



# TNAU NEWS

TAMIL NADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY NEWS LETTER

Patron: **Dr. K. Ramasamy**, Vice Chancellor  
Editor: **Dr. G. Kathiresan**, Director, Planning & Monitoring

ஊருக்கெல்லாம் உணவளிக்கும் உத்தமர் உழவர்களுக்கு  
உதவிக்கரம் நீட்டும் பல்கலைக்கழகம்

## The KVK, Vriddhachalam in its strides



Doubling the agricultural production and tripling the agricultural income is the basic motto of Tamil Nadu Government. On this basic principle, Tamil Nadu Government is implementing services of production oriented schemes through out Tamilnadu.

Uzhavar Peruvizha is one of such pioneering attempts of Tamilnadu Government, which is being celebrated in Tamilnadu Villages for the past two years. The Vriddhachalam Krishi Vigyan Kendra joining hands in contributing its service to the rural community through the Uzhavar Peruvizha .

The Professor and Head of this KVK, Dr. R. Arunachalam is the district Co-ordinator for

Cuddalore District on behalf of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University. This Kendra provides technical expertise, integration with Regional Research Station, Vriddhachalam, Sugarcane Research Station, Cuddalore and the extension functionaries of State Department of Agriculture, covering the entire 13 blocks of the Cuddalore district.

The task force scientists co-ordinated by this Kendra covered about 232 numbers of Villages in 13 blocks, 130 numbers of technical lectures and 150 numbers skill demonstrations on SRI Technologies, SSI Technique, SPI technique, importance of millets in improving rural economy and its importance, soil health management, Hi-tech banana cultivations, Hi-tech horticulture crops, latest techniques in the cultivation of groundnut, gingelly and cashew crops, value addition in vegetables and fruits etc.

The Kendra also arranged an exhibition - stall organized by the district extension functionaries in the Manjakuppam Village in Cuddalore District, where all local crop based techniques were displayed with life specimens and models. The Honourable State Minister for Environment and pollution control Mr. M.C. Sampath and the District Collector visited the stall and appreciated the efforts taken by the Scientists.

## A Golden Dig

Dryland Agricultural Research Station, Chettinad and Department of Agriculture Sivagangai jointly organized as a part of Ulavar peruvila, One Day seminar for **“Awareness on Heritage crops”** at Chettinad on 15.05.2013. Mr. R. Manivannan, ADA welcomed the gathering. Shri C. Swaminathan, Professor and Head



DARS, Chettinad Presided over the function and delivered the lecture on Importance of Heritage crops. Dr. M.P. Divaya,

Professor (Forestry) explained the Preparation of Natural Shikakai and its uses, Dr.P. Kannan (Assistant Professor) highlighted the importance of millets with IPT for minor millets. Mrs. Santhi ADH focused the benefits from tender coconut. T.Chidambaram Kanadukathan, Chairman and Chettinad Panchyat president Mr. Kalimuthu were the chief guests and G. Alagusundram proposed a vote of thanks. Around 200 farmers received first hand information through this seminar.

### The Nosegay of finest part



During the 117<sup>th</sup> Annual Flower Show, the Horticultural Research Station at Ooty displayed a new concept with a model

on Terrace Garden, medicinal and aromatic plants, and floriculture. The Honorable Minister for Agriculture, Thiru. S. Damodaran, Honorable Vice Chancellor of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Thiru. K. Ramasamy, TNAU Board Member Thiru. K. R. Arjunan, Agricultural Production Commissioner Thiru. Sandeep Saxena, Commissioner of Horticulture and Plantation Crops Thiru. Satya Prata Sahoo and other dignitaries of the District visited the stall and appreciated the efforts made by the HRS, TNAU scientists. Sale of books, publications, vegetable seeds and bioinputs like biofertilizers and biocontrol agents were made during the show.

### Uzhavar Peruvizha Celebrated at Pallipalayam



Uzhavar Peruvizha was conducted in Kaliyanur, Aavathipalayam village in Pallipalayam block of Namakkal district

on 11.05.2013. Hon'ble Minister of Industries, Tamil Nadu Thiru P. Thangamani, Hon'ble Member of Legislative Assembly, Thiru. Bhaskar, Namakkal,

Dr. D. Raja, Professor (Agronomy), TCRS, Yethapur and Dr. S.R. Venkatachalam, Professor (PB&G), TCRS, Yethapur, JDA, Namakkal, ADA Pallipalayam block, ADH, Village Chairman, Village President and all line departments participated in the programme. Dr. D. Raja, Professor (Agronomy) and Dr. S.R. Venkatachalam, Professor (PB&G) explained about the tapioca and castor cultivation technologies. Hon'ble Minister of Industries, Tamil Nadu and Hon'ble Member of Parliament have distributed the inputs like castor seed, tapioca setts and coconut tonic to the farmers in this programme.

### Self propelled flail-mower for cutting grass and bushes



A self propelled flail-mower has been developed in the Agricultural Engineering College and Research

Institute, Kumulur for cutting grass and clearing bushes. The flail-mower requires only one operator to perform the operation of cutting grass and bushes with the help of the modified power tiller rotovator to flail-mower. To increase the flail tip speed for cutting grass and bushes, the rotational speed of flail shaft is increased from 250 rev/min to 450 rev/min. Chains of 6 mm size and 150 mm length are attached to the rotovator shaft after removing the rotovator blades. The cutting is carried out by striking the grass at high speed. The machine can be used on rough ground, where the other types of mowers can not put in to work.

The flail mower is suitable for orchards and oil palm plantations for the control of weeds. The roots of fruit trees and oil palm trees will spread around the tree close to the soil surface. Any soil working implement like rotovator will damage the roots of trees. Further the flail mower is suitable for cutting grass in play grounds and clearing parthenium. The machine covers 0.10 ha/h (2.0 acre/day). The cost of modifying a power tiller rotovator as flail mower comes to Rs. 7000. The cost of operation is only Rs. 1800/ha whereas the cost of manual cutting of grass is Rs. 4000/ha. While



reducing the cost per unit of operations, it increases the annual usage of power tiller.

### Popularising Temperate Fruit Crops



Two days training on “Cultivation of temperate fruit crops” was organized by Horticultural Research

Station, Kodaikanal, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University in collaboration with Department of Agriculture, State Horticulture Mission, Kerala at HRS, Kodaikanal on 05.06.2013 & 06.06.2013. Dr. B. Senthamizh Selvi, Asst. professor (Hort.) welcomed the gathering. 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 programme and explained about the importance of temperate fruits under commercial exploitation, introduction of low chilling varieties and plant architectural engineering to increase the productivity. Dr. S.A. Rajendran, Principle Scientist & Head, Central Sheep Breeding Research Institute, Kodaikanal participated and delivered the special address. During the training programme, the hi-tech production technology, post harvest technology & plant protection lectures in temperate fruit crops were given by Dr. B. Senthamizh Selvi, Asst. professor (Hort.), Dr. G. Sathish, Asst. Professor (Hort.), Dr. P. Vetrivelkalai, Asst. professor (Nem.), Dr. J. Ezhilan, Asst. Prof. (Micro biology) and Selvi. R. Muthuselvi. In addition, training & pruning, propagation techniques of temperate fruits were demonstrated to the farmers. The program comes to an end with a vote of thanks by Th. Murugan, Programme Co-ordinator, SHM, Idukki, Kerala.

### National Social Service Special Camp

A one week (12.05.2013 to 18.05.2013) NSS special camp was organized by Agricultural Engineering College & Research Institute, Kumulur at Pallapuram



Village of Trichirappalli district. During the special camp saplings of neem and pungam were planted by the II year B.Tech.

(Agrl. Engg.) students. During the camp, the students organized Free eye camp, AIDS and drugs awareness programme and farm implements exhibition. Four rallies were organized on eradication of child labour and consequences of plastics usage.

During the last day of the special camp, Ms.S. Jhansirani, NSS Secretary welcomed the gathering. Mr.K.Surendran, presented the activities of the special camp. Dr.A.Tajuddin, Dean of the college spoke on significance and importance of the NSS camp. Prizes were distributed to the village children who participated in various competitions by the dignitaries. NSS Programme Officer Dr.P.Kamaraj concluded the meeting with vote of thanks.

### An advocacy to Vegetable Growers for a profitable venture

A day long interaction meeting between the Scientists and Commodity Interest Group (CIG) farmers of Pandal vegetables was organized by the Department of Market Extension, Directorate of Extension Education on 08.05.2013 at Vettaikaranpudur of Coimbatore District. Dr.V.V.Krishnamurthi, Professor (SS &AC) welcomed the gathering. Initiating the interaction Dr.P.Muthiah Manoharan, Professor and Head, Department of Market Extension explained the mandates and activities of the Department. He highlighted the importance of profitable marketing for remunerative income.

Dr.T.Alagumani, Professor (Agrl. Economics) suggested that the linkage with non members is highly required for the development of the society. The subsidy for different inputs, extending loan facility even to the leased land farmers, cold storage facilities etc are also the need of the hour to the society. Dr.K.Krishnaveni, Professor (SS &T) insisted the importance of producing certified seeds for profitable

farming. Soil test based fertilizer application integrated with organics and bio-fertilizers and its role in enhancing the marketability of quality produce was emphasized by Dr.D.Selvi, Professor (SS & AC).The preparation of value added products and its share in net profit was stressed by Dr.I.Muthuvel, Assistant Professor (Horticulture). The experiences of the CIG was shared on behalf of the group by Th.Mohankumar and Th. Padbanaban with the Scientists for strengthening future strategies in the existing marketing. Th.M.Muthukumar convenor of the CIG proposed vote of thanks.

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### Achieving Efficacy through Farm Mechanization



One day on Campus training programme on 'Farm Mechanization and Power' was organized at Krishi Vigyan

Kendra, Madurai on 30.05.2013.

The Programme Coordinator Dr N.S.Venkataraman welcomed the delegates and emphasized the importance of farm machinery and power in agricultural sector to become a successful entrepreneur on farm machinery utilization and management. In this training programme Mr. M.Sathieskumar (Deputy Director) from Institute of Co-operative Management, Madurai has been participated and delivered special lecture on importance of farm mechanization in agriculture.

Dr. P.K.Padamanathan, Subject Matter Specialist (Farm Machinery) explained the types of agricultural equipments and its advantages besides maintenance of agricultural implements the achieve higher productivity with lesser cost of production. The demonstration of laser guided land leveler and tractor drawn seed drill attracted the participants during the programme. Around 30 secretaries of PACS (Primary agricultural Co-operative Society) under ICDP (Integrated Co-operative development project) scheme from Nagapattinam district have participated.

Dr. C.Ravindran, Subject Matter Specialist (Horticulture) proposed a vote of thanks.

### Software Expertise to Students



Tamil Nadu Agricultural University jointly with NCRFOSS (National Resource Centre for Free and Open Source

Software), CDAC (Centre for Development of Advanced Computing), Govt. of India, Chennai has organised a three day workshop on BOSS GNU/LINUX Operating system for I - B. Tech.(AIT) & I-B. Tech.(Bio info.) students at the Dept. of Physical Sciences & IT., Agrl. Engg. College & Res. Instt., Coimbatore on 8.5.2013.

Though many versions of BOSS Linux operating system has been released, they made the students to have a demo working on it's ought to be released version of BOSS 5.0.

Dr.Santhana Bosu Ph.D., Dean Agricultural Engineering presided the function, Dr.A.Rajarajan Ph.D., Dean Agriculture delivered the inaugural address, Dr.M.R.Duraisamy Ph.D., Prof and Head welcomed the gathering address and Ms. S.Sridevy Assistant Professor and Organizer of this workshop proposed a vote of thanks.

The intention of this three day workshop is to create awareness among students the need, importance and the advantages of free and open source software (FOSS) to propitiatory software.

The three day workshop constitutes the first day with installation, administration session and the second day with task automation through shell programming and python programming. It also extends on the third day session of creating and editing kernel which is the core of an operating system.

There was also a session which provided students a hand on experiment by installation of BOSS Linux version 5.0 in all their laptops for live environment of BOSS Linux. Certificates were distributed to the students during valedictory function held on 10.5.2013.



## La dolce Vita for Tribal Women



Five days training programme on "Bee keeping and Value Addition in Honey" was conducted by Tapioca and Castor Research

Station under DSIR scheme from 16.03.2013 to 20.03.2013 at Selankurichi, Kattuvalavu, Maniyarakundam, Navampattu and Erumbur villages of Kalrayan hills of Salem district. Dr. V. Palanisamy, Professor and Head, TCRS, Yethapur delivered the welcome address, Dr. M. K. Kalarani, Associate Professor (CRP) Principal Investigator of the project explained about the nutritive value of honey and honey value added products Co- Principal Investigator Dr. P. Kalaiselvi, Assistant Professor (ENS) explained about the environmental importance of beekeeping in hilly areas and Dr. G. Sasidevi, Assistant Professor (Food Sci. & Nutrition) demonstrated the preparation of honey value added products like amla honey candy, Honey amla pineapple ready to serve and Amla mouth freshner. About two hundred and fifty tribal women participated in the training programme and benefited. Pamphlets on beekeeping were distributed to the farmers.

## Yet another Uzhavar Peruvizha at Edappadi



Uzhavar Peruvizha was conducted in Vellarivelli village in Edappadi block of Salem district on 21.04.2013. Hon'ble Minister for Highways, Tamil Nadu, Thiru K. Palanisamy, Hon'ble Member of Parliament

Thiru. Semmal, Dr. V. Palanisamy, Professor and Head, TCRS, Yethapur and Dr. S.R. Venkatachalam, Professor (PB&G), ADA Edappadi block, ADH, Village Chairman, Village President and all line departments participated in the programme. Dr. V. Palanisamy, Professor and Head, TCRS, Yethapur and Dr. S.R. Venkatachalam, Professor (PB&G) brought out the features of tapioca and castor cultivation technologies. Hon'ble Minister for Highways, Tamil Nadu and Hon'ble Member of Parliament *per se* distributed the inputs viz., castor seed and coconut tonic to the farmers during the programme.

## Honble Revenue Minister, A.P. Visited NS&T



Dr N. Raghuvveera Reddy, Revenue Minister, Government of Andhra Pradesh visited the Department of Nano Science & Technology, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore, on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2013. The Revenue Minister was accompanied by the Registrar Dr. P. Kalaiselavan and the Director of Research Dr. M. Maheswaran.

Dr. K. Gunasekaran, Professor and Head, Department of Nano Science and Technology welcomed the Minister and briefed the on-going research activities. The Revenue Minister visited Nano material Synthesis Laboratory and the instrumentation hub. The post graduate students and research scholars of the Department explained the uses of various instruments available in the hub. The Minister appreciated the efforts of TNAU in establishing a pioneer research laboratory in the field of nano science & technology in the State Agricultural Universities. He wished that knowledge of nano technology comes into use.

## New Schemes

S. No.	Name of Scheme	Principal Investigator	Amount (Lakhs)	Funding Agency
1	சங்க கால வேளாண்மைச் சமூகமும், வேளாண்மைச் செய்முறைகளும் - ஓர் ஆய்வு	Dr. K.C. Kumaran, Assistant Professor of Tamil Dept. of Agricultural Extension and Rural Sociology, AC&RI, Madurai 625 104	6.25	UGC, New Delhi

## Important Visitors

- Dr. N. Raghuveera Reddy, Hon'ble Minister for Revenue, Andhra Pradesh visited Department of Nano Science and Technology and the vineyard maintained by the Department of Fruit Crops on 24.05.2013
- Dr. Eric Mader, Assistant Pollinator Programme Director, University of Minnesota, USA visited Dept. of Agricultural Entomology during 02-06-2013 through 05-06-2013.

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