



TNAU NEWS

TAMIL NADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY NEWS LETTER

Patron: **Dr. K. Ramasamy**, Vice Chancellor
Editor: **Dr. M. Chandrasekaran**, Director (i/c),
Planning & Monitoring

ஊருக்கெல்லாம் உணவளிக்கும் உத்தம உழவர்களுக்கு
உதவிக்கரம் நீட்டும் பல்கலைக்கழகம்

43rd Foundation Day of TNAU



The 43rd Foundation Day and Award Ceremony was held at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore on 1.7.2013. Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture Th. S. Damodaran, was the Chief Guest and distributed the merit certificates along with cash award of Rs. 2000/- for 23 TNAU scientists and staff who have completed 25 years of unblemished service. TNAU Scientists Award 2012 was conferred on 22 scientists under the staff development programme. Small savings certificate worth Rs. 500/- along with certificate of merit was awarded to two drivers who had completed 10 years of accident free service. Dr. K. Ramasamy, Vice Chancellor of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University presided over the function. The Foundation Day address was delivered by Dr. Swapan Kumar Datta, Deputy Director General (Crop Science), ICAR, New Delhi

All India Mango Exhibition



The 21st All India Mango Exhibition was held in Krishnagiri for 23 days from 15.06.2013 to 07.07.2013. The Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture and Hon'ble Minister for Municipal Administration & Rural Development inaugurated the stalls and appreciated the collection of 40 varieties of mango and Hi-Tech Agriculture and Horticulture farm technologies exhibited by the Regional Research Station, Paiyur. Dr. M.N. Budhar, Professor & Head explained the 16 varieties released from RRS, Paiyur which are all popular among the farmers. Hon'ble Ministers suggested making the maximum use of agricultural lands in the farm to achieve the second green revolution by doubling the yield and to increase the income of the farmers.

World Environment Day



World Environment Day was celebrated at TNAU, Coimbatore on 5th of June, 2013. The programme was jointly organised by the Directorate of Publications and Public Relations and Department of Environmental Science. Dr. K. Ramasamy, Vice Chancellor, TNAU inaugurated the function and delivered a special lecture on "Measures to prevent Environmental degradation". A *Vazhakadu mandram* was organised on "Environmental degradation: Whom to blame". Twelve students from different campuses of TNAU participated in the programme. Dr. S. Santhana Bosu, Dean of Agricultural Engineering College and Research Institute, Coimbatore, Dr. SP. Ramanathan, Professor of Agronomy and Dr. G.J. Janavi, Professor of Horticulture served as judges

for the *Vazhakadu mandram*. Mr. Athilingam, first year B.Sc., (Forestry) student bagged the First Prize. Dr. P. Subramanian, Professor and Head, Department of Environmental Sciences proposed a vote of thanks.

Group Meet on Pulses



The Annual Group Meet on pigeonpea, mungbean and urdbean was held at TNAU, Coimbatore during 13-15, May 2013. A total of 166 scientists on pulses from various National Institutes/SAUs participated in the meet. The progress of All India Coordinated research projects and future line of research were discussed and finalized. During the Inaugural Session, Dr. K. Ramasamy, Vice Chancellor, TNAU emphasized the importance of pulses and need to increase the area and productivity in pulses. He stressed the need for collaborative research efforts in pulses. He also emphasized the importance of pulses in the rice based cropping system. The Vice Chancellor, TNAU distributed certificates of registration for 17 newly released varieties issued by PPV & FR authority. Dr. B.B. Singh, ADG (O&P), ICAR, New Delhi underlined the importance of research activities for improving productivity of pulses in India. The R&D activities on pulses in India were elaborately presented by Dr. N. Nadarajan, Director, IIPR, Kanpur. Dr. AR. Muthiah, Director i/c, CPBG, TNAU, proposed a vote of thanks.

A Stepping for a Pest Free Zone

An awareness programme was organized at Coconut Research Station, Aliyarnagar on 13.06.2013 to create awareness on the management strategies of black headed caterpillar and red palm weevil in which 32 farmers participated. Dr. K Subaharan, Principal Scientist (Agrl. Entomology) and Project Coordinator (Palms), Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Kasaragod, in his key note address, gave a brief

account of the various key pests of coconut, their nature and extent of damage. He emphasized that the red palm weevil is a serious pest of coconut and presently aggregation pheromone traps are being developed by CPCRI to control it. It costs much less than the one existing in the market. The black headed caterpillar can be controlled by releasing biocontrol agents viz., *Bracon brevicornis* and *Goniozus nephantidis*. Using biocontrol agents is ecofriendly and conserve the natural enemies in the ecosystem added Dr. Subaharan. He further insisted that black-headed caterpillar needs to be checked before it reaches outbreaking proportions. Dr. T. Srinivasan, Assistant Professor (Entomology) delivered the welcome address. Dr. N. Shoba, Professor and Head, CRS, Aliyarnagar, inaugurated the programme. Dr. S. Geethanjali, Assistant Professor (Plant Breeding and Genetics), highlighted the varieties released from CRS, Aliyarnagar and the hybrids developed and distributed from CRS, Aliyarnagar. Dr. I. Johnson explained about the various diseases afflicting coconut and strategies for their management. The programme ended with a Vote of Thanks by Ms. Kayaliny.

Director General, ICAR visited HC&RI, Periyakulam



Dr. S. Ayyappan, Director General, ICAR, New Delhi, visited the Horticultural College and Research Institute, Periyakulam on 11.05.2013 and had interaction with staff members and students. On this occasion, he released the book entitled, "Cultivation of Cool Season Vegetables". The varieties released and the technologies developed were exhibited on the occasion. Dr. V. Ponnuswami, Dean, Horticultural College and Research Institute, Periyakulam presided over the function. Dr. P. Kalaiselvan, Registrar (i/c), Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore and Dr. R. Prabhakaran, Vice Chancellor, TNUVAS, Chennai also participated and felicitated.

Sharing the Experiences of Organic Farming with German Scientists



The Science Forum at Dryland Agricultural Research Station, Chettinad, meets every month and discusses about developments in science and technology. Recently the forum meeting was organized on 12.06.2013. Dr. Rajasekaran Murugan of UniKassel, GERMANY delivered a special lecture on the topic "Organic Farming in Germany - Special Emphasis on Soil Biology". He emphasized organic cultivation, drought management, water management and improvement of soil health without chemicals. Dr. C. Swaminathan, Professor and Head, welcomed the gathering. Dr. V. Palanichamy, Professor and Head, and Dr. S. Senthurkumaran, Assistant Professor of KVK, TNUVAS, Kundrakudi, Mr. A. Neelakandan, Cane Executive of Sakthi sugars participated in the programme. Dr. P. Balasubramani, Prof (Horti) and Dr. P. Kathirvelan presented the mementoes to the speakers. Dr. M. Paramasivan proposed a vote of thanks.

Tender Coconut Productivity Drive



The Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Sikkal, Nagapattinam and Coconut Research Station, Veppankulam organized a training cum seminar on coconut on 17.06.2013 at Kathiripulam Village in Vedaranyam Block of Nagapattinam District. Dr. K. Ramasamy, Vice Chancellor, TNAU, Coimbatore

and Member State Planning Commission, Govt. of Tamil Nadu stressed the need for selection of exclusive high yielding coconut varieties for tender coconut and copra production with high oil content and value addition. He requested the farmers to form Coconut Producers Organization with the support extended by NABARD. Thiru. T. Munusamy, District Collector, Nagapattinam presided over the programme and encouraged the farmers to utilize the schemes available with the Department of Agriculture and Coconut Development Board, Cochin and requested the TNAU scientists to popularize the latest technologies on coconut production. The demonstration on coconut manuring, root feeding of TNAU coconut tonic and TNAU coconut climber were organized in the afternoon. More than 400 coconut growing farmers benefited. Dr. R. Rajendran, Professor and Head, KVK, Sikkal, Nagapattinam welcomed the dignitaries and farmers. Dr. S. Mohandas, Professor and Head, CRS, Veppankulam proposed a vote of thanks.

An Equip Processing



A Food Processing Business Unit was inaugurated by Dr. S.P. Sundaram, Dean i/c of Agricultural College & Research Institute on 20.06.2013 in the KVK located in the AC&RI campus in Madurai. The business unit is meant to train the farmers on bulk production of processed foods by using the equipments viz., Extruder Machine, Cabinet Dryer, Uruli Roaster, Fruit Pulper, Steamer, Grinding Machine and Plenary Mixer. Dr. M.R. Premalatha, Dean i/c of Home Science College and Research Institute, Madurai and Dr. K. Vairavan, Programme Co-ordinator of KVK, Vamban, Pudukottai delivered the Special Address on the occasion. The scientists from Agricultural College & Research Institute, Madurai participated in the

inaugural function. The Programme Co-ordinator, Dr. N. S. Venkataraman of Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Madurai welcomed the gathering and Dr. S. Kamalasundari proposed a vote of thanks.

Training on Temperate fruits



Two days training on "Cultivation and Post Harvest Management of Temperate Fruit Crops" was organized by Horticultural Research Station, Kodaikanal in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture, Tamil Nadu and State Horticulture Mission, Kerala on 12 – 13, June, 2013. The training was presided over by Th. S. Rajamohamed, Deputy Director of Horticulture, Kodaikanal. Dr. J. Rajangam, Professor and Head, Horticultural Research Station, Kodaikanal inaugurated the training and highlighted the need for hi-tech cultivation, post harvest management and value addition in hill fruit crops. Mr. M. Shaji, of State Horticulture Mission, Kerala in his Special Address emphasized the role of farmers in reducing the post harvest losses and commercial exploitation of temperate fruits to improve their economic status. The training covered the advanced cultivation techniques, post harvest management, plant protection and value addition. Dr. B. Senthamizh Selvi, Asst. professor (Hort.), Dr. G. Sathish, Asst. Professor (Hort.), Dr. P. Vetrivelkalai, Asst. Professor (Nem.), Dr. J. Ezhilan, Asst. Prof. (Microbiology) and Selvi. R. Muthuselvi served as resource persons. Dr. B. Senthamizh Selvi, welcomed the gathering. Tmt. Bamila Vimalraj, the Programme Organizer, SHM, Kerala, proposed a vote of thanks.

Off Campus Training on Seed Production in Onion

A one day front line demonstration cum training programme on 'Seed Production Techniques in CO5 onion was organized for vegetable growers at Alanganallur Block on 14.06.2013. Dr C. Ravindran,



Assistant professor (Horticulture) welcomed the farmers and emphasized the importance of seed industry in vegetable crops. Mr. A. Thiumurugan, Assistant Director of Horticulture, Alanganallur, Madurai highlighted the government schemes available for the year 2013 - 14 and encouraged the farmers to avail all subsidies in right time to get profitable income. Mr. M. Saravanan, Technical Officer from National Horticulture Research and Development Foundation (NHRDF), Coimbatore spoke on seed to seed and bulb to seed methods of seed production in onion and buy back policy between farmers and NHRDF in connection with seed procurement. Thirty five farmers from Thadhagoundanpatti, Nadupatti, Kalvelipatti, Periyallanthaikulam and Kontainpatti villages benefited.

Project Co-ordinator, Soil Bio diversity visited HRS, Kodaikanal



Dr. D.N.L. Rao, Project Coordinator, All India Network Project on Soil Bio-diversity and Bio-fertilizer, Indian Institute of Soil Science, Bhopal visited Horticultural Research Station, Kodaikanal on 22.06.2013. The research achievements under the ICAR Network Programme on outreach of technologies of temperate fruit crops, besides various activities of the station was explained by the Professor and Head, HRS. The role of bio - fertilizer consortia on temperate fruits, cut flowers, and aromatic plants to increase yield was also discussed. During the occasion, the medium chilling apple variety, 'Mollies Delicious' was also planted by the Project Coordinator in the research station premises.

Kindle on Farm Tooling



On Campus demonstration and training programme on “Usage of Farm implements in Agriculture” was organized at KVK, Madurai on 13.06.2013 in collaboration with Humatic Company, Mumbai. The usage of tillage and sowing implements viz., laser guided land leveler, chisel plough, tractor drawn seed drill, power tiller operated sprayer, paddy drum seeder, groundnut stripper, groundnut decorticator, power operated SRI power weeder, post harvest equipments, household paddy parboiling unit, mini dhal mill and tomato seed extractor were exhibited and demonstrated in the field for the benefit of the farming community. One hundred and fifty farmers from all the Blocks of Madurai District participated and interacted with scientists in connection with availability, efficiency and the cost of adoption of mechanized farming in their field. Dr. S.P. Sundaram, Dean, Agricultural College and Research Institute, Madurai delivered the Presidential Address. Dr. N.S. Venkataraman, Programme Coordinator, KVK, Madurai welcomed the gathering and Dr. P.K. Padmanathan, Subject Matter Specialist (Agricultural Engineering) proposed a vote of thanks.

ICAR Tribal Sub plan on Hybrid Castor : FLD Programme

Awareness programme on hybrid castor cultivation was conducted at Karappattu village in Valappady Block of Salem District on 14.06.2013 under the ICAR scheme - Tribal sub plan on castor. Dr. V. Palanisamy, Professor and Head, Tapioca and Castor Research Station, Yethapur explained about the importance of hybrid castor and its suitability for irrigated and rainfed conditions. Dr. S.R. Venkatachalam, Professor (Plant Breeding and Genetics) elaborated the production technologies of hybrid castor. YRCH1 hybrid castor seed and Leaflets on hybrid castor cultivation were distributed to the farmers.

Workshop on Pollinator Conservation and Education



The Department of Agricultural Entomology, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore in partnership with the Zoo Outreach Organization, Coimbatore and The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, USA organized a three-day training workshop on 3 - 5, June 2013 to promote pollinator conservation in India in which 30 scientists from different States of India participated. The workshop focused on the practical field techniques for use of pollinator studies; the role of invertebrate as pollinators and to teach current best practice in; survey, identification, land use management, etc., and to reinforce their commitment. Dr. E.I. Jonathan, Director (CPPS), TNAU Presided over the Inaugural Function. Dr. S. Kuttalam, Professor and Head, Department of Agricultural Entomology welcomed the gathering. Dr. B.A. Daniel, Chairman, South Asian Invertebrate Specialist Group and Dr. M.R. Srinivasan, Professor, Department of Agricultural Entomology, TNAU organized the programme.

ICAR Sponsored Short Course in Nanotechnology

The Department of Nano Science & Technology organized an ICAR Sponsored Short Course on “Nanotechnology and Plant Disease Management” during 18-27, June 2013. The short course carried the



basics and application of nanotechnology, covering; synthesis, characterization, applications in plant disease management, besides bio safety and regulatory framework. Twenty two participants from

State Agricultural Universities and ICAR Institutes encompassing disciplines, namely; Plant Pathology, Entomology, Veterinary, Organic Chemistry and Biotechnology attended the short course. Dr. M. Maheswaran, Director of Research (i/c) TNAU, delivered the Valedictory Address in which he emphasized the need for bio safety issues while undertaking research in nano technology as there are a number concerns reported in literature. Dr. R. Natesan, Special Officer (i/c), (NRM) issued the Certificates to the participants. Dr. K. Gunasekaran, Professor & Head, Department of Nano Science & Technology, welcomed the gathering. Dr. K.S. Subramanian, Course Director, proposed a vote of thanks.

Takings of Glory



Lighting Ceremony to mark the successful course completion of Final year B.Sc (Home Science) students who are set out to pass the light in the form of knowledge to the society was conducted with usual pomp and splendor in the Home Science College and Research Institute, Madurai. Speaking on the occasion Mr. S. Balakrishnan, IPS Superintendent of Police, Madurai stressed the importance of Home Science Education. He motivated the outgoing students to rise up to the occasion and seize the opportunities which are available at plenty. Dr. P. Banumathi, Dean (Home Science), Dr. S.P. Sundaram, Dean (i/c), AC&RI, Madurai, Dr. B. Parthipan, Dr. N. Muthukrishnan, Dr. Kanchana, and all the Heads of Departments of Home Science College & Research Institute offered felicitations to the outgoing students. The Mother Lamp was lit by the Chief Guest and other dignitaries. The Best Outgoing Student of the College Award was presented to Mr. A. Keerthivasan. Dr. P.S. Geetha, proposed a vote of thanks.

Interaction Meet with Tamil Nadu Flower Producers' Association

A day long interaction meeting between the scientists and farmers belonging to the Tamil Nadu Flower Producers' Association was organized by the Department of Market Extension, Directorate of Extension Education on 14.06.2013 at Sathyamangalam in Erode District. Dr. V.V. Krishnamurthi, Professor (SS & AC) initiated the interaction on soil test based fertilizer application integrated with organics and its role in enhancing the marketability of quality produce. Dr. T. Alagumani, Professor (Agrl. Economics) discussed with farmers about inputs use, credit facility and cold storage facility. Dr. K. Krishnaveni, Professor (SS&T) insisted the importance of high yielding flower varieties for profitable farming. The preparation of byproducts and its share in net profit was stressed by Dr. I. Muthuvel, Assistant Professor (Horticulture). The experiences of 'Flower producers' was shared on behalf of the Association by Th. S.R. Muthusamy with the scientists for strengthening the marketing strategies. Dr. P. Muthiah Manoharan, Professor & Head (DME), Co-ordinated the interaction meet.

Training Programme on Market-led Extension



A five days training programme on "Market-led Extension" was organized by the Department of Market Extension functioning under the Directorate of Extension Education on 20-24, May 2013 at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore. Thirty Agricultural Officers from the Directorate of Agricultural Marketing and Agri Business representing different Districts of Tamil Nadu participated in the training. The trainees were exposed to various marketing strategies namely; the access to market information, role of Commodity Interest Groups (CIGs) in collective marketing, INDIAGAP and EUREPGAP, organic certification, foliar nutrition in enhancing the marketability of crop produce, Intellectual Property Rights issues, APEDA schemes and export procedures, farm mechanization in market-

Beguiling Terrace Garden Concept



During the 117th Annual Flower Show held on 17th May 2013, the Horticultural Research Station, Ooty, displayed a Terrace Garden model with vegetables, fruits, spices, medicinal, aromatic plants and floriculture and was awarded a special prize for the best exhibitor. The Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture, Thiru. S. Damodaran, Agricultural Production Commissioner, Thiru. Sandeep Saxena, IAS., Honorable Vice Chancellor of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Dr. K. Ramasamy, TNAU Board Member Thiru. K. R. Arjunan, Commissioner of Horticulture and Plantation Crops, Thiru. Sathya Prada Sahu, IAS., and other prominent personalities in Coimbatore District visited the stall and appreciated the efforts made by the scientists of HRS, TNAU, Ooty.

led agriculture, institutional support for market promotion, post harvest handling of commodities, etc. Hands on training to use TNAU Agri Tech Portal and market intelligence dissemination was also imparted. Field visits were arranged to Nilgiris Co-operative Marketing Society (NCMS), Mettupalayam and TUCAS, Thudiyalur. Agricultural inputs distribution and profitable marketing of hilly vegetables especially potato and garlic through daily auction being conducted by NCMS was well understood by the participants. Dr. P. Muthiah Manoharan, Professor and Head, Department of Market Extension as Coordinator and Dr. V.V. Krishnamurthi, Dr. T. Alagumani and Dr. D. Selvi, Professors as Co-coordinators organized the programme in a fitting manner.

Farmers' Club oriented on Crop Booster to augment yield

A three day training programme on the "application techniques of TNAU Crop Boosters for augmenting yield" sponsored by NABARD under 'Capacity Building and Adoption of Technology' was conducted on 5 - 7, June 2013 at the Department of Crop Physiology, TNAU, Coimbatore. Thirty farmers from the Farmers' Club of NABARD, Coimbatore participated. The field demonstration and technical part of the crop boosters were explained by all the scientists of the Department of Crop Physiology in different technical sessions. The farmers were taken to ARS, Bhavanisagar for Field Exposure Visit where activities of the research station including the latest advances made in water management, micro irrigation, drip fertigation and maintenance of drip fertigation system like acid wash and water saving technologies were explained by Dr. P.K. Selvaraj, Professor (SWC). The Programme was inaugurated by



Dr. K. Velayudham, Director (i/c), (CMS) and Dr. G. Velu, Professor and Head, Crop Physiology Department welcomed the gathering. Mr. Inigo Arulselvan, Assistant General Manager, NABARD, Coimbatore, felicitated. Dr. H. Vijayaraghavan, Professor of Crop Physiology proposed a vote of thanks.

Students of Horticultural College and Research Institute in a NSS Special Camp

NSS Special Camp involving II B.Sc. (Hort.) students of Horticultural College and Research Institute, Periyakulam was organized at D. Vadipatti village for seven days from 24.05.2013, in which 72 students participated. Demonstrations on rural sanitation and youth welfare, entrepreneurial training to rural women, rainwater harvesting, general health camp, soil health management, free eye camp, veterinary camp, Agri-horti technologies, tree planting and establishing herbal garden, computer awareness programme, fire fighting, rescue and disaster management, Emergency 108 demonstrations were organized by the students. The students stayed in the village during the programme. Mr. R. Babu, Assistant Project Director, DRDA, Theni inaugurated the Special Camp on 23.05.2013 evening. Scientists and resource person also attended and helped to conduct the programmes successfully.

New Schemes

Name of Scheme	Principal Investigator / Co-Principal Investigator	Budget (Lakhs Rs.)	Funding Agency
Development of moderate shattering and early mutant in ADT (R) 47 rice through induced mutagenesis.	<p>PI Dr. D. Sasikumar Assistant Professor (PB&G), SWMRI, Thanjavur.</p> <p>Co- PI Dr. R. Saraswathi, Professor & Unit Head TRRI, Aduthurai Dr. C. Vanniarajan, Professor (PB&G) AC&RI, Madurai.</p>	21.07	BRNS Mumbai
Strengthening of Digital Library and Information Management under NARS (e-Granth)	<p>PI Dr. R. Vijayaraghavan, Special Officer (Publications & Public Relation) TNAU, Coimbatore.</p> <p>Co - PI Dr. N.S. Vannamuthu, Librarian, TNAU, Coimbatore.</p>	14.33	NAIP, ICAR
“Upscaling pulses productivity through micro mission mode farmers participatory approach in thickly SC/ST populated villages in Virudhunagar District of Tamil Nadu” (04.01.2013 to 03.01.2016)	<p>PI Dr. R. Veeraputhiran, Assistant Professor (Agronomy), Cotton Research station, Srivilliputtur.</p> <p>Co - PI Dr. R. Balasubramanian, Professor and Head, (Agronomy), AC&RI, Madurai. Dr.C. Swaminathan, Professor and Head, DARS, Chettinad.</p>	15.25	GOI – DST – SEED Division

Important Visitors

- Dr. James George, Project Co - ordinator AICRP (Tuber crops), CTCRI, Tiruvananthapuram, visited Tapioca and Castor Research Station, Yethapur on 12.06.2013
- Dr. Sheetal Sharma, Scientist from International Rice Research Institute, visited TRRI, Aduthurai on 17.06.2013

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

Printed at :
TNAU Offset Printing Press,
Special Officer (Publications & Public Relations)
TNAU, Coimbatore - 641 003.

To

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