

TNAU NEWS



TAMIL NADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY NEWS LETTER

Patron : Dr. P. MURUGESA BOOPATHI - Vice Chancellor

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

Training on Exporting Agricultural Commodities from Tamil Nadu

Department of Trade and Intellectual Property, Coimbatore in collaboration with Federation of Indian Export Organisations jointly conducted two days collaborative training on Exporting Agricultural Commodities from Tamil Nadu on 9th & 10th June, 2011 at Coimbatore. Our Vice Chancellor, Dr. P. Murugesha Boopathi, inaugurated the training and Shri Walter D'souza, Regional Chairman, FIEO delivered presidential address. During the training, a technical manual on 'Exporting Agricultural Commodities from Tamil Nadu' was released and Official Department website was hosted. Forty five participants comprising, farmers, exporters, merchant traders and women entrepreneurs attended the training. Experts from EXIM Bank,



State Bank of India, Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India Limited, Export Inspection Agency, Joint Director of Foreign Trade, Reliance Industries and TUV – Nord delivered lectures covering

various current topics viz., identification of potential agricultural commodities for exports, export market risk, certification procedures and success business models.

Training on 'Productivity enhancement in samai'

One day training was organized at Jamunamarathur, Thiruvannamalai district, for the



capacity building of the farmers to increase the productivity and income, recently. A total of 58 *samai* growing farmers participated in the training.

Dr. A. Nirmalakumari, Principal Investigator and Professor, welcomed the gathering and gave detailed information on high yielding varieties, improved technologies and primary processing procedures. Thiru. S. Veerapandiyan, District Project Manager, "Vazhnthu Kattuvom" Project, Thiruvannamalai district interacted with the farmers. P. Gunasekaran, Project Executive,

Dhan Foundation emphasized the need for the techniques to improve the productivity of samai crop. Charts depicting special features of recent varieties of samai and also publications regarding cultivation practices were also displayed. Mr. A. Anbazhalagan, proposed vote of thanks.

TRRI scientists honoured

In recognition of the recently released rice variety TNAU Rice ADT 49, the team of scientists, Dr. R. Saraswathi, Dr. R. Vaithilingam, Dr. A. Karthikeyan, Dr. K. Chozhan and



Dr. T. Jayaraj were honoured with award.

Dr. G Ravi, Dr. Mohammed Jalaluddin, Dr. Chozhan and Dr. T. Jayaraj, were awarded for the release of new technology for yellow stem borer management in rice through indigenously developed pheromone lure.

Dr. T. Jayaraj, Dr. V. Ravi, Dr. K. Saravanan, Dr.K.R. Karunakaran along with their team of Scientists bagged seven awards in recognizing their winning externally funded schemes in 2010 worth of ₹ 104 lakhs from various International and National institutes. The above awards were presented during the 41st Foundation Day held on 2nd June, 2011 at Coimatore.

Staff & Students brings Laurels to HC &RI, Periyakulam

Dr. V.Ponnuswami, Dean and Dr.V.Dhavamani, Asst. Prof. (ENS) were recognized for having received externally funded schemes and Dr. Beaulah, Asst Prof. (Hort) received the certificate of recognition towards her contribution in developing the new cowpea variety PKM1, during 41st Foundation day held on 2nd June, 2011 at Coimbatore campus.



Selvi. A. Aswini of II BSc (Hort) received the third prize in the National Horticulture Talent Search competition on Horticulture for Food, Nutrition and Health Care held as part of Swadeshi Prem Jagriti Sangosthi - 2011 held at Dehradun, Uttarkand during May 28-30,2011.



Lieutenant rank conferred on TNAU scientist

Director General of NCC, New Delhi, has conferred Lieutenant rank to Dr. K.M. Sellamuthu, Associate NCC Officer, AC&RI, Coimbatore on 27th June, 2011. The "Piping Ceremony" was conducted at 4 Tamil Nadu Battalion NCC, Coimbatore by Lieutenant colonel D. Deenadayalan, Commanding



Officer; Major M. Nagarajan, ADM Officer and Subedar Major V. Mani, 4 Tamil Nadu Battalion NCC, Coimbatore.

Farmers' field school at CRS, Veppankulam

One day Farmers' field school was organized on 13.06.2011. Twenty five progressive farmers and five technical experts from the Thanjai Hi-Tech Agro Foundation, Thanjavur participated. The scientists of the research station explained about the mandate of the research station, varieties released, irrigation and fertigation techniques, drought management practices, manuring, root feeding,

pest and disease management etc., in coconut to the participants. Hands on exercise on the identification of damage symptoms for major pests and diseases, nutrients deficiency symptoms, pheromone trapping techniques, nursery techniques, vermicomposting, grading of coconut etc., were imparted during the field visit.

College students visits Community Radio Station

A batch of 50 third year students of the Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering, Karpagam Polytechnic College visited the Community Radio Station on 21.06.2011 and another batch of 48 students visited on 22.06.2011.

The staff and students had interaction with Dr.SP.Ramanathan, Professor and Head, Department of Market Extension and Dr. A. Palaniswamy, Professor (Agrl. Extn.), regarding the functioning of Community Radio Station. The role of CRS in empowering the Community was also explained to the students.



IAWARM Training for farmers

Training to 750 farmers, from Kaveripakkam, Nemili, Sholikar, Minjure and Ellapuram blocks of Thiruvallur district under Farmers exposure visit component in IAWARM project was conducted during the month of June, 2011 in batches. Farmers were exposed to the rice research activities at TRRI besides imparting training on SRI technology, rice mechanization, water saving techniques in rice particularly in aerobic rice technology, yield enhancing technology for rice fallow pulses under the use of combined harvester technique. The soil fertility management, IDM and INM

practices on rice were explained to the farmers.

Programmes at KVK, Needamangalam

Training on Improved Technologies for Rice

On campus training on "Recent trends in rice cultivation" was arranged on 10.06.2011. Dr. T. Senguttuvan, Programme Coordinator, presided over the function. KVK staff have delivered lectures on improved technologies and recent trends in crop production and plant protection techniques followed by skill demonstration on seed treatment,

use of LCC for 'N' management, use of pheromone trap etc.,

Training on Mushroom Cultivation and Value Addition

On campus training on mushroom cultivation and value addition was conducted on 16.06.2011, to promote rural entrepreneurship among rural youth and farm women. Thirty one people have participated in the training. Dr. S. Anandhakrishnaveni, SMS (Agronomy) and Programme Assistant Tmt. D. Reka organized the skill oriented training and demonstrated value addition of mushroom through soup, pickles etc. Dr. T. Senguttuvan, Programme

Buyer - Seller interface meet on vegetables and fruits

Buyer - Seller interface meet on vegetables and fruits was organized by the Department of Market Extension on 11.6.2011 at UHDC, Chennai.

Twenty two vegetable growers from four districts viz., Tiruvallur, Kancheepuram, Vellore and Villupuram formed the sellers group and from the buyer side, a city based vegetable supplier to many hotels and Air line caterers 'e Farm', a private company along with his team members attended the one day meet. The meeting was inaugurated by our Vice-Chancellor, Dr.P.Murugesha Boopathi. In his presidential address, he stressed the farmers to form Commodity Interest Groups and plan their cropping so as to market their produce very efficiently in a sustained manner. Earlier, Dr.SP.Ramanathan, Professor and Head of the Department of Market Extension welcomed the gathering.



Dr. P. Kalaiselvan, DEE, narrated the role of TNAU in productivity improvement as well as efforts taken in empowering the farmers to realize good returns. Dr. N. Ajjan, Director, CARDS explained in detail, the efforts taken by TNAU in helping farmers to know the daily market price of vegetables across 13 markets. Th.Venkatasubramanian, Manager, 'e-Farm' briefed about the quality of produce, which

played the foremost of all other things.

The initiative taken by TNAU in arranging the interface between the actual vegetable growers and direct buyers is first of its kind which would focus towards a MoU between the Farmers and Procurement Agencies in order to solve the marketing crises prevailing for a long time. Dr. P. Devanathan, Head, KVK, Tiruvallur proposed vote of thanks.

Co ordinator, interacted with participants and motivated them to start mushroom production units for self dependency.

Farmers' training on Post Harvest Technology

Two days Farmers' Training on Post Harvest technology was conducted on 22nd & 23rd June, 2011. Dr. T. Senguttuvan, Programme Co ordinator, inaugurated the Programme. Thiru. A. V. Jawahar, Regional Manager, Thiru. A. Mariyadoss, Senior Assistant Manager and KVK staffs have delivered special lectures on Role of Central Warehousing Corporation, stored grain insects, identification, control measures and crop production technologies for major crops. The farmers were given with a metal storage bin of 150 kg capacity to motivate the storage of food grains and seeds.

'Machine transplanting' demonstration

On campus demonstration on the utility of eight rows Yanmar rice transplanter to farmers of Cauvery Delta Zone was organized on 10.06.2011. Sixty farmers from Thiruvarur and Kumbakonam area witnessed the efficiency of rice planter. Dr. Sudhakar SMS (Agronomy) explained the details and technologies involved in farm mechanization.



Pulses seed production training through Seed Village Programme

One day training on "Quality seed production in irrigated pulses through seed

village concept" was organized by TRRI, Aduthurai at Paruthikottai village in Orathanadu block on 10.06.2011. Dr.T.Jayaraj, Director, TRRI, Aduthurai presided over the meeting and explained about the seed management practices for quality seed production in irrigated pulses. In the training, varieties suited and other management practices for quality seed production in irrigated pulses, plant protection measures for quality seed production and designer seed technology etc., were explained to the farmers. The second one day training was conducted at Thirumandangudi village, Papanasam block on 16.06.2011.



Training on Turmeric Cultivation at KVK, Sandhiyur

Training on "Turmeric cultivation" was conducted at KVK, Sandhiyur on 16.6.2011. Dr. S. Manickam, Programme Coordinator, explained about the agronomic practices of turmeric. Mr. Krishnakumar, ADH, Veerapandi block delivered a special address. The farmers were explained about technologies on cultivation, varieties, integrated nutrient management, pest and disease management, post harvest techniques, market awareness, usage of turmeric harvester and turmeric boiler. Method demonstrations of soil testing and seed rhizome treatment with copper oxy chloride were done. A booklet on 'Turmeric cultivation' was issued to the farmers. Vote of thanks was proposed by

Dr. M.A.Vennila, Assistant Professor (Agricultural Extension). Nearly 120 farmers of Salem, Namakkal and Erode districts participated.



Field day on rice fallow pulses by CRS, Srivilliputtur

Field day on rice fallow pulses was conducted on 07.06.2011 under TN-IAMWARM scheme in Sevalaperiyar sub basin at North Venganallur village of Viruthunagar District. They have interacted with Dr.R.Vimala, Associate professor (Scientist In charge, TN-IAMWARM-Sevalaperiyar sub basin) and Tmt.K.Vanaja (JRF) regarding the management of pest and diseases, crop varieties, season of cultivation, agronomic practices etc. Totally 50 farmers attended the field day.



Participation of TCRS in 'AGRI FAIR'

Tapioca and Castor Research Station, Yethapur participated in the 'AGRI FAIR' exhibition conducted in Salem between 24th & 27th June, 2011. Charts depicting tapioca and castor varieties, Pest and diseases of tapioca and castor, ODL - B.F. Tech. course were displayed. Our

II Annual group meeting on onion and garlic



The II Annual group meeting of ICAR- All India Network Research Project on Onion and Garlic was conducted at Ooty on 29th & 30th April, 2011. The meeting was organized by Directorate of Onion and Garlic Research, Rajgurunagar, Pune and Department of Vegetable Crops, Coimbatore.

Dr. N. Kumar, Dean (Hort),

HC&RI, Coimbatore welcomed the participants. Dr. K.E. Lawande, Director, Directorate of Onion and Garlic Research, Rajgurunagar, Pune has delivered the key note address. Dr. P.Subbian, Registrar, delivered the presidential address.

Inaugurating the meeting, Dr. H.P. Singh, DDG (Hort), ICAR,

New Delhi urged the scientists to evolve ways to meet the domestic requirements and export demands for crops like onion and garlic. Further, he stressed that the scientists should help the country to avoid imports and facilitate new technologies. About 60 scientists from different ICAR institutes and SAUs, participated the two days conference.

In the valedictory session, our Vice Chancellor, Dr. P. Murugesu Boopathi, addressed the gathering that TNAU is producing large quantity of onion seeds through contract farming system for the benefit of farmers. He also suggested the farmers to utilize the daily market prices of the vegetable crops given by TNAU through Dynamic Market Information (DMI) system for getting the best price. Dr. L. Pugalendhi, Professor and Head, Department of Vegetable Crops and Organizing Secretary of the meeting proposed vote of thanks.

Vice Chancellor, Dr. P. Murugesu Boopathi, visited TCRS stall and suggested scientists to take efforts to increase the area under castor in Tamil Nadu. Farmers from various parts of Tamil Nadu visited the stall. Pamphlets on tapioca and castor cultivation practices, root feeding of coconut tonic were distributed to the farmers.



Summer training in plant biotechnology-2011

The Department of Plant Molecular Biology and Biotechnology, has organized a training program on Plant

Biotechnology from 9th May - 3rd June, 2011 with an aim to render service to the biology / biotechnology students studying at colleges outside TNAU. Nine UG students from PSG college of Arts and Science, Karunya University and CMS college of Science and Commerce, were participated in this training. The training included hands on experience in tissue culture, molecular biology, genetic engineering and bioinformatics besides, lectures on current topics in plant biotechnology. At the end of the training, certificates were issued to the participants.

Training on improved groundnut production technologies

The Department of Oilseeds, recently conducted one day training on groundnut

improved production technologies to the farmers, to increase the productivity of the crop in Tamil Nadu. Around 500 farmers of Coimbatore and Tiruppur districts participated. This training was inaugurated by Dr.K.Thiyagarajan, Director, CPBG. In his inaugural speech, he pointed out that, these trainings are conducted with the



objective of enhancing groundnut productivity in groundnut growing districts under NADP. Dr. G.Kathiresan, Director, Planning and Monitoring in his

key note address, explained the status of groundnut in Tamil Nadu and the salient features of the NADP scheme. The JDA, Coimbatore, Mr. S.Muthusamy in his presidential address, highlighted the special schemes implemented by the government of Tamil Nadu for the enhancement of oilseeds production in the state.

The technical details about the groundnut cultivation were explained by Dr.K.Ganesamurthy, Professor and Head, Department of Oilseeds. Dr. K.Srinivasan, Professor (Agronomy) explained the crop management technologies and Dr.K.Gopalakrishnan, Associate Professor (Plant Pathology) highlighted the major pest and diseases of groundnut and also their control measures. Dr. K.Ganesamurthy, Professor and

Head, Department of Oilseeds proposed vote of thanks.

TNAU participates in the 4th Global forum on Innovation & Technology Entrepreneurship

The Business Planning and Development Unit of the Directorate of ABD, has placed its footprint in the 4th Global Forum on Innovation & Technology Entrepreneurship held at Helsinki, Finland from 29th May, 2011 to 3rd June, 2011. The unit was represented by Dr. P. Sivasubramanian, Director (ABD), Dr. S.D. Sivakumar, TPO to Vice-Chancellor and Mr. R. Bhubesh kumar, Business Manager, BPD Unit. The event was organized by "infoDev"-the technology and innovation-led development finance program of The World Bank. About 566



participants from 87 countries have participated in the forum.

Activities of the Business Planning and Development Unit were presented during the session on Agri-Business, which was well appreciated by all the global participants. The TNAU team has also participated in the training program organized by InfoDev, which was followed by various business discussions on collaborative efforts in promoting Agri-Business Incubations.

54th Annual Group Meeting of AICRP on maize



The 54th Annual Group Meeting of AICRP on Maize was held recently at Coimbatore. The meeting was inaugurated by Dr. Swapan kumar Dutta, (Crop Science.), ICAR in the presence of our Vice Chancellor Dr. P.Murugesha Boopathi. Dr. R.P.Dua , ADG (FFC), ICAR; Dr.J.S.Sandhu, ADG (Seed), ICAR; Dr.R.Sai Kumar

Project Director (Maize), New Delhi; Dr.M.Paramathma, DR and Dr.K.Thiyagarajan, Director, CPBG and many senior officers of the university, ICAR and 250 participants from all over India had participated.

Dr.S.K Dutta addressed that, the Single Cross Maize hybrids have helped to

break yield barriers in the country. Dr. R.P. Dua , ADG (FFC), ICAR stressed that climate change is a major factor to be considered in maize research, and the development of good hybrids to adapt to climate is to be given priority in research.

Our Vice Chancellor, Dr. P.Murugesha Boopathi, has opined that the maize has become an economically important crop and since global demand in Asia was increasing, India has a huge potential to increase maize export. Dr.R. Sai Kumar, Directorate of Maize Research, New Delhi, presented the progress report for the year 2010-11 and stated that the national Maize programme is well geared to meet the challenges and cater to the needs of Maize farmers. Dr. M. Paramathma, DR and Dr.K.Thiyagarajan, Director, CPBG, also spoke during the occasion.

NSS Special Camps – 2011 in TNAU Colleges

At AC&RI, Coimbatore



The NSS Camp of the five NSS Units of AC & RI, Coimbatore was conducted at Somaiyanpalayam Panchayat for the academic year 2010-11 from 25.05.2011 to 31.05.2011. A total of 263 NSS volunteers from eight UG programmes of Coimbatore campus participated. Five villages namely Somiyanpalayam, Kalappanayakkanpalayam, Kasthurinayakkanpalayam, Kuppanayakkanpalayam and Sulthanipuram were selected for the camp.

The NSS Special Camp programme was inaugurated by the Dean, AC&RI, Coimbatore on 25th May, 2011. The Dean HC&RI, Dean AEC&RI, Coimbatore and NSS Coordinator delivered special address on the theme of NSS Camp. Dr. P.Raj Kumar, NSS Programme Officer briefed the gathering about the programmes to be conducted during the Special Camp. Earlier in the day, the Dean Flagged off the NSS Special Camp rally at Kalappanayakkanpalayam.

During the week long special camp programme, practical demonstrations on Vermicomposting, beekeeping, food processing, rain water harvesting, renewable energy resources, Polythene eradication rally were conducted to create awareness among the public. Dr.Selvi, Physical Education

Director demonstrated practically various games to the children of five villages.

Our Vice Chancellor Dr. P. Murugesu Boopathi presided over the valedictory function of the Special Camp and delivered the valedictory address. The NSS representative Mr.Vairamuthu welcomed the gathering. The Programme Officer Dr. M.R. Srinivasan, briefed about the special camp. Deans of AC&RI, HC&RI and AEC&RI, Coimbatore and DR felicitated the NSS volunteers. Dr.I.Kanayanne, NSS Programme Officer proposed vote of thanks.

At HC & RI, Periyakulam



NSS Special Camp was conducted at Silvarpatti village from 30.05.2011 to 05.06.2011. Dr. V. Ponnuswami, Dean, in his inaugural address, stressed the significance of youth in rural upliftment. Thiru. Siva Tharmasivam, Project Officer, DRDA, Theni; Tmt. Subbulakshmi Murugan, President of the village; ward councilors and president of the various farmers associations felicitated the programme.

In the special camp, the following service oriented events viz., veterinary camp, temple and school yard cleaning, eye camp, emergency call 108 ambulance service, general health camp, soil test, horticultural and agricultural technology farmers interaction

session, training for mushroom cultivation, bee keeping and home gardening, preparation of fruit and vegetables juice and jam for the benefit of farm women and creating awareness to school students for computer usage were carried out. The special camp was organized by Dr. T. Rajendran, NSS programme officer.

At AEC&RI, Kumulur

The seven days NSS special camp was started on 30.05.2011 in Kumulur village of Trichy district. Dr. A. Tajuddin, Dean, inaugurated the camp. Tmt. C. Palaniammal, Kumulur Panchayat President and S. Sriramajayam, NSS Programme Officer spoke on the occasion. During the special camp, soil testing campaign, folk performance on environmental protection, planting of 100 tree saplings in and around temples and other public places, exhibition of agricultural implements etc., were carried out. Mr. KST. Angamuthu, Advocate, Taluk Legal Services Committee, delivered lecture on 'How Right to Information Act was beneficial to women and children' and Mr. Muthukumaran of SOCSEAD centre, Trichy, spoke on 'ill-effects of alcoholic and smoking and how to shed addiction'. Farmers from different villages of Trichy District visited the exhibition. Prizes were given to school students for excelling in contests conducted during the camp.



New schemes

| Name of the scheme | Principal Investigator | Amount (Lakh ₹.) | Funding Agency |
|---|--|------------------|--|
| Poultry litter based biomethanation plant slurry handling and enrichment | Dr. N. O. Gopal, Prof. (Microbiology), Dept. of Bioenergy, Coimbatore – 3. | 22.15 | M/s. IOT Mabagas Limited, Mumbai |
| Genetic Enhancement of pulp wood species through breeding and biotechnology | Dr.K.T. Parthiban, Assoc. Prof. and Head, Dept. of Tree Breeding, FC&RI, Mettupalayam. | 16.56 | Seshasayee Papers and Boards Limited, Erode. |
| Motivation for the formation of SHGs among the poor women folk of palm tappers to promote value addition and marketing of palm products for improvement of their livelihood | Dr. V. Ponnuswami, Dean, HC&RI, Periyakulam. | 15.60 | DBT |
| Entrepreneurship development for the rural population of dry flower materials and establishing a dry flower small scale cottage industries for their livelihood | Dr. V. Ponnuswami, Dean, HC&RI, Periyakulam. | 14.63 | DBT |
| Genetic engineering of major crops for insect resistance | Dr. V. Udayasuriyan, Professor and Head, DPMB&B, Coimbatore. | 10.00 | M/s JK Agri Genetics Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad |
| Impact of foliar and soil application of micronutrients on mulberry leaf quality and silkworm bioassay | Dr. K. Ramamoorthy, Professor (Agronomy), Coimbatore. | 7.97 | UGC |
| Carbon Sequestration potential of rice ecosystem | R.K.Kaleeswari, Assoc. Prof. (SS&AC), Coimbatore. | 7.84 | UGC |

Important visitors

- ▶ Dr. Walter D'Souza, Regional chairman, federation of Indian Export Organization (EIEO), Chennai, visited Directorate of CARDS on 8th & 9th June, 2011
- ▶ Dr. Raj Gururajan and Dr. Lindsay Brown of Queensland, visited DPMB&B on 8th June, 2011
- ▶ Thiru. Sandeep Saxena, Commissioner of Agriculture, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, visited DPMB&B on 28th June, 2011

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From
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