

# TNAU NEWS



## TAMIL NADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY NEWS LETTER

Patron : Dr. P. MURUGESA BOOPATHI - Vice Chancellor

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### State Level Farmers' Day - 2011



The State Level Farmers' Day 2011 was conducted during 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> July, 2011 at Coimbatore. Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture, Govt. of Tamil Nadu and Pro-Chancellor, TNAU, Th.K.A.Sengottaiyan inaugurated the programme and released seven new crop varieties, three farm implements and six management technologies for the benefit of the farming community. He informed that the Government was aware of hardships often faced by the farmers in the State and having a clean agenda in promoting research on farming techniques that could reduce dependence on manual labour.

Earlier, Hon'ble Minister for Industries, Government of Tamil Nadu Th.S.P.Velumani, inaugurated

the agricultural exhibition depicted by TNAU Research Stations, KVKs, GOIs, Institutions, State Development Departments and Private Sector organizations and advised the farmers to grow new crop varieties, and adopt farming and management technologies effectively. Our Vice-Chancellor, Dr.P.Murugesha Boopathi, informed that, the 36 Research Stations of the University spread throughout the State have developed 753 crop varieties, 149 farm implements and more than 1000 management technologies and commercialized 193 technologies.

Dr. K. Arulmozhi, Agricultural Production Commissioner and Principal Secretary to Government, Dept. of

Agriculture, in his special address indicated that the University was involving in developing many new varieties and improved technologies that facilitated the State to increase its productivity in many crops. He also added that from 1920 to 2011, there had been a fourfold increase in rice production in Tamil Nadu.

Th.Sandeep Saxena, Commissioner of Agriculture, Th. Thanga Kaliyaperumal, Commissioner of Agricultural Marketing and Agri Business, Th. M.Karunakaran, District Collector, Coimbatore, Th.R. Subramanian, Chief Engineer, Agricultural Engineering, Th.N.Ponnusamy, Director, i/c, Seed Certification, delivered special address, several Honourable MPs and MLAs offered felicitation in this State level annual event. 'Velaan Chemmal' awards with citation and cash prize were given to five progressive farmers in recognition of their contribution to agricultural production and transfer of technologies. The award was sponsored by C.R.I.Pumps.

Dr.P.Kalaiselvan, DEE, welcomed the gathering. Dr. M.Paramathma, DR, proposed vote of thanks. Technical seminar on various latest technologies also simultaneously arranged for the benefit of the farming community. More than 10000 farmers from all over Tamil Nadu and neighbouring States participated.

**Agri. Minister visited SWMRI, Thanjavur**

The Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture, Thiru. K. A. Sengottaiyan and the Hon'ble Minister for Housing and Urban Development, Thiru. R. Vaithilingam, former and present MLAs of the Delta areas, visited on 31.07.2011 and witnessed the various research activities in the station. They also distributed various agricultural inputs to farmers and insisted on the benefits of machineries in agriculture, for improving the socio economic value of farmers. The Hon'ble Minister opened the "Thanneer Panthal" for welfare of farm labourers. Thiru. Sandeep Saxena, IAS, Commissioner of Agriculture; Thiru. K.Chellamuthu IAS, Commissioner of Horticulture & Plantations crops; Thiru. Thanga. Kaliyaperumal, IAS, Commissioner



of Agriculture Marketing; Thiru. K.Baskaran, IAS, District Collector (Thanjavur); Thiru. N.Ponnusamy, Director Seed Certification (i/c.); Thiru. R. Subramanian, Chief Engineer (AED) and other senior officials from sister departments have also visited and witnessed various activities of the Institute. Dr.T.Jayaraj, Director, TRRI, Aduthurai, Dr.B.Chandrasekaran, Professor and Head and other scientists have explained various activities and research schemes operated in the Institute.

**Commissioner of Agriculture visited SWMRI, Thanjavur**

The Commissioner of Agriculture, Govt. of Tamil Nadu,



Thiru. Sandeep Saxena, IAS, visited SWMRI on 13.7.2011. Mr. P. Gobalakrishnan, Additional Director of Agriculture, Chennai; Mr. V. Balasubramani, K. Mayilvahanan and R. Muruganandham, JDAs of Thanjavur, Thiruvarur and Nagapattinam districts respectively, Deputy Directors of the districts and other line departments, senior officials have participated in the discussion. Dr. B. Chandrasekaran, Professor and Head, welcomed the Commissioner and briefed the activities of SWMRI. Scientists interacted with the Commissioner on various aspects. Visit to papaya mealy bug parasitoid production unit, Pseudomonas production unit, Automatic Weather Stations and field visit to Breeder Seed Production, Sustainable Sugarcane Initiative, Cropping systems trials, permanent manurial experiment, organic farming block, thornless bamboo and composite fish culture have been arranged. Field demonstration on zero till maize drilling by Happy Turbo Seeder has also been done.

**TNAU Scientist receives prestigious National Award**



The ICAR, New Delhi has awarded the "Swami Sahajanand Saraswati Extension Scientist / Worker award" for the year 2010, to Dr. S. Mohan, Professor of Agricultural Entomology, in recognition of the TNAU Stored Grain Insect Pest Management Kit developed by him and also for his extension work for the benefit of the farming community. The award was presented by Thiru. Sharad Pawar, Hon'ble Union Minister for Agriculture & Food Processing Industries, in the presence of Dr. S. Ayyappan, Director General, ICAR, New Delhi and Dr.P.K.Basu, Secretary, Dept. of Agriculture & Cooperation, GOI, New Delhi, during the ICAR Foundation Day and Award Ceremony held at New Delhi on 16<sup>th</sup> July, 2011.

**Jawaharlal Nehru Award for TNAU Scholar**



Jawaharlal Nehru Award for Outstanding Doctoral Research in Agricultural and Allied Sciences was bagged by Dr. M. R. Manikantan, formerly Ph.D. scholar of Department of Food and Agricultural Process Engineering, AEC&RI, Coimbatore, for his Ph.D. thesis work on "Development and Evaluation of High Barrier Nanocomposite Films for Food Packaging" for the year 2010, from Mr. Sharad Pawar, Hon'ble Union Minister for Agriculture, in a function held at National Agricultural Science Congress Complex, Pusa, New Delhi on 16<sup>th</sup> July, 2011. The award carries a medal, citation and ₹.50,000 cash.

## TNAU commercialized the herbal insect repellent

"TNAU-Herbal Insect Repellent" developed by Dr. Jayarajan Nelson, Professor (Agrl. Entomology), AC&RI, Killikulam, has been commercialized. The repellent is highly effective in controlling Rice Ear Head Bug pest. The Directorate of ABD, has signed an MoU in 2009 with M/s Bhuvicare Pvt. Ltd., a private firm in Tirunelveli, for commercial production and sale of the repellent.

For using this technology, Bhuvicare has paid a royalty of Rs.



eight lakhs during the inaugural function of the Scientific Workers Conference held on 27<sup>th</sup> June, 2011. Th. T.G.R. Kunjharhamoney, Managing Director of Bhuvicare handed over the cheque to Dr. P.Sivasubramanian, Director (ABD) in the presence of our Vice-Chancellor, Dr. P. Murugesha Boopathi, Dr. K. Arulmozhi, IAS., Agricultural Production Commissioner & Principal Secretary to Government, Agriculture Department, Govt. of Tamil Nadu and other dignitaries.

## Advanced training on Meliponiculture

An advanced training programme on Apiculture and Meliponiculture was inaugurated by our Vice Chancellor, Dr. P. Murugesha Boopathi in the presence of the Director, CPPS on 20.7.2011. Eleven high ranking



officials working in Nagaland Bee Keeping and Honey Mission participated in the training. The team was given *in situ* training on queen marking, hiving feral colonies, dequeening and colony uniting with the assistance of progressive apiarists, Th. G. K. Thangavelu and Th. Mohanan. Lt. Sheshadri of National Adventure and Leadership School, Coimbatore, demonstrated on modern safe rock climbing methods, using top rope, carabiners and chest harnesses that are very important for sustainable honey harvest.

## TNAU bags outstanding Institution Award

The Sardar Patel Outstanding ICAR Institution Award was bagged by our University for the year 2010. The award was presented to our Vice Chancellor, Dr. P. Murugesha Boopathi, by Thiru Sharad Pawar, Hon'ble Union Minister for Agriculture & Food Processing Industries, in the presence of Thiru. Harish Rawat, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Agriculture & Parliamentary Affairs; Dr. Charan Das Mahant, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Agriculture & Food Processing Industries; Dr. S. Ayyappan, Director General, ICAR, New Delhi, and Dr.P.K.Basu, Secretary, Dept. of Agriculture & Cooperation, GOI, New Delhi, during the ICAR Foundation Day and Award Ceremony held at New Delhi on July 16, 2011. The Award comprises of a shield, a citation and a cheque for Rs. five lakhs.

The award was given for the performance of the University



*viz.*, (i) For releasing 756 crop varieties, 149 farm implements and more than 1,000 management technologies. (ii) Research works on GM crops and nano technological applications. (iii) Establishment of AWS throughout

the state. (iv) demonstration of Precision Farming technology and implemented in nine districts of the state (v) Launching of "Agri Portal" (vi) interlinking all the TNAU Research Stations by video conferencing facility.

**Workshop on “Designing Curriculum For M.Tech (Agri) in Nanotechnology”**



The Department of Nano Science & Technology organized one day workshop on “*Designing Curriculum For M.Tech (Agri) in Nanotechnology*” on 1.7.2011. Our University is the first State Agricultural University in India to start a New PG program in M.Tech (Agri) in Nanotechnology. Dr. C. Udayasoorian, Dean (SPGS), inaugurated the workshop. Prof. P.Durairaju, Dean, FC&RI, Mettupalayam, offered felicitations. Dr. V. Velu, Special Officer (DNRM), welcomed the gathering and Dr. K.S. Subramanian, Professor & Head, proposed formal vote of thanks.

**Training on groundnut at ORS, Tindivanam**



One day training program on “*Demonstrations on improved varieties and key technologies in groundnut*” was conducted on 13.7.2011. Dr. N. Ramamoorthi, Professor and Head, welcomed the gathering and also delivered a lecture on high yielding varieties of groundnut. The scientists of the station, delivered lectures on

various aspects of groundnut cultivation including nutrient management and plant protection measures. Fifty farmers from KVK, Viringipuram, and 50 Farmers from KVK, Vedapuri, have attended the training

**LASER Guided land leveler demonstration at KVK, Pappalapatty**

Demonstration on LASER guided land leveler was conducted at KVK, Pappalapatty, on 06.07.2011. During the programme, Dr. N. Tamilselvan, Professor and Head, explained about the importance of LASER guided land leveler. Th.



R.Panneerselvam, Farm manager explained the procedure of operations of LASER guided land leveler. The DDH, ADH, AOs and HOs of Dharmapuri district participated in the demonstration.

**Training on mushroom production technology**

One day training programme on button mushroom production technology was organized by HRS, Kodaikanal, recently. Progressive button mushroom growers of Kodaikanal region participated in the training. Dr.J.Rajangam, Associate Professor and head, HRS, Kodaikanal welcomed the gathering. Dr. A.S. Krishnamoorthy, Professor (Plant Pathology), ABD, Coimbatore delivered special

training lectures and Dr. T. K. S. Latha, Assistant Professor (Plant



Pathology), explained the importance of mushroom cultivation and technology developed by the station.

**Deputy Director (ISM) visited HRS, Kodaikanal**

Dr. Y.D. Sharma, Deputy Director, Indian System of Medicine and Homeopathy, New Delhi visited HRS, Kodaikanal on 05.07.2011. Various research and extension activities of the station were explained to the Deputy Director and he visited the temperate fruits block, poly house, vegetable cafeteria and medicinal plants collection unit. Planting programme was also organized during the occasion.



**ODL Programme on mushroom cultivation at RRS, Aruppukottai.**

A certificate course under ODL Programme on mushroom cultivation was conducted for the first time in the campus for fifteen students. The inauguration of this

## Scientific Workers' Conference – 2011



The 77<sup>th</sup> Scientific Workers' Conference was held at Coimbatore on 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> June, 2011. About 250 participants comprising of scientists from TNAU and extension personnels from Departments of Agriculture, Horticulture, Forestry, Agril. Engineering, Sericulture, Agril. Marketing and Seed Certification have attended. The Conference was presided over by our Vice-Chancellor, Dr. P. Muruges

Boopathi and was inaugurated by Dr. K. Arul Mozhi, IAS, Agril. Production Commissioner and Principal Secretary to Govt. of Tamil Nadu. Th. Sandeep Saxena, IAS, Commissioner of Agriculture; Th. Rajeev Ranjan, IAS, Commissioner of Sugars; Dr. B. Chandra Mohan, IAS, Commissioner of Horticulture and Plantation crops; Th. K. K. Koushal, IFS, Managing Director, Sagoserve; Th. Srinivasa Reddy, IFS,

Conservator of Forests (Research); Th. R. Subramanian, Chief Engineer, Agricultural Engineering; Th. N. Ponnuswamy, Director of Seed Certification (i/c) and Th. S. Raja Kumar, Scientist (C), Central Silk Board, graced the occasion by delivering special addresses. Ten theme areas namely System of Rice Intensification, Strategies for oilseed production, Strategies for pulse production, Organic farming, Sustenance of soil health, Strategies for seed production, Farm mechanization, Renewable energy and its management, Strategies for protected cultivation and Agro Forestry were identified and group discussions were held by involving scientific faculties and extension functionaries. Discussions were centered in devising the programmes to achieve the vision of Government of Tamil Nadu for doubling food production and increasing the livelihood of Tamil Nadu farmers through development of cost effective sustainable and eco-friendly research outcomes.

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programme was presided by Dr. N. Chellaiah, Professor and Head, and delivered introductory speech about the importance of mushroom cultivation, and an exposure visit was organized to M/s. Baba Mushroom Farm, Kadachanendhal, Madurai.

### Programmes at KVK, Sandhiyur

#### **District level seminar on Cocoa**

One day district level

seminar on cocoa was inaugurated by our Vice-Chancellor, Dr. P. Muruges Boopathi, on 4.7.2011. In his presidential address, he mentioned about the demand of the cocoa at present and in future. Dr. P. Kalaiselvan, DEE, welcomed the gathering. Special address was delivered by Th. R. Gnanadeven, Deputy Director (Marketing), DCCD, Cochin and Th. R. Rajesh, Manager, Cadburys India Limited, Dharapuram. Tmt. D. Bharani, ADH,

Panamarathupatty felicitated the seminar and briefed about the schemes under NHM for Cocoa to the participants. Vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. S. Manickam, Programme Coordinator.

#### **Skill development training for the urban poor**

Skill development training for the urban poor was organized on 13.07.11. M. A. Vennila, Asst. Professor (Agril. Extension) welcomed the gathering. Dr. S. Manickam, the Programme Coordinator, in his presidential address, stressed about the importance of self employment and skill development training for the urban poor. Dr. S. Porkodi, City Health Officer, Salem Corporation





expressed that the training will be useful to the beneficiaries. Dr. M. Velmurugan, Manager (Agri-culture), IDBI Bank, spoke on the loan facilities available in IDBI for the self help groups. Sixty urban poor attended the seminar. The vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. P. S. Kavitha, Assistant professor (Horticulture).

**Programmes at TRRI, Aduthurai**

**Pulses harvester field day**

Field day was conducted recently, to demonstrate pulse harvester at Maikkelpatti village in Thanjavur district. Dr. T. Jayaraj, Director, TRRI, Aduthurai inaugurated and explained the necessity for farm mechanization with particular reference to pulse cultivation. Dr. Tajudeen, Dean, AEC&RI, Kumulur and Dr. Geetha, Professor and Head, NPCR, Vamban have also participated.



**Awareness programme on green manure cultivation**

An awareness programme on 'Green manuring' for the ClimaRice farmers of Thanjavur district was organized at TRRI, Aduthurai on 05.07.2011. The Director, elucidated the

importance of green manure cultivation in the rice-rice cropping system to mitigate the ill effects of climate change through increased nitrogen use efficiency and reduced the dependence on inorganic nitrogen fertilizer. Twenty ClimaFarmers participated and daincha seeds were distributed to all.

**Second PMC meeting**

The second Project Monitoring Committee meeting to review the progress of work made in the scheme on "Training on quality seed production in rice, pulses and groundnut through seed village concept to the farmers of Thanjavur District" under financial support of NABARD



was conducted at TRRI, Aduthurai on 20.07.2011, under the chairmanship of the Director. The members of PMC including AGM, NABARD and JDA, Thanjavur attended the meeting. There was a discussion about the implementation of the scheme by the committee.

**SRS, Melalathur in Dinamalar's Agri Expo, Vellore**

Agri Expo was organized by Dinamalar from 15.7.11 to 18.7.11 to sensitize the farmers of Vellore, Thiruvannamalai, Thiruvallur, Cuddalore and Villupuram districts on agricultural activities. Symposium on Agriculture and Horticulture was conducted on 16.7.11 and 17.7.11. Scientists Dr. A. Thirumurugan and Dr. R. Sheeba Jasmine from SRS,

Melalathur participated in the agriculture and horticulture sessions respectively. Separate stall depicting the research activities and findings of this station was exhibited. Nearly one lakh people visited the SRS, Melalathur stall.

**Demonstration cum agricultural input distribution meeting**

A demonstration cum input distribution function was organized at Thirthuraipoondi block of Thiruvarur districts on 13.7.2011. Dr. S. Marimuthu, Assistant Professor (Agronomy) welcomed the gathering. Dr. C. Natarajan, Professor & Head delivered the presidential address on importance of growing high yielding short duration rice varieties, suitable for problem soils and their production techniques. Th. T. Natesan, Assistant Director of Agriculture, delivered the special address. In this programme, 71 farmers from Thiruvarur and Nagapattinam districts and officials from Department of Agriculture, participated. In this function, agricultural inputs viz., Gypsum,



dhaincha, paddy seeds, fertilizers, bio fertilizers, plant protection chemicals with 50% subsidy and leaf colour charts were distributed to the farmers. Shri. Mohammed Miskin progressive farmer of Thiruthuraipoondi proposed vote of thanks.

## Agri Intex - 2011

The Coimbatore District Small Industries Association (CODISSIA) with TNAU organized its 11<sup>th</sup> Agri Intex 2011, during 28<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2011 at CODISSIA Trade Fair Complex, Coimbatore. Our Vice-Chancellor, Dr.P.Murugesha Boopathi, inaugurated the programme, released Agri Intex 2011 souvenir and declared open the Exhibition on 27.07.2011. Th.P.Muthusamy, Additional Commissioner, Central Exercise offered felicitation during the inaugural programme. More than 150 organizations including central, state government and private organizations displayed their products in the exhibition. Technical seminars on latest technologies have been arranged.

The Valedictory function of the Agri Intex 2011 was held on 31.07.2011. Dr.S.Ayyappan, Director General, ICAR and Secretary, DARE, New Delhi in his valedictory address, appreciated the efforts taken by CODISSIA and TNAU for organizing the mega level exhibition. This initiative is to encourage new agricultural entrepreneurs who could gain



access to the latest farm technologies and pass on the benefits to the farmers. He also stressed the need for designing smaller, cheaper and cost effective machineries to suit the needs of small farmers who constitutes more than 90 per cent of the Indian farmers.

Our Vice-Chancellor, Dr. P.Murugesha Boopathi, has informed that the University has utilizing this type of exhibition as

platform for transfer of technologies. Dr. M.M.Pandey, DDG (Agrl.Engineering), ICAR, Dr. P. Kalaiselvan, DEE and Dr. S. Prabhu Kumar, Zonal Project Director, ICAR, TOT Projects offered felicitation. Th. M.Kandasamy, President, CODISSIA and Th. K.V. Sashidharan, Chairman, Agri Intex 2011 also spoke during the occasion. More than 1.5 lakh people from all over India visited the exhibition.

### New schemes

Name of the scheme	Principal Investigator	Amount (Lakh ₹.)	Funding Agency
Land Resource Inventory and GIS Database for Farm, Village and Block Level Planning in four new blocks	Dr. R. Sivasamy, Prof. & Head (RS&GIS), Coimbatore – 3.	32.88	Govt. of Tamil Nadu
Dissemination of Integrated Pest management (IPM) Techniques in Papaya, Tapioca and Mulberry	S.Suresh, Prof. (Agrl. Entomology)	24.11	NRTT, Mumbai
Mini Mission II of technology mission on cotton "Establishment / strengthening of Bioagent lab"	T.Raguchander, Prof. (Plant Pathology) G.Asokan Prof. (Agrl. Entomology)	15.00	Directorate of Cotton Development GOI, Mumbai
Ecofriendly management of Plant Parasitic nematodes associated with Noni	E.I. Jonathan, Director (CPPS)	8.43	World Noni Research Foundation, Chennai

Name of the scheme	Principal Investigator	Amount (Lakh ₹.)	Funding Agency
i. Evaluation of pelleting / encrusting technology on solanaceous Vegetables and Onion	Dr. V. Manonmani, Assoc. Professor (SST), Coimbatore – 3.	5.00	INCOTEC India Private Limited, Ahamedabad
ii. Determination of the efficacy of INCOTEC incotec actives under optimal and suboptimal conditions in 4 major crops	Dr. M.Bhaskaran, Prof. and Head (SST), Coimbatore – 3.		
CAT programme on empowerment of farmers knowledge and skill on pulse productivity enhancement and stabilization in CDZ	Dr. S. Vallal Kannan, Asst. Prof. (Agronomy), SWMRI, Kattuthottam.	1.20	NABARD
Genetic variability in Kera Keralam coconut populations	Dr. C. Natarajan, Professor and Head, CRS, Veppankulam.	2.00	ICAR
ICAR – AICRP (Floriculture) voluntary centre	Dr. V. Ponnuswami, Dean, HC&RI, Periyakulam.	1.00	ICAR
Collection, improvement and development of production technologies of moringa	Dr. V. Ponnuswami, Dean, HC&RI, Periyakulam.	1.00	ICAR

### Important visitors

- Dr. G.S.V.Raghavan, Mc Gill University, Canada visited PHTC on 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> July, 2011.
- Dr. Mechel S. Paggi, Director, Centre for Agricultural Business, California State University, Fresno, Dr. Jeanne M. Reeves, Director, Agricultural Research, Weston Parkway, Cary and Dr. Srinivasa Konduru, Assistant Professor, California State University, Fresno visited the Department of Cotton on 11<sup>th</sup> July, 2011.
- Dr. Doug Preiffer and Dr. Amer Fayed, Virginia Tech., USA visited DPMB & B from 18<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 2011
- Dr. Gray Robins, Program Director, food Security, US-AID, India visited DPMB & B on 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> July, 2011.
- Dr. DLuca Serventii and Ms Dhanalakshmi from Dr Schaer Company from Italy and Dr. Jaganmohan, Scientist IICPT, Thanjavur visited TRRI, on 26<sup>th</sup> July, 2011.

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