



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

SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS at TNAU KVKs

The 5th Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) Meeting was conducted at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Aruppukottai on 5.10.2013. Dr. K. Ramasamy, Vice Chancellor, TNAU inaugurated the function and interacted with 30 farmers of Virudhunagar District. The Vice Chancellor also inaugurated the newly established Demo Unit cum Permanent Exhibition Hall having more than 50 technologies and 50 demo models. Special Officer from Zonal Project Directorate (ZPD), Thiru. R.S. Ramamoorthy, delivered the Key Note Address. Dr. K. A. Ponnusamy, Director of Extension Education (i/c) delivered a lecture on KVK activities, role of SMS and impact analysis to be followed in the ensuing year. Dr. C. Chinnusamy, Dean (i/c), Agricultural College and Research Institute, Madurai delivered the Special Address. Dr. V. K. Paul Pandi, Programme Coordinator presented the Action Taken Report of Fourth SAC recommendations and Action Plan for 2013-14.



Thiru. M. Rajendran, SMS proposed a Vote of Thanks. On the occasion the "Farmer Info Soft", a database cum reporting tool containing the list of farmers and their contact details, KVK details and scientists activities was released by the Vice Chancellor, TNAU. The Farmer Info Soft was developed by Dr. Ga. Dheebakaran, SMS (Agronomy), KVK, Aruppukottai



The 7th SAC Meeting of KVK, Madurai was held on 03.10.2013. Dr. K. Ramasamy, Vice Chancellor TNAU, presided over the meeting and offered valuable suggestions for the better functioning of KVKs in tune with betterment of farmers. Dr. N. S. Venkataraman, Programme Co-ordinator of the KVK presented the Action Taken Report on the activities of the KVK. The Subject Matter Specialists presented the results of OFT and FLD works during 2012-13. Thiru. R. S. Ramamurthy from the Zonal Project Directorate, Zone VIII, ICAR, Bengaluru felicitated. The thrust areas of operation in Madurai district in the present and upcoming years were discussed. The Director of Extension Education (i/c), TNAU, the Dean (i/c), AC & RI and the Dean (i/c), H.Sc. & RI, Madurai and all the Line Department officials of Madurai district participated in the meeting and shared their views and ideas.

Rodent Pest Management Training

One week training on Rodent Pest Management was conducted on 02 – 08 September, 2013 at the Department of Agricultural Entomology, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore. Twenty State Agricultural and Horticultural Officers under the aegis of the National Institute of Plant Health Management, Hyderabad attended the training. During inaugural function, Dr.S.Kuttalam, Professor and Head, Department of Agricultural Entomology, welcomed the gathering and narrated the importance of rodent management in agriculture so as to avoid the damage and loss caused by the rats, squirrels and porcupines in different agro



ecosystems. Dr. K. Samiayyan, Professor of Entomology and the Training Organizer imparted hands on training on rodent damage assessment on sweet potato, coconut and paddy crops. Dr.S.Jeyarajan Nelson proposed a Vote of Thanks.

Exciting the farmers on Agricultural Technologies



A two day State level exposure visit was organized for 50 farmers of Ramanathapuram District under TN-IAMWARM project by the KVK, Ramanathapuram on 17-18 September, 2013. This visit helped the farmers to understand the agricultural technologies and allied income generating activities. On the first day of the visit, famers were exposed to slatted house goat, dairy, poultry rearing units, musroom, azolla and fodder production units at KVK Namakkal. Subsequently, the system of sugarcane intensification and small millets production technologies were shown at KVK, Dharmapuri. On the second day, the farmers were taught the systematic record maintenance and saw the active participation of farmers and the functioning of Tamilnadu's largest *Uzhavar Santhai* at Hosur. The famers were also taken to the poly-house flower production unit, redgram cultivation under rainfed condition and under drip irrigation at Nallur, Hosur. The farmers were also exposed to System of Rice Intensification at a farmer's field and milk products production unit at Kaveripattinam, Krishnagiri. The visit was guided by Dr. R. Durai Singh, Programme

Coordinator and Coordinated by Dr. P. Arunachalam, Mr. C. Karunaithasan of KVK, Ramanathapuram.

TNAU trained women entrepreneur at 8th National Conference on KVK's - Bengaluru



Smt. Joesphine Selvaraj, a women "Bee keeping" entrepreneur trained by KVK, Madurai was invited as an entrepreneur from Zonal Project Directorate (Zone VIII), Bengaluru to display honey and its value added products prepared by her at the 8th National Conference on KVKs held on 23-25 October, 2013 at University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru, Karnataka. She exhibited 30 varieties of honey products during the programme. The amla based honey products attracted much attention. Shri Sharad Pawar, Hon'ble Union Minister visited the stall and interacted about the honey products and its marketing. Shri Arvind Kaushal, Addl. Secretary, DARE and Secretary, ICAR also visited the stall and interacted with Dr. N.S. Venkataraman, Programme Co ordinator, KVK, Madurai about honey bee rearing and value addition in honey. KVK, Needamangalam also exhibited important and latest technologies of TNAU in the conference.

Sensitization Programme on Papaya Mealy Bug Control Through Encyrtid Parasitoids

A sensitization programme on papaya mealy bug control through encyrtid parasitoid was organised at Thattankadu village of Namagiripettai Block of Namakkal District on 26.09.2013 by the Assistant Director of Agriculture, Namagiripettai Block along with Tapioca and Castor Research Station, Yethapur, Salem and KVK, Namakkal. Dr. M. Senthil Kumar, Assistant Professor (Entomology) sensitized the tapioca growing farmers on the symptoms of damage, life cycle, alternate host of papaya mealy bug and its control through encyrtid parasitoids (*Aceraphagus papaya*, *Pseudoleptomastix Mexicana* and *Anagyrus loeckii*). The parasite biology and its identification keys were



taught to the 40 progressive farmers from nearby villages of Namagiripettai Block. Mr. P. Srinivasan, a progressive farmer proposed a formal Vote of Thanks.

Demonstration on Fertigation Management in Carnation



Demonstration of fertigation management in carnation under protected structure was organized by Horticultural Research Station, Kodaikanal on 04.10.2013 at Lower Palani hill region. Dr. J. Rajangam, Professor and Head, highlighted the importance of nutrients and water use efficiency for the production of quality flowers in polyhouse. Dr. B. Senthamizh Selvi and Dr. P. Vetrivel Kalai demonstrated the importance of plant population, use of water soluble fertilizers in fertigation, micro irrigation and nematode management in carnation. The progressive flower growers of the region participated and benefited.

District Level Seminar on Cocoa

To popularize Cocoa as an intercrop in coconut fields, a one day District level Seminar on "Cocoa as an intercrop in coconut fields" was conducted at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Needamangalam on 17th September, 2013. The seminar was Chaired by the Deputy Director of Horticulture, Thiruvvarur, who delivered the Inaugural Address. The Assistant Director of Agriculture Needamangalam delivered a Special Address on cocoa. Dr.K.Rajamanikkam, Professor (Entomology),CRS, Veppankulam delivered the



Technical Address about cocoa cultivation. He emphasized the advantages and need of cocoa cultivation as intercrop in coconut in the present scenario. Dr. K. Chozhan, the Program Coordinator spoke on role of Cocoa cultivation and the value of cocoa products in the farmers' income. Totally 125 participants from Thiruvvarur district attended the seminar. The seminar session was arranged by Dr. V. Sivakumar, Assistant Professor (Horticulture), KVK, Needamangalam.

On Campus Trainings



With a view to double the yield and triple the income of the farmers the following trainings namely, Seed production in hybrid maize by Dr. V. Alex Albert Assistant Professor (SST), Direct sowing technology by Dr. A. Kamaraj, Assistant Professor (Agricultural Engineering), Integrated Farming System (IFS) and Green fodder production techniques by Dr. S. Anandha Krishnaveni, Assistant Professor (Agronomy), Poultry rearing by Dr. J. Jeyakumar, Assistant Professor (Nematology), were conducted on 10.09.2013, 19.09.2013, 23.09.2013, 24.09.2013, and 25.09.2013, respectively at KVK, Needamangalam. Hands - on trainings and exhibitions were arranged during these trainings. The trainings were coordinated by Dr. K. Chozhan, Programme Coordinator of the KVK.

Harvest Day on TNAU Rice Co 51 at Melanatham



In order to popularize the new rice variety TNAU Rice Co 51 among the farmers of Thiruvarur District, an FLD on “Popularization of TNAU Rice Co51” was conducted by the KVK, Needamangalam in Mr.Sooriamoorthy’s field at Melanatham village in Thiruvarur District, on 18th September 2013. Harvesting of TNAU Rice Co 51 was witnessed by the local farmers and paddy growers. Dr. K. Chozhan, Programme Coordinator of the KVK emphasized the importance of TNAU Rice Co 51. An yield of 6700 kg per hectare of wet grain was recorded in the field and the agronomical parameters were also recorded. Dr. V. Alex Albert arranged the meetings and clarified the doubts of the farmers on TNAU Rice Co 51

Release of Video Clippings CD on Post Harvest Equipments



A new video clipping CD on Post Harvest Equipments from Department of Food and Agricultural Process Engineering, TNAU, Coimbatore was released by Dr. O.P. Gill, Vice-Chancellor, Maharana Pratap University of Agriculture and Technology (MPUAT) in the Inaugural Session of the 29th AICRP- PHT Annual Workshop held at, Udaipur on 23-26 September, 2013. The CD contains videos of Tomato seed extractor, Tomato pulper, pulse milling, arecanut dehusker, chili seed extractor, Cleaner cum grader for pepper, etc.,

Value Addition Training Programs on Fruits and Vegetable at TNAU KVKs



A one day skill training on ‘Value Addition in Fruits’ for urban women’ was conducted at KVK, Sirugamani on 28.10.2013. Twenty urban women spouses of employees of EID PARRY, Pettavaithalai participated. During this programme, Dr. A. Sakunthalai, Programme Coordinator explained several aspects such as, nutrient content and health benefits of fruits, post harvest loss in fruits, post harvest technologies, value addition in fruits and scope for socio-economic and technological empowerment of women. Dr. L. Karpagapandi, SMS (Home Science) imparted hands on training on fruit based value added products such as; mixed fruit jam, mixed fruit squash, etc. The cost analysis of the products, labelling and marketing techniques of fruit based products were also explained to them. Mrs. Usha Ranga Prasad, a participant trainee proposed a formal Vote of Thanks.

A training on “Preparation of value added products from Drum Stick” was conducted on 03.10.2013 at KVK, Needamangalam. A total of 25 women and men farmers from different parts of Thiruvarur district attended the training. The training was organized by Tmt. D. Reka, Programme Assistant.

Field day on popularization of TNAU Rice Varieties Co(r) 51 for Kuruvai and Preliminary Training on ICM for Samba Rice

Co(R) 51 rice variety was introduced for Kuruvai season in the villages of Thirumangalam, Pinnavasal of Lalgudi Block of Trichy District. A field day was conducted at Thirumangalam village in the field of Mrs.V.Saraswathi on 11.10.2013. She obtained an yield of 1500kg / 50cents. She shared her experience about the variety. Thiru. Nageswaran another farmer of Pinnavasal also explained the better performance of CO (R) 51. A total of 100 farmers participated in the programme. Deputy Director of Agriculture, Deputy Director of Seeds, Agricultural Officers of Lalgudi Block, local Village Panchayat President and Councilors also participated in the programme. Dr. P. Jayaprakash,



Professor, Department of Rice, TNAU, Coimbatore explained the special attributes of the Rice varieties. Dr. A. Sakunthalai Programme Coordinator, KVK, Sirugamani, emphasised the secondary agriculture, IFS for delta region and the contribution of TNAU towards empowerment of farming community. Dr. S.Panneerselvam, Professor and Head, Sugarcane Research Station, Sirugamani in his Presidential Address narrated the rice production technologies and suitable varieties for samba season. Dr. R. Annadurai, Professor, SRS, Sirugamani, Dr. N. Satheeshkumar, Dr. V. Dhanushkodi of KVK, Sirugamani conducted a demonstration on direct seeded rice through drum seeder. Dr. M. Ravi welcomed the gathering. Thiru. Rajagopal Farmer President of ATMA organized the programme. Thiru. Muthamilselvan a farmer proposed a formal Vote of Thanks.

mushroom bed formation and their maintenance for oyster mushroom production was done in the training. Mr. A. Murugesan, Jail Superiendent distributed the certificates to the participants and proposed a formal Vote of Thanks.

Farmers Training Programme on “Precision Farming Techniques”



With the objective of promotion and safe use of plastics in agriculture, horticulture, water management and other allied areas, a Precision Farming Development Centre (PFDC) is functioning at the Department of Soil & Water Conservation Engineering, AEC & RI, TNAU, Coimbatore, funded by National Committee on Plastics Applications in Horticulture (NCPAH), Ministry of Agriculture, GOI, New Delhi. A two days training programme on “Precision Farming Techniques” was organized on 11 – 12 October, 2013 by the above centre. A total of 100 farmers of National Horticulture Mission (NHM) and National Mission on Micro Irrigation (NMII) from Coimbatore, Erode, Thiruppur and Nilgiri Districts participated. During the Inaugural session Dr. I. Muthuchamy, PI (PFDC) & Professor and Head, welcomed the gathering and discussed activities of PFDC and necessity of precision farming. Dr. C. Divaker Durairaj, Dean (i/c), AEC & RI, TNAU inaugurated the training programme and delivered the Presidential Address wherein he highlighted the importance of this training. Dr. M. Selva Murugan, Research Associate proposed a formal Vote of Thanks.

Training for the Prisoners of Cuddalore Central Prison



The KVK, Vridhachalam organized a one day self employment training on mushroom production for the prisoners lodged at the Central Prison, Cuddalore on 9.10.2013, in which 72 prisoners participated. Different types of mushrooms and their uses were explained by Dr. T. Saravanan, Assistant Professor (Plant Pathology). The step by step process in the cultivation of oyster mushroom and milky mushroom and a demonstration on paddy straw processing,

Seed Processing and Storage Unit for Spices at H.C & R.I., Periyakulam.

A new seed processing and storage unit for spices was declared open at Horticultural College and Research Institute, Periyakulam by Dr. S. Mahimairaja, Dean (Agri) i/c in the presence of Dr. R. Sankaranarayanan, Dean i/c, HC & RI, Periyakulam on 30th September, 2013. The unit was constructed with a plinth area of 1862 square feet at a budget of 17.90 lakhs by utilizing the NHM funds for

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2011 – 12. Dr. V. Ponnuswami, Former Dean, HC & RI, Periyakulam was the Special Invitee. The new building will be utilized for seed processing purpose and also for conducting practical classes for the students.

Plant Architectural Engineering in Apple



A special tree planting programme on Plant Architectural Engineering (PAE) in apple was organized at HRS, Kodaikanal on 10th October 2013. Dr. S. Mariappan, Dean (i/c), HC&RI, Coimbatore and Dr. M. Chinnadurai, Director (i/c) (CARDS), TNAU, Coimbatore participated and inaugurated the planting programme. Four spur and non spur low chilling apple varieties; Oregon Spur, Red Spur, Tropical Beauty & Parlins Beauty on biotic resistance and dwarfing rootstocks namely, MM -106 and M - 9 were planted with six training systems in an area of one acre. The PAE model will accommodate more number of plants per unit area, increase the productivity in temperate fruits which will be beneficial to the farming community.

Capacity Building Programme On Recent Trends In Agricultural Marketing

A two days capacity building programme on “Recent Trends in Agricultural Marketing” was organized by the Department of Market Extension, (DME) Directorate of Extension Education on 9-10 October, 2013 at TNAU, Coimbatore. Dr.K.A.Ponnusamy, Director (i/c)of Extension Education stressed the need and importance of the Capacity Building Programme during his Inaugural



Address. Fourteen scientists from KVKs and 15 Scientists from the Directorate of Extension Education participated in the training. Hands on training to use TNAU Agri Tech Portal and Market Intelligence and dissemination were imparted. Dr. P. Muthiah Manoharan, Professor and Head, DME as Co-ordinator and Dr. T .Alagumani and Dr. V. V. Krishnamurthi, Professors as Co-ordinators organized the programme.

Millets Pre Sowing Sensitization Meeting



Pre sowing technologies sensitization meeting for the identified Front Line Demonstration beneficiaries was held at RRS, Aruppukottai on 01.08.2013 under the plan scheme namely “Enhancing the productivity and value addition of millets through knowledge transfer and skill demonstrations.”A total of 15 farmers of chettikurichi village participated in the meeting. Dr. R. Ravikesavan, Professor and Head, Department of Millets Coimbatore and Dr. S. Rajaram, Professor and Head, RRS, Aruppukottai sensitized the farmers on the importance of the millet crops and the technologies to be adopted for higher productivity. Dr. A. Subramanian, Assistant Professor, (PB&G), Department of Millets and Dr. S. Muthuramu, Assistant Professor (PB&G), KVK, Aruppukottai spoke on the critical technologies in millet crops and answered the farmer queries. Seeds of improved varieties of sorghum, pearl millet, finger millet and barnyard millet of TNAU were distributed to the farmers along with other inputs during the meeting.

Training on Commodity Futures Market at HRS, Kodaikanal



A two days capacity building programme on “Commodity futures market” was organized by CARDS, TNAU in association with Forward Markets Commission and National Commodity and Derivative Exchange Ltd., Mumbai at Horticultural Research Station, Kodaikanal on 10 – 11th October, 2013. Dr. K. M. Shivakumar, Associate Professor (Agricultural Economics), welcomed the gathering. During the Inaugural Session of the training programme, Dr. M. Chinnadurai, Director (i/c), CARDS, TNAU, Coimbatore delivered the Presidential Address and emphasized the importance of agricultural marketing, role of marketing institutions in stabilizing the commodity prices, objectives of commodity futures and the way ahead for the growth of futures markets. Dr. S. Mariappan, Dean (i/c), Horticultural College and Research Institute, Coimbatore in his Special Address highlighted the commercial exploitation of horticultural crops, present need of increasing the productivity and importance of on-line marketing for high value crops for the benefit of farmers. Dr. V.V. Ganesan, Vice President, National Commodity Derivatives and Exchange Ltd. (NCDEX), Mumbai explained the functions of NCDEX in the field of futures market. Ms. Usha Pol, Director, FMC, Ministry of Finance, Government of India, Mumbai, in her Inaugural Address stressed the need for regulating commodity markets in India and the role of FMC on this. Dr. J. Rajangam, Professor and Head, Horticultural Research Station, Kodaikanal proposed a Vote of Thanks. Sixty participants including marketing students, extension functionaries, agricultural scientists and agro based entrepreneurs participated in the training programme

World Energy Day 2013

World Energy Day was celebrated on 22.10.2013 by the students of B.Tech (Energy and Environmental Engineering), Agricultural Engineering College and Research Institute (A.E.C & R.I.) TNAU, Coimbatore with various events on the theme “Less

energy loss, More energy conservation”. The awareness programme was organized at TNAU campus and other rural areas to emphasize the replacement of conventional electricity systems by renewable energy technologies/gadgets. More than 15 posters were designed by the students and displayed. The posters were self explanatory and contained the messages of energy consumption and conservation. Subsequently, an awareness camp was conducted at the Non Conventional Energy and Rural Development (NERD) Society premises at Vadavalli on 22.10.2013. The programme included demonstration of Compact Fluorescent Lamp (CFL) and Light Emitting Diode (LED) bulbs to replace incandescent bulbs, energy saving tips and quiz programme etc. The programmes were conducted involving leaders of around 20 Self Help Groups (SHG) in association with NERD Society.

Roof Gardening for Rural Youths



The KVK, Vriddhachalam organized a one day training programme on “Roof Gardening” to the rural youths of Cuddalore District on 23.10.2013, in which 69 urban as well as rural youth participated. Dr. S. Kannan, SMS (Home Science) inaugurated the training programme and explained the need and use of roof gardening. Dr. V. Vijaya Geetha SMS (Seed Technology) explained in detail the principles of roof gardening, window gardening, maintaining plants in

plates and bottles and different plants suitable for the purpose. The suitable crops such as flower crops, vegetables, medicinal plants, fruit crops and ornamental plants that can be grown very well in roof tops and also types of lawn grasses, methods of lawn making, advantage and disadvantage of roof top lawns and roof top plants were also explained. Dr. M.Malarkodi, SMS

(Soil Science) explained the different types of pots and containers for maintaining plants in roof tops, management of window gardens, preparation of compost and manures, cultural practices to be adopted, pest and disease management and post harvest operations to be followed. They also demonstrated how to create live fence in roof tops.

New Schemes

S. No.	Name of the Scheme	Principal / Co - Principal Investigator	Budget	Funding agency
1.	FAO-Hortivar Awareness Training Programme (Phase II)	Dr. C. Ravindran Assistant Professor (Hort.) KVK, Madurai	US\$ 6800	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome, Italy
2.	Value addition and waste utilization in banana pseudo stem (Phase I)	Dr. C. Ravindran Assistant Professor (Hort.) KVK, Madurai	Rs.25.41 lakh	Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (birac), SBIRI, DBT, New Delhi

Important Visitors

- Dr. Padmaraju, Vice Chancellor of ANGRAU, Hyderabad. Dr. Dubi Raz, Corporate Agronomy Director of Netafim, Israel, Dr. Randhir Chauhan, Managing Director Netafim(I) Ltd., Dr. Viraktamath, Project Co-ordinator, Directorate of Rice Research, Hyderabad, Thiru. Uri Rubinstein, Counsellor from Israel Embassy, New Delhi and Dr. Eli Vered, Head of R& D, Netafim, Israel visited TNAU to attend the three day Research Conference on "Drip Fertigation to Rice" held at TNAU on 17-19, October, 2013.
- Dr. S. Ayyappan, Director General, ICAR visited Tamil Nadu Rice Research Institute, Adhuthurai and KVK, Needamangalam on 08.10.2013
- Dr. S. Prabukumar Zonal Project Directorate visited KVK, Thiruvarur (Needamangalam) on 08.10.2013
- Dr. K. V. Rao, Head, Crop Production, Dr. G. Katti, Head, Crop Protection, Dr. G.S. Varaprasad, Senior Scientist, Crop Improvement, Dr. P. V. Sathyanarayana, Principal Scientist, RARS, Maruteru visited TRRI, Aduthurai on 28.10.2013 to monitor the ongoing AICRP - Rice experiments

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