing of liquid biofertilizer in Tamil Nadu and Kerala States.



### Demonstration on Sugarcane trash shredder



Field demonstration on 'Sugarcane Trash Shredder' was organized in collaboration with Th. Arooran Sugars at KVK, Needamangalam on 19.03.10. Dr. A. Pounraj, Associate Professor (Agrl. Extn.), explained the farmers about the various ill effects of burning the trash after harvest.

Th. Veluchamy, Deputy General Manager (Canes); Th. Venkatesaperumal, Manager (Canes); Th. Balasubramanian, Deputy Manager (canes) and Th. Manikandan, Cane Assistant of Th. Arooran Sugars also participated in the programme.

Dr.M. Senthilkumar, Assistant

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Professor (Agrl. Entomology) briefed the importance of mulching in pest control and Dr.S.Anandha Krishnaveni, Assistant Professor (Agronomy) narrated the importance of mulching in moisture conservation. A total of 50 farmers have participated in the demonstration.

**Farmers' training programme on fodder production technologies**

A training programme on "Profitable Fodder production technologies" was organized by Department of Agronomy, Coimbatore in collaboration with NABARD for three days recently. Twenty five farmers from ten districts of Tamil Nadu have participated in this program. Dr.N.Maragatham, Professor of Agronomy and training coordinator welcomed the

gathering and explained the various aspects of the training program.

Dr.P.Muthukrishnan, Professor and Head, Department of Agronomy, Coimbatore inaugurated the training and delivered the inaugural address. Dr.V.Suresh, Assistant General Manager, NABARD highlighted the various initiatives taken by NABARD for the benefit of the farmers. Dr.P.Murali Arthanari, Assistant Professor and training co-coordinator, proposed vote of thanks.

**Training on goat rearing**

A training programme on 'Slatted house goat rearing' was conducted on 7.4.2010 at KVK, Needamangalam to the farmers of Thiruvarur district. Dr. T.

Senguttuvan, Professor and Head, welcomed the gathering. The training was inaugurated by Th. M. Chandrasekaran, District Collector, Thiruvarur. He said the new technology of rearing goat on slatted house will help the farmers to overcome the problem they face due to reduction in pastures. Mrs. Rani Sekar, member of Thiruvarur district Panchayat Council, Th.P.Chandrasekaran, RDO, Mannargudi, Th.Palaniappan, Joint Director of Animal Husbandry and Th.V.A.Raghavan, DDM, NABARD, Thiruvarur had delivered special addresses.

A total of 51 farmers across the Thiruvarur district have participated in the training programme. Finally, Dr.S.Anandha Krishnaveni, Assistant Professor (Agronomy) proposed a vote of thanks.

**New schemes**

Name of the scheme	Principal Investigator	Amount (Lakh Rs.)	Funding Agency
Development of wilt resistant hetrotic gene pool in castor (Ricinus communis L) through induced mutagenesis	Dr.S.R.Venkatachalam Associate Professor (PB&G), TCRS, Yethapur	12.82	BRNS, Mumbai
Yield gap analysis of tapioca growers and developing strategies to increase the production and productivity for their economic upliftment in Tamil Nadu.	Dr.A.Janaki Rani Assistant Professor (Agrl. Extension)	1.89	TNSCST, Chennai

**Important visitors**

- ▶ Dr. K. K. Sharma, ICRISAT, visited CPMB for discussion regarding future collaborative research on Bt-transgenics on 7.4.10. Dr.Sampa Das, Bose Institute, Culcutta, visited CPMB regarding future
- ▶ collaborative research on screening of transgenic crop plants for resistance against sucking pests on 8.4.10.
- ▶ Dr. PS Dravid, MD M/s JK AgriGenetics, Hyderabad visited CPMB to have discussion with Dr. P. Balasubramanian on 8.4.2010.

Published by  
**Directorate of Planning and Monitoring, TNAU,**  
Coimbatore-641 003.

Printed at :  
**Directorate of Open & Distance Learning, TNAU,**  
TNAU Offset Printing Press,  
Coimbatore - 641 003.

To  
Thiru

From  
Directorate of Planning and Monitoring,  
Tamil Nadu Agricultural University,  
Coimbatore - 641 003