Vol. 63 No.02 February 2011

# TNAU NEWS

### TAMILNADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY NEWS LETTER

Patron: Dr. P. MURUGESA BOOPATHI- Vice Chancellor

Editor: Dr. G.KATHIRESAN - Director, Planning & Monitoring

#### 4th Covai Flower show - 2011



The Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore and the Rotary Coimbatore Uptown jointly organized the 4<sup>th</sup> Covai Flower Show 2011 for three days between 29<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2011. It was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Minister for Rural Industries & Animal Husbandry, Thiru Pongalur N. Palanisamv. The Hon'ble Minister for Khadi, Thiru K. Ramachandran opened the flower gallery. The Worshipful Mayor of Coimbatore Corporation, Thiru R. Venkatachalam opened the Commercial stalls and MLA. Thondamuthur & Board Member. Thiru M.N. Kandasamy opened a Floral train, District Collector of Coimbatore, Dr. P. Umanath, IAS dedicated a Floral Icon of the

Research Institute Building of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University to the public. The Flower Show was presided by our Vice – Chancellor, Dr. P. Murugesa Boopathi. Earlier, Dr. N. Kumar, Dean (Hort), HC & RI, Coimbatore welcomed the dignitaries. The President of Rotary Coimbatore Uptown Rtn. K.O. Senthilnathan proposed the vote of thanks. Dr. P. Subbain, Registrar offered the felicitation.

The Flower Show was witnessed by more than one lakh visitors belonging to different categories including schools and colleges, flower growers, entrepreneurs, garden enthusiasts and general public. Various competitions such as painting, poem writing, garden

maintenance, flower arrangement, flower rangoli, photography and fashion show were organized to encourage the multifarious talents of students and public. A total of 420 participants from 65 schools and colleges took part in these competitions

The Flower Show was concluded with a Valedictory function on 31st January, 2011 evening. Dr. P. Paramaguru, Ph.D., Professor and Head of the Department of Floriculture and Landscaping of Horticultural College & Research Institute, Coimbatore welcomed the gathering and presented the appraisal report. The Valedictory function was presided over by the Commissioner of Police of Coimbatore, Dr. C. Sylendra Babu, IPS. The Agrl. Production Commissioner and Principal Secretary, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Dr. P. Rama Mohana Rao, IAS was the Chief Guest and Rtn. Major Donor K.S. Pillai, the Past District Governor and Rtn. M. Krishnan, President, Indian Chamber of Commerce. Coimbatore were the Guests of Honour.

Prizes were distributed to winners of various competitions and our Vice Chancellor Dr. P. Murugesa Boopathi, felicitated the gathering.

### Vice – Chancellor visits TNAU Community Radio Station



The Community Radio Station has recently started functioning at Directorate of Extension Education, Coimbatore Campus. It has been n a m e d a s "Velaan Palkalaikkazhaga Vivasayee FM". The broadcast is made daily from 10.30 AM to 1.00 PM. Listeners can tune in to 107.4 MHz for farm related information. The coverage area of the broadcast is upto 18 KM radius from TNAU Campus, benefiting 10,000 farm families in 22 villages besides general public.

Vivasayee FM' enables to reach all the people of the Community in Tamil. It spreads the technologies related to agriculture, health, environment, education, local and community development. Specific demand driven at the period and need based agricultural programmes are prepared in association with agricultural scientists and progressive farmers.

Daily, the weather forecast and market information are also broadcasted for the benefit of farmers. Success stories are shared among the farmers, farm women, extension workers, housewives, NGOs, self help groups, rural youth etc., which in turn increase their knowledge, capacity building and skill development.

These programmes are also uploaded in TNAU Agritech Portal (http://agritech.tnau.ac.in)

regularly, so that viewers from any part of the world could benefit immensely.

Our Vice-Chancellor. Dr. P. Murugesa Boopathi visited the Community Radio Station on 04.01.2011 and called upon everybody in the Community to derive maximum benefit from the Community Radio Station. The Vice-Chancellor has also wished the listeners a happy and prosperous new year and Pongal greetings. Dr. P. Kalaiselvan, Director of Extension Education and Dr. SP. Ramanathan, Professor and Head, Dept. of Market Extension welcomed the Vice -Chancellor.

### Students from Cornell University visited TNAU

As a part of IARD - 602 (International Agricultural and Rural development) programme, Cornell University students from United states of America visited Departments/Centers of Research on 6<sup>th</sup> January, 2011 and were explained the various research and extension activities carried out by TNAU.



On 7<sup>th</sup> January, 2011 our Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Murugesa Boopathi and Dr. C. Udayasoorian, Dean (SPGS) accompanied the students and faculty members of Cornell University to uzhavar sandhai, R.S.Puram and explained the benefits of uzhavar sandhai to the society.

### NHM Training on garlic by HRS, Kodaikanal

One day farmers training on "Recent cultivation techniques

in garlic" was conducted at Poondi village of Kodaikanal Taluk on 20.12.2010 under NHM scheme



sponsored by the Directorate of Arecanut and Spices Development, Calicut. Dr. J. Suresh, Assoc. Professor and Head, HRS, Kodaikanal organized the training and welcomed the gathering. Nearly 120 farmers from Poondi, kizhavarai, Mannavanur and Kavunji villages participated and discussed with scientists on advanced cultivation techniques of garlic.

### Releasing of Mealybug Parasitoids

#### From KVK, Sandhiyur

Papaya Mealybug release programme was conducted by KVK, Sandhiyur. Our Vice -Chancellor, Dr. P. Murugesa Boopathi, inaugurated the function and released the papaya mealybug parasitoids to the progressive farmers of Salem district on 4.1.2011. Dr. P. Kalaiselvan, Director of Extension Education, explained the involvement of KVKs in mass production of parasitoids and supply to the farming community. Dr. E. I. Jonathan, Director (CPPS), explained the parasitoid activity. About 250 farmers participated. Thiru. V. Prabhakaran, IFS, Commissioner of Sericulture; Thiru. K. Kausseal, IFS, Managing Director, Sago Serve; Thiru. K.C. Ravichandran, Joint Director of Cooperatives, Salem; officials from Dept of Agriculture and Horticulture participated in the programme. Dr. S.Manickam, Programme Coordinator, KVK,

Sandhiyur proposed the vote of fields at Thevur and Pudupalayam thanks.



In Sankakiri taluk

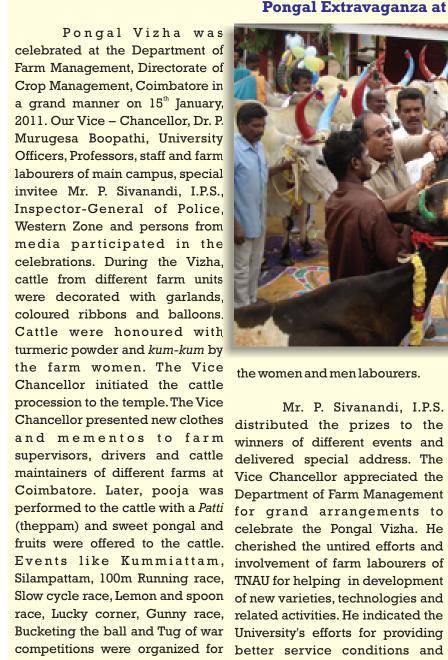
Our Vice - Chancellor, Dr.P. Murugesa Boopathi, released the papaya mealybug parasitoids Acerophagus papayae in tapioca

kallankattu villages of Sankakiri taluk, Salem district on 10.1.2011, discussed with the farmers on the importance and need of the parasitoids. Dr.P. Kalaiselvan, DEE explained the KVK roles in mealybug management. Dr. S.Manickam, Programme Coordinator, KVK, Sandhiyur explained the details and the availability of the parasitoids in the KVK. The JDA, Salem, ADA, Sankakiri and Agricultural officers of Salem were participated. About 100 farmers were participated and benefited.

#### At Kolli hills, Namakkal District

Tapioca mealy bug parasitoid release and awareness campaign was conducted on 24.1.2011 in the farmers field at Alathur Nadu village of Kolli hills in Namakkal district. Thiru. K. Ponnusamy, Member of Legislative Assembly, Senthamangalam inaugurated the function and released the mealy bug parasitoid in the farmers field. In this occasion, Dr. S. Venkatesan, Professor (Entomology) explained the mealy bug parasitoid in controlling the papaya mealy bug Paracoccus marginatus. Dr. V. Palanisamy,

#### Pongal Extravaganza at TNAU, Coimbatore campus





the women and men labourers.

Mr. P. Sivanandi, I.P.S. distributed the prizes to the winners of different events and delivered special address. The Vice Chancellor appreciated the Department of Farm Management for grand arrangements to celebrate the Pongal Vizha. He cherished the untired efforts and involvement of farm labourers of felicitation address. TNAU for helping in development of new varieties, technologies and related activities. He indicated the University's efforts for providing

welfare measures for the benefit of farm labourers.

Dr. A. Velayutham, Professor and Head, Department of Farm Management welcomed the gathering Dr. P. Subbian, Registrar, Dr.M.Paramathma, Director of Research and Dr.S.Jeyaraman, Director (Crop Management) delivered the

Dr. R.Balagopal, Professor and Head, Department of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, proposed the vote of thanks.



Professor and Head, TCRS, Yethapur, Dr. Mohan, Associate Professor, KVK, TANVAS and 75 farmers from Lathuvadi, Namakkal village participated.

#### At Lalgudi taluk, Trichy District

AEC &RI, Kumulur conducted a field day at Makizhambadi village, Lalgudi taluk to release an imported papaya mealybug parasitoid in the crops of papaya, tapioca, pulses, mulberry, vegetables, fruits, flower crops, jatropha which are highly susceptible to papaya mealybug, a major outburst menace recently. Totally, 35 farmers attended the campaign. Thiru. J. Sekar, JDA, Trichy released the parasitoid and presided over the function. Dr. P. Masilamani, Associate Professor, welcomed the gathering. Dr. K. Kannappan, Professor and Head, Department of Agricultural Sciences delivered the special address. Thiru. S. Sabhanatesan, Deputy Director of Agriculture (State Planning) and Thiru. R. Sukumar, ADA (i/c), Lalgudi have also attended and felicitated the function. Dr. P. Yasodha. Assistant Professor, proposed the votes of thanks. The parasitoid is being multiplied at Agricultural Engineering college and Research Institute, Kumulur provided to farmers of Trichy and Perambalur district at free of cost.



#### On and off campus training on Rajarajan 1000 and Precision farming in TN-IAMWARM

One day On campus training programme on Rajarajan 1000 and precision farming in rice cultivation was conducted in TN-IAMWARM on 13.1.2011 at TCRS, Yethapur. Thiru K. Duraisamy, Deputy Registrar Cooperative Societies, Attur region welcomed the gathering. Dr. V. Palanisamy, Professor and Head and the scientists of the research station participated in the training. More than 100 farmers have participated and benefited.



Similar programme on off campus mode on Rajarajan 1000 and precision farming was conducted in TN-IAMWARM on 19.1.2011 at Thamaiyanoor village. Thiru. K. Duraisamy, Deputy Registrar Cooperative Societies, Attur region, inaugurated. Dr. V. Palanisamy, Professor and Head and Dr. K. Thirukumaran, Assistant Professor (Agronomy), TCRS, Yethapur have explained about the Rajarajan 1000 and the importance of precision farming for increasing the yield to 100 farmers, who have attended.

#### ADAC& RI got first prize in 'Dinamalar Agri Expo 2011' at Trichy

The Dinamalar, Tamil daily organized the third Agri Expo from 28<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2011 at Tiruchirappalli wherein various departments, private organizations and farmers participated. A D A C & RI, Trichy



exhibition stall for highlighting the important agro technologies. This stall has bagged first prize. The Dean has received the award from Hon'ble Transport Minister Thiru. K.N.Nehru during the valedictory function on 31.01.2011.

### Agri Expo 2011 at Pollachi guided by CRS, Aliyarnagar

A grand exhibition mela "Agri expo 2011" supported by Coir Board , Cashew & Cocoa Development Board and Coconut Development Board was organised at Pollachi by the Pollachi Chamber of Commerce under the guidance of TNAU from 28th to 30th January 2011. Coconut Research Station, Aliyarnagar displayed the newly released varieties, biocontrol agents, pheromone traps and value added products of coconut in the exhibition. The valedictory function was presided over by our Vice - Chancellor, Dr. P. Murugesa Boopathi, In his valedictory address, he expressed that exhibition is an excellent media to take the technologies developed by TNAU such as SRI, SSI, Precision farming etc., to the farmers directly on a large scale and welcomed many more such events to be organized in future.



#### **Dual Degree Graduation Ceremony**



graduation ceremony was held on degree from TNAU and MPS 7<sup>th</sup> January, 2011 at Anna (Master of Professional Studies) Auditorium. The graduation from Cornell University. ceremony was presided by our Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Murugesa Boopathi. The first batch of 12 Vice-Chancellor of TNAU was the inagriculture and food systems.

First Dual degree students received their M.Tech.

chief guest and delivered a special address. He indicated that the course is the first of its kind in India offered by Land Grant University of U.S. origin in partnership with a State Agricultural University in India. Dr. Ronnie Coffman, Director, International Programmes, College of Agricultural Sciences (CALS), Cornell University was the special guest and acknowledged the initiative and hard work of all the persons concerned in both the countries that had culminated on the conduct of their first convocation held here.

Dr. Max J. Pfeffer, Senior Associate Dean, CALS, Cornell University said that the interaction between Indian and American students could play a major role in laying the groundwork for the Dr. C. Ramasamy, former proliferation of global perspective

#### **BPD Central Hub activities Exhibited by DABD**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Agri Expo 2011 was organized by Dinamalar, from 28th -31st January, 2011 at Trichy. Arrangements were made to demonstrate the activities of Business Planning and Development (BPD) unit of Directorate of Agri Business Development (DABD), TNAU, Coimbatore. Automated irrigation control system through mobile phone and value added products of cereals and pulses were displayed by the entrepreneurs.



#### Rice Exhibition stall in Agri Expo 2011

Latest technologies including the new rice variety ADT 49 were exhibited in the Agri Expo 2011, from 28<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2011 at Trichy. More than 15000 famers visited the exhibition stall and benefited. Farmers enquired about



the rice new variety ADT 49 and more than 150 farmers requested the seed for Samba Season.

#### Farmers-Scientists Interaction meet under ATMA at TRRI, Aduthurai

Two days interactive farmers-scientist meet was organized at TRRI, Aduthurai



under ATMA on 6th and 7th January 2011 for 30 farmers from Tiruvidaimaruthur taluk and discussed the latest high yielding rice and rice fallow pulses varieties and latest technologies. programme was inaugurated by Dr. T.Jayaraj, Director, with the presidential address followed by the technical discussion with the scientists.

#### Launching of Agro-Advisory **Bulletin in TRRI Website**

Tamil Nadu rice Research institute has launched a Agrometeorological information

bulletin in their website (http://sites.google.com/a/tnau.ac. in/trri/agro-advisory-unit) on 7.1.2011. Mr.Y.E.A.Raj, Deputy Director General, Meteorology, Regional Meteorological Centre, Chennai launched the bulletin which, provides agrometeorological information to the farmers of 10 central districts of the State to facilitate to carry out dayto-day agricultural operational decisions. Dr.T.Jayaraj, Director, and E.Kulandaivelu, Director, Regional Meteorological centre Chennai were present.

#### NABARD sponsored seed village Training by TRRI, Aduthurai

One day training on "Quality seed production of pulses through seed village concept" was organized by TRRI, Aduthurai at Narasinganpettai, Thiruvidaimaruthur taluk on



19.01.2011. The training programme was organized for the crop of Rice, Pulses and Groundnut to the Farmers of Thanjavur District" sponsored by NABARD. The Director, Senior scientists of TRRI, Aduthurai, and Th. Udayakumar, ADA attended and graced the progoramme.

### Field Day on Clima Rice by TRRI, Aduthurai

A field day was organized at Thirubhuvanam, Thiruvidaimaruthur taluk under Clima Rice Project on 27.1.2011 by TRRI, Aduthurai. In this project, the field demonstrations were conducted on Rajarajan 1000, regarding method of rice cultivation with



Azolla application to mitigate the ill-effects on global warming and climate change to the rice production system.

#### Lt. Amit Singh Memorial Award to AICRP (Vegetable Crops), TNAU, Coimbatore

Lt. Amit Singh Memorial Foundation (LASM), New Delhi has instituted an annual award to honour the best performing AICRP (Vegetable Crops) co-ordinating centre with a view to encourge and generate competitiveness among the fifty six coordinating centers.

For the year 2009-10, the LASM foundation has conferred the award to the AICRP, Dept. of Vegetable Crops, Coimbatore for its outstanding performance in developing various high yielding and disease resistant varieties / hybrids, integrated crop production and protection technologies for different vegetable crops.

The award was presented during XXIX annual group meeting of AICRP on Vegetable Crops held at Junagadh Agricultural University, Junagadh on 27th January, 2011 by Sri Kanubhai Bhalala, Hon'ble



Minister of State Agriculture & Water Resources, Gujarat in the presence of Dr. H. P. Singh, DDG (Horticulture), ICAR, New Delhi to Dr. L. Pugalendhi, Professor and Head cum Incharge of AICRP (VC), Dept. of Vegetable Crops, TNAU, Coimbatore.

### "Muthamizh Vizha" at AC&RI, Killikulam

Muthamizh Vizha highlighting the importance of the Classical Tamil language was celebrated at AC & RI, Killikulam from 20th to 21st January, 2011. The function was inaugurated by the Worshipful Mayor Thiru A.L. Subramainan of Tirunelveli Corporation. Dr. R. Ganesan, Dean, AC&RI, Killikulam, presided over the function. Mr. Palani Bharathi, lyricist delivered a special address on "The Essence of



lyrics". The two day event included inspirational programmes by the artistes from different walks of life and students themselves, which included an interesting cultural programme by the physically challenged persons from Amar Seva Sangam, Thenkasi. Thought provoking oration by Thiru. Bharathi Krishnakumar, an acclaimed documentary Director of social themes and Thiru P. Suriyanarayanan, Humorist from Coimbatore, west worth mentioning

### Farmers-Scientists Interaction Meet at SWMRI, Tanjore

Two days farmers scientists interactive meet was organised at SWMRI, Thanjavur under ATMA Scheme on  $6^{th}$  &  $7^{th}$  of

January, 2011. Dr.B. Chandrasekaran, Professor and Head, presided the meeting and pointed out that the farmers should know the impact of climate change on crop growth, and yield loss. Mr.S.Rajkumar, JDA (i/c) inaugurated the exhibition stall and advised the farmers to make the interaction meeting as beneficial. The Scientists from SWMRI and experts from allied departments have interacted with the farmers of Thanjavur, after delivering the technical on various information technologies and research activities of the research Institute. Dr. G.Rangaraju delivered the valedictory address and thanked all the farmers who have actively participated. Technology Booklet on Agricultural and Horticultural Crops suitable for Cauvery Delta Zone has been distributed to the farmers.

#### Book fair at AC & RI, Killikulam



A Book Fair was organized at Agricultural College & Research Institute, Killikulam on 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of January, 2011. As in other campus of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, the 62<sup>nd</sup> Republic day was celebrated with the unique and patriotic zeal

### Training on "Agricultural Market Intelligence" at SWMRI, Tanjore

One day training to agricultural market intelligence was imparted to farmers on 30.12.2010 and to agricultural officials on 31.12.2010 at SWMRI, Thanjavur by the NAIP-DEMIC team from Coimbatore. Dr. B. Chandraskaran, Professor&Head.



SWMRI, inaugurated the training and elaborated the benefits of forecasting of price, for agricultural produce. Mr. P.Loganathan, JDA, Thanjavur gave the valedictory address and informed to make use of the market intelligence training.

## Seminar on "Fertigation in Agricultural Crops" at CRS, Veppanthattai

One day seminar on "Fertigation to Agricultural crops" was conducted by IFFCO, Trichy at CRS, Veppanthattai on 05.01.2011. Mr. Sanbasha, Regional Manager, IFFCO, Trichy welcomed the gathering. Th.V.Soundarrajan, DDH, and Th.R.Renganathan, JDA, Perambalur delivered the special address. Dr.T.Jayaraj, Director, TRRI, presided the function and delivered the lecture on the importance of drip fertigation for crops. The technical sessions were handled by Dr.M.L. Manoharan, Dr.R.Kavimani, and Dr. A. Sagunthalai. More than 150 farmers from Perambalur District were benefited from this training. Hand book entitled "Sugarcane trash composting" and "Mechanization in Sugarcane cultivation" were distributed to the farmers.



#### Training programme on Agro Industrial Tie up at RRS, IA, RRS, Aruppukottai

An Agro Industrial Tie up Training programme for second year Diploma Agriculture students was organised at Institute of Agriculture, (IA), RRS, Aruppukottai during 3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> January, 2011 to motivate the students for entrepreneurship, industrial orientation, building self confidence and right decision making. The inaugural session was presided by Dr. N. Chellaiah, Principal, Institute of Agriculture, and the scientists, Dr. P. Vivekanandhan, Dr. V. Rajaram, and Dr. K. A. Jeyakumar, delivered the special address. The resource persons from M/s. Aloe vera, Amla, Gherkins Processing Industries, Jeepee Farm, T. Stanes industries delivered special lectures and demonstrations.



TNAU students
bagged prizes at National Level
debate competition

TNAU undergraduate students have participated in the National Debate Competition UDBAV held at G.B.Pant University of Agriculture and Technology on Jan 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011. 35 Universities have participated in the competition with more than 70 participants. Our students Ms.P.S.Ranjani, I-B.Tech (AIT), AC& RI, Coimbatore and Mr. Rajesh kajla III B.Sc (Agriculture), ADAC& RI, Trichy participated in various competitions. Ms.P.S.Ranjani got the special prize named Best Speaker of the future. Students from 28 universities participated.









Ms. Lakshmy Gopinath III B.Tech (Horticulture), Horticultural College & Research Institute, Coimbatore and Ms. Archana Jeyaraman II B.Tech (Energy and Environmental Engineering), Agricultural Engineering College & Research Institute, Coimbatore presented a paper "Generation of Youth Leadership in India-Challenges and Opportunities" and were awarded III prize in the National Youth Symposium and Paper presentation was held at G.B.Pant University of Agriculture and Technology on Jan 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

### Inauguration of Centennial students club

The centennial students club of AC & RI, Coimbatore, was inaugurated on 09.12.2010. Commissioner of Police, Coimbatore Dr.C. Sylendra Babu, IPS, graced the occasion as Chief Guest. Our Vice-Chancellor Dr.P. Murugesa Boopathi, Presided over the function. The chief guest delivered a thought provoking talk on leadership and intrapersonal skills.

#### New schemes

Name of the scheme	Principal Investigator	Amount (Lakh ₹.)	Funding Agency
Commercialisation of anthurium and Heliconia among the farmers of Kanyakumari District	Dr.R.Swarnapriya Assoc. Prof. & Head	8.31	NABARD
Studies on the effects of biostimulant (NovoBac) on morpho-physiological characters and yield in maize, cowpea and chilli	Dr. P. Jeyakumar	6.01	Novozymes South Asia
Evaluation of Bioefficacy of Power Guard against grape downy mildew and Swipe against chillies powdery mildew	Dr.M.Theradimani Associate Professor	3.36	Biotic Life Sciences Private Limited

#### Important visitors

- \* Mr.Omvir S.Kanwar, AGM, Crop Development, Rice, Hyderabad and Dr. Saravanakumar, M/s Bayer Bio Science Pvt.Ltd.visited TRRI, Aduthurai on 6-01-2011.
- ★ Dr.Umesh Kumar Reddy, University of West Virginia, USA visited DCPMB&B on 10.01.2011.
- \* Dr.Tian Jing, Dr.Cheng Zuzen, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences visited SPGS from 20.1.2011 to 23.1.2011.
- \* Dr. A.N.Singh, Consultant, IRRI office, New Delhi and M.K.Gumma, Ph.D, PDF, IRRI, Philippines under BMGF supported STRASA programme visited TRRI, Aduthurai on 26.1.2011.
- \* A team of nine scientists and Technical persons from M/s Nuziveedu Seeds visited TRRI, Aduthurai on 26.1.2011.

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

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

To Thiru

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