



TNAU NEWS

TAMIL NADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY NEWS LETTER

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Planning & Monitoring

உணருக்கெல்லாம் உணவளிக்கும் உத்தம உழவர்களுக்கு
உதவிக்கரம் நீட்டும் பல்கலைக்கழகம்

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON DRIP IRRIGATION FOR RICE



An International Research Conference on Drip Fertilization for Rice was held at TNAU during 17-19, October 2013. The main objectives of the conference were; reviewing the current tools and knowledge used to optimize water and nutrient management for drip ferti – irrigated rice from researchers of various countries such as; Israel, Italy, USA, China and Japan apart from India, identifying and discussing the constraints and opportunities based on practical field experiences for further expansion of drip ferti-irrigated rice and deliberating the policy and institutional interventions for increasing the area under rice cultivation with drip ferti-irrigation technology. The conference was organized by the Water Technology Centre of TNAU in collaboration with Netafim (I) Ltd. Dr. K. Ramasamy, Vice Chancellor, TNAU inaugurated the conference and emphasised

that the Government of Tamil Nadu had been supporting the small and marginal farmers who adopted drip fertigation technology on a sustained manner. Dr. A. Padmaraju, Vice Chancellor of ANGRAU, Hyderabad while delivering his Key Note Address suggested that many researchable issues were to be taken up by the researcher and one of which was reconsidering the plant geometry. Dr. Dubi Raz, Corporate Agronomy Director of Netafim, Israel, Dr. Randhir Chauhan, M.D, Netafim (I) Ltd., Dr. Viraktamath, Project Co-ordinator, Directorate of Rice Research, Hyderabad, Thiru. Uri Rubinstein, Counselor from Israel Embassy, New Delhi and Dr. Eli Vered, Head of R & D, Netafim, Israel felicitated. Dr. B.J. Pandian, Director (i/c), WTC, welcomed the gathering. The experiences of the researchers and farmers were shared through interactions in five technical sessions. There were 10 International, 79 National participants apart from 13 farmers. Dr. K. Palanisami, Director (South Asia), International Water Management Research Insitute, Hyderabad, in his closing remarks suggested that recommendation of the workshop need to be thoroughly studied in farmers' holding before the technologies are finalized for transformation as the drip fertigation to crops like rice is in the inception stage.

Promotion of Cassava Tonic Under NABARD Scheme

The 4th meeting of the Project Monitoring Committee (PMC) for the project entitled “Demonstrating the efficacy of foliar spray of cassava tonic on cassava in Erode, Namakkal and Salem districts” sponsored by NABARD was conducted by Tapioca and Castor Research Station, Yethapur (TCRS) at MYRADA, KVK, Gobichettipalayam, Erode District on 06.09.2013. Dr. V. Palanisamy, Professor and Head, TCRS, Yethapur delivered the Welcome Address. Dr. M. K. Kalarani, Professor (Crop Physiology) cum Scientist incharge of the scheme presented the progress of the scheme work. Key

Note Addresses were delivered by Dr. V. Rajendran, Dean, VIAT, Pollachi, AGMs of NABARD and LDMS at Salem, Namakkal and Erode of Indian Bank, besides the Programme Cooridnator, MYRADA KVK at Gobichettipalayam, Erode District. Sharing of FLD farmer's



real experiences about cassava tonic in the meeting was appreciated. Technical aspects of cassava were explained by Dr. K. Nageswari, Professor and Head, HRS, Yercaud. The meeting ended with a Vote of Thanks by Dr. V. Jayalakshmi, Professor (Plant Pathology).

Dengu Disinfestation



Dengu disinfestation was done at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Needamangalam as a precautionary activity to arrest Dengue fever. The camp was organized in collaboration with Health Department, Government of Tamil Nadu. Discussion was held and information on Dengue fever was given to staff and labourers of KVK, Needamangalam. Also disinfestation of dengue vectors was done by Health Department of Government of Tamil Nadu in the office premises and farm premises on 29.10.2013.

Exposure Visit of Farmers



An exposure visit to AEC & RI, Kumulur was organized on 18.10.2013 for the farmers of Thiruvarur District. Eighteen interested farmers in farm mechanization were selected to visit the college and to gain knowledge on farm mechanization and to attend demonstration of mechanized farm operations arranged at AEC & RI. The exposure visit was coordinated by Dr. A. Kamaraj, Assistant Professor.

e - Course Training Programme at HC & RI (W), Trichy

A two days training programme on “Awareness of e-course for B.Sc. (Horticulture) on Moodle platform delivered online and offline” was conducted on



7.11.2013 & 8.11.2013 at Horticultural College and Research Institute for Women (HC & RI (W), Trichy, as a joint venture with Dr. Y.S. Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry, Dr. YSPUH & F, Nauni, Solan, Himachal Pradesh. A total of 37 participants and the content creators from Karnataka and Tamil Nadu attended the training. The training included technical sessions with lectures on use of e-course developed using video conferencing facility. Hands on training on utilizing recent techniques in content capture and management were also given. The students of B.Sc (Hort.) programme benefited. Dr. T.N. Balamohan, Special Officer, (HC & RIW), Trichy delivered the Welcome Address. The history of the project was briefed by Dr. J.P. Sharma, Dean cum Nodal Officer (NAIP) Dr. YSPUH & F, Solan. Special Address was delivered by Dr. Nache Gowda, Dean, College of Horticulture, Kolar, UHS, Bagalkot. Dr. P. Pandiarajan, Dean (i/c), Anbil Dharmalingam Agricultural College & Research Institute, Trichy was the Chief Guest. Dr. R. Arulmozhiyan, Professor (Horticulture) proposed a formal Vote of Thanks.

Tree Parks at AC & RI, Madurai

With the concept of “Know Your Trees” for the benefit of tree growers and educationists, two tree parks namely Ornamental Tree Park and Commercial Tree Park were planted and inaugurated by the District Forest Officer, Mr. A.S. Marimuthu in the presence of Dr. C. Chinnusamy, Dean (i/c), AC & RI, Madurai on 04.11.2013. Dr. K.K. Suresh, Professor (Forestry), Dr. R. Balasubramanian, Professor and Head (Agronomy), Dr. V. Swaminathan, Professor and Head (Horticulture), Dr. T. Ragavan, Professor (Farm), Professors, Faculty and Staff, Forester Thiru. A. Karuppusamy and students participated and planted trees in an area of 1.00 ha. In the Ornamental Tree Park, 40 ornamental trees and in the Commercial Tree Park, 15 tree species under pulp wood, 20 tree species under timber tree, five tree species under oil seed trees, three trees species under high value trees, four tree species under fodder trees, five tree species



under medicinal trees, six tree species under NWPET trees and 10 species under fuel wood trees were planted.

Scientific Workshop on PPFM - A Drought Mitigating Bacterium

One day "Sensitization Workshop on Pink-Pigmented Facultative Methylophilic bacteria (PPFM) Technology for Rice" to benefit the officials of Sivaganga district was organized on 06.11.2013 at DARS, Chettinad. Sixty officers including Deputy Director of Agriculture, Asst. Director of Agriculture, Agricultural officers, Asst. Agricultural officers and Block Technology Managers from different blocks of Sivaganga district along with the DARS scientists and field staff participated in the Workshop. Dr. S. Gunasekaran, Professor and Head, Department of Agricultural Microbiology, TNAU, Coimbatore delivered the Inaugural Address; Thiru. S. Chelladurai, Joint Director of Agriculture, Sivaganga district and Dr. N.O. Gopal, Professor and Head, Department of Agricultural Microbiology, AC&RI, Madurai felicitated.



Dr. P. Senthilkumar Assistant Professor (Agricultural Microbiology), TNAU, Coimbatore delivered a talk on the mechanism of action, application of PPFM, benefits, etc., while Dr. M. Sundar, Professor, AC & RI, Madurai shared his field experiences with PPFM in delta region. A Book entitled "PPFM Technology for Rice" was released during the function. Dr. C. Swaminathan, Professor and Head, welcomed the gathering and Dr. M. Muthuraman, Professor, proposed a Vote of Thanks. Dr. P. Kannan was the moderator for the workshop.

Training on Green Manure Crops Seed Production Technologies



A training was organized on 19.11.2013 at Engineer Thottam in Kumidipathi village, Coimbatore District on green manure crops seed production technologies to the farmers under Part II Plan Scheme on "Farmers participatory seed production programme in green manure crops" being operated at the Department of Seed Science and Technology, TNAU, Coimbatore. Dr. A. Vijayakumar, Professor and Head, welcomed the participants and explained the importance of seed production technologies in green manure crops. Dr. M. Chandrasekaran, Director (i/c), Planning and Monitoring in his Special Address emphasized the advantages of growing green manure and the roll of farmers in seed production of green manure crops and distributed inputs to the farmers. Dr. S. Laskhmi and Dr.R.Vijayan, Assistant Professors and Dr. B. Venudevan, Senior Research Fellow explained the importance of quality seeds, selection of land for seed production, genetic purity maintenance and post harvest technologies of green manure seeds. The Councilor of Thirumalayanpalayam Town Panchayat Thiru. B. Sundaram also participated and graced the occasion. Dr. P. Selvaraju, Professor (SST) proposed a formal Vote of Thanks.

Tree Cover Assessment to Combat Pollution at Madurai City

One day programme on "Training and Awareness on Tree Cover Assessment to Combat Pollution in Madurai City" was conducted under National Agricultural Development Programme (NADP) by Forest College and Research Institute (FC & RI), Mettupalayam on 22.11.2013 at Agricultural College and Research Institute, Madurai. Over 300 participants consisting of students from various colleges, volunteers from NGO, Trust, Association, Foundation and Clubs, scientists from Universities, Research Institutions and Colleges, Farmers, and Officials from State Forest and Agricultural Departments participated. Dr. P. Durairasu, I.F.S., Dean (Forestry) in his introductory remarks

explained the necessities and benefits of tree covers particularly in urban areas under climate change environmental condition. Dr. C. Chinnusamy, Dean (i/c),



narrated the maladies of unplanned urbanization, industrialization and remedies through scientific urban tree cover establishment and management with the help of advanced scientific technologies and tools viz., GIS, GPS and General Packet Radio Service (GPRS). Thiru. A.V. Venkatachalam, I.F.S., Member Secretary, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board and Chief Guest of the programme highlighted the emissions of carbon from various metropolis around the world and cleansing mechanism of different tree species by means of pollutant absorption, carbon sequestration, etc. Dr. A. Balasubramanian, Professor and Head, Department of Forest Ecology and Environment welcomed the gathering. Dr. M. Tilak, Tmt. S. Vijayabama, Dr. M. Sivaprakash and Dr. M. Senthivelu, FC&RI, Mettupalayam gave training and field demonstration to the participants. Thiru. A.S. Marimuthu, I.F.S., DFO, Madurai and Thiru. S. Maniswara Raja, I.F.S., Regional Passport Officer delivered Special Lectures on Urban Tree Cover Prospects and Challenges in Madurai and India. Dr. I. Sekar, Professor and Head, Department of Forest Products and Utilization, proposed a formal Vote of Thanks.

KVK Pappalapatty Farmer Awarded as Horticultural Innovator



A farmer belonging to Agaram village of Dharmapuri District, Mr. K. Namanikumar has been recognized as a National Level Horticulture Innovator for designing a turmeric harvester during the conference held on 16th November, 2013 at Indian Institute of

Horticultural Research, Bangalore. This conference was conducted to recognize the farmers who have put forth their efforts to innovate technologies, suitable to their situation or fine tune the existing technology. To address the problem of labour scarcity and higher cost towards harvest of turmeric during the peak period, he had designed a turmeric harvester which can be attached to a broad bed former with a capacity to cover a hectare in 2 hrs 30 mts and is suitable for planting in drip fertigation system. This turmeric harvester helped to reduce harvesting time and labour requirement cost by 70 and 60 per cent respectively, as against the manual method. This harvester was evaluated by the KVK, Pappalapatty

Training on Bee Keeping



The Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Aruppukottai organized a two day vocational training programme to the farmers of Virudhunagar District on 26th and 27th November 2013 in which 68 farmers attended and benefitted. Dr. V.K. Paulpandi, Programme Co-ordinator inaugurated the training programme and explained the importance of the training programme and encouraged the trainees to start their own agri-business ventures. Mrs. Josephin Selvaraj, honeybee entrepreneur from Madurai trained the farmers on bee varieties, rearing methodologies, qualities of honey and the medicinal values for the human beings. Thiru. M. Rajendran, SMS (Entomology) explained the role of honey bees in crop production for the enhancement of yield and proposed a formal Vote of Thanks.

Commercial Processing of Fruits and Vegetables

A five day vocational training on "Commercial Processing of Fruits and Vegetables" was organized at KVK, Vriddhachalam from 11.11.13 to 15.11.13. Twenty five participants got trained on production of various value added products from tomato, mango, apple, pine apple and other local vegetables. Preparation of Jam, Jellies, Squashes, Juice varieties and Pickles was taught to them. The trainees were taken on an exposure visit to the industrial unit of "Jayam Home Made Foods", located at Neyveli, a local prominent successful



entrepreneur trained and promoted by this KVK, where the entrepreneur, Mrs.N.Suganthi, explained the trainees, the processing and packaging methods, different machineries and other business tips. Dr. R. Arunachalam, Programme Coordinator along with Dr. S. Kannan, Asst. Prof. (Food Science), Dr. V. Vijayageetha, Asst. Prof. (Seed science), Dr. T. Saravanan, Asst. Prof. (Plant Pathology) and Dr. K. Venkatalakshmi, Asst. Prof. (Agronomy) jointly arranged successful conduct of the training programme.

World Food Day Poster Contest - FAO Award For School Children



As a part of national symposium "Food Xplore'13" organised by B.Tech (Food Process Engineering) students of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, a District level poster contest for school children was conducted on September 1st 2013. Around 150 school children participated in the contest. The selected best posters were nominated for the 'World Food Day Poster Contest' organized by the Food and Agricultural Organization of UNO. Among the nominated poster, Selvi. Anjana Prabu studying in V-standard in Avila Matric Higher Secondary School received First Prize under age category 9-12. Selvi. Mehak Khemka studying in VII standard in Bharathiya Vidya Bhavan received the consolation prize under same category. Dr. C. Divaker Durairaj, Dean (i/c) AEC & RI, Coimbatore handed over the certificate and prize received from FAO to the students. Dr. V. Thirupathi, Professor and Head, Department of Food & Agricultural Process Engineering and students of B.Tech. (Food Process Engineering) felicitated the school children.

Students - Farmers Participatory Programme



The "Students - Farmers participatory programme in Horticultural Crops Production in Theni District" was organized by Horticultural College and Research Institute, Periyakulam in which 80 farmers participated on 26.11.2013 at Anaimalaiyanpatti, Theni. Dr. K. Ramasamy, Vice Chancellor, presided over the function. He emphasized the importance of involvement of the students in village programmes to have good interaction with farmers from sowing to harvest and also marketing of their produces, farmers problems their losses and sharing the recommendations of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University with the farmers. Dr. R. Rathinasamy welcomed the gathering. Dr. R. Sankaranarayanan, Dean (i/c), Horticultural College and Research Institute, Periyakulam, Dr. S. Mariappan, Dean (i/c), Horticultural College and Research Institute, Coimbatore, Dr. S. Parthiban, Professor and Head, Grapes Research Station, Anaimalaiyanpatti felicitated. Students have demonstrated the Hi-tech nursery practice for raising the F1 hybrids of cabbage and cauliflower seedlings in protray, the use of biofertilizer, viz., Azospirillum, Phosphobacteria, management of diamond back moth in cole crops, onion thrips, beetroot leaf spot, cabbage leaf blight, onion leaf spot and basal rot. Dr. R. Swarnapriya, Professor and Head, Department of Spices and Plantation Crops proposed a formal Vote of Thanks.

Science Club Inaugurated at A.C. & R.I., Killikulam



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The Science Club was inaugurated at Agricultural College and Research Institute, Killikulam on 29.11.2013 to augment the scientific interaction among the faculty, research scholars and visiting scientists to motivate the student and the teaching community for their current and future research in the new areas of agriculture. Dr. S. Sithanantham, Agricultural Scientist, inaugurated the Science Club and motivated the Scientists and Post Graduate students

about research on eco-friendly insect management, besides sharing his global experience on eco friendly crop protection research and development. Dr. V. Subramanain, Dean (i/c) introduced the speaker. Dr. G. Ravi, Professor and Head, Agricultural Entomology welcomed the gathering. Dr. C. Raja Babu, Secretary, Science Club proposed a formal Vote of Thanks.

Important Visitors

- Dr. Paul Ebert, Dr. David Schiphalius and Dr. Rajeswaran Jagadesan from University of Queensland, Australia visited Centre for Plant Molecular Biology on 25.10.2013 - 30.10.2013 .
- Dr. N. Sivaraj, Principal Scientist and team of scientists from National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resource, Hyderabad visited Horticultural Research Station, Kodaikanal on 29.10.2013.
- Dr. G. Suresh, Principal Scientist (Agronomy) and Dr. P. Duraimurugan, Senior Scientist (Agricultural Entomology), Directorate of Oilseed Research, Hyderabad monitored all the AICRP - Castor trials in Plant Breeding and Genetics, Agronomy, Plant Pathology and Agricultural Entomology at TCRS, Yethapur on 14.11.2013.
- Dr. Hansel M. Fletcher, Assistant Dean (Graduate Student Affairs) and Professor of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics and Dr. Wilson, Assistant Professor of Loma Linda University, California, USA visited Centre for Plant Molecular Biology on 28.11.2013.
- Dr. Ravendra Naidu, Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director, Center for Environment and Risk Assessment and Remediation, University of South Australia, Adelaide, Australia, visited Agricultural College and Research Institute, Madurai on 21.12.2013.

NEW SCHEMES

S. No.	Name of the Scheme	Principal / Co - Principal Investigator	Budget (Lakhs Rs.)	Funding agency
1.	Effect of Lip Chito Oligosaccharides (LCO) and coded products (Rachet & Torgue – RTA) on Maize and Blackgram under stress condition	PI - Dr. E. Somasunaram, Professor (Agronomy), Co PI – Dr. P. Muthukrishnan, Professor (Agronomy) Dr. K. Srinivasan, Professor (Agronomy)	9.77	M/s. Novozymes South Asia Pvt., Ltd., Bangalore
2.	Design and development of a sensor system for efficient water management in rice crop	Dr. K. Ramasamy, Dean, AEC&RI, Kumulur	27.33	Technology Development and Transfer Division, DST, GOI, New Delhi
3.	Management of insecticide resistance in storage pests of rice using molecular tools	Dr. P. Yasodha, Assistant Professor (Entomology), AEC & RI, Kumulur	15.50	Department of Science and Technology (Fast Track) GOI, New Delhi

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