



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

VISIT OF HONOURABLE MINISTER TO RRS, PAIYUR.



Honourable Minister for Municipal Administration, Rural Development, Prisons, Law and Justice Thiru. K. P. Munusamy visited the Regional Research Station, Paiyur on 29.9.2013. During the visit,

Dr. M. N. Budhar, Professor & Head appraised the activities of the station viz., quality seed production in paddy, minor millets, pulses, forage crops, vegetables, production of bio control agents, biofertilizers and quality mango grafts which are distributed to the farming community. More than 6500 farmers from all over Tamil Nadu benefit by visiting this station every year. Dr. C. Sivakumar, Assistant Professor (Agronomy) demonstrated the drum seeding technology. The Honourable Minister appreciated the 13 traditional and recently released paddy varieties which were established through drum seeding technology. The scientists interacted with the Honourable Minister on the development of Hi-tech agricultural and horticultural technologies. The Honourable Minister appreciated the involvement of RRS, Paiyur through research for the upliftment of farming community.

Farmers Interaction Meeting With Prof. Dr. M. S. Swaminathan



Farmers interaction meeting with eminent agricultural scientist Prof. Dr. M.S. Swaminathan (Emeritus Chairman, MSSRF, Chennai) was held at Tamil Nadu Rice Research Institute (TRRI), Aduthurai on 01.10.2013. Dr. K. Ramasamy, Vice Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Agricultural

University (TNAU), Coimbatore, Dr. H.S. Gupta, Vice Chancellor cum Director, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, Dr.A. K. Singh, Division of Plant Breeding, IARI were also present in the interaction meeting. Dr. R. Rajendran, Director i/c, TRRI, Aduthurai welcomed the gathering. Farmers of Cauvery Delta Zone interacted and discussed with Prof. Dr. M. S. Swaminathan on the alternate cropping pattern for Cauvery Delta region, organic farming, constituting Special Economic Zone for Cauvery Delta region, awards and recognitions for the farmers by the government and reduction of interest rate for agricultural loans. Prof. Dr. M.S. Swaminathan and Vice Chancellor, TNAU replied to the farmers queries. Prof. Dr. M. S. Swaminathan advised the farmers to choose alternate cropping system based on the soil fertility, water availability and market demand. He also suggested to follow sustainable agriculture in order to maintain soil health and ground water level. Dr. K. Karunanithi, Professor (Plant Pathology), TRRI, proposed a Vote of Thanks.

Science Club Meeting at Tamil Nadu Rice Research Institute, Aduthurai



Science Club meeting was held at TRRI, Aduthurai on 2nd September, 2013. The Founder Director of TRRI, Aduthurai, Dr. S. Chelliah participated and graced the occasion. Dr. S. Sadakathullah, Dr. B. Velayudham, Dr. Meer Zainudeen retired Professors of Entomology, Dr. K. Natarajan, Retired Professor of Soil Science, TRRI Aduthurai and few senior Professor and Heads of Region II Research Stations and Scientists of TRRI also participated in the meeting. Dr. R. Rajendran, Director i/c, TRRI, welcomed the gathering and highlighted the revival of Science Club and the future activities of the Club. Dr. S. Chelliah delivered a lecture on "Shift in Research Directions" and discussed the future strategies for research activities. He also mentioned about the establishment of Information Cell at TRRI to update the recent information on agriculture to the scientists and also emphasized to explore the feasibility of strengthening research on abiotic stress management in rice. Retired professors of TRRI were also honoured during Science Club meeting. Dr. T. Ramesh, Assistant Professor (Agronomy), TRRI, made a presentation on "Water use and rice culture". Dr. Sangeetha Panicker, Professor (Plant Pathology) proposed a Vote of Thanks.

Centre For Advanced Faculty Training on Micro Irrigation and Fertigation



A 21 day training on "Recent Advances in Micro Irrigation and Fertigation" was conducted by the Department of Agronomy, Directorate of Crop

Management, TNAU, Coimbatore under the auspices of Centre of Advanced Faculty Training in Agronomy sponsored by ICAR, New Delhi during September 04 - 24, 2013. Sixteen scientists from all over India participated. The programme was inaugurated on September 4, 2013 by Dr. Anil Kumar Singh, Vice Chancellor, Rajmata Vijayaraje Scindia Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya (RVSKVV), Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh. He emphasised that India needs more than 300 million tonnes of food grains to feed 1.6 billion people by 2050. Government of India is spending Rs. 1.2 - 1.5 lakh per ha for developing surface irrigation projects and hence the cost for establishment of micro irrigation systems are comparatively lower. Dr. R.K. Sivanappan, Former Director, Water Technology Centre, TNAU in his Special Address mentioned that in Tamil Nadu only three lakh ha is under sugarcane and by introducing drip fertigation, it is possible to double the sugarcane yield. He also stated that in Tamil Nadu 14.5% of the total water is available for irrigation, of which, water allotted for sugarcane, rice and banana alone accounts for 90% implying the need to conserve water by greater efficiency. Dr. R. Rabindran, Registrar i/c., TNAU, appealed controlled irrigation saves inputs and resource base such as soil and water. He exhorted the trainees to develop advanced Micro Irrigation Systems of their respective domains utilizing the knowledge gained from this training. Dr. K. Velayudham, Director, i/c Crop Management delivered the Special Address and Dr. N. Asoka Raja, Professor and Head, Department of Agronomy and Course Director briefed the course contents and Dr. M. Mohamed Amanullah, Professor and Course Coordinator, proposed a Vote of Thanks. Dr. K. Ramasamy, Vice Chancellor, TNAU, delivered the Valedictory Address on 24.09.2014 and emphasized that drip irrigation should be popularized for crops with adventitious root system and also for light textured soil.

Motivational Talk on 'Youth Power - Believe in Yourself'

The renowned hypnotist and hypnotherapist Dr. D. Srinivasan, DPM, MD (Psy) delivered a lecture on Youth Power on 17.09.2013 organized by the Directorate of Students Welfare, TNAU, Coimbatore. In his lecture, he highlighted the role of teacher in mentoring the youth power. He spelt out that the youth power has the potential to perform more than what they are doing now. He advised students to select more number of role models and imbibe their qualities in their life. He emphasized that there should be an action plan as "Thoughts become actions and actions become habits". He also stated if only you imagine it, you achieve



it and if only you dream it, you become it. He concluded his speech stating that one can live either by chance or choice. Subsequently, the Educational Advisor, Ms. Tina Joseph Jacob of French Embassy, Chennai, delivered a lecture on higher education in France and indicated the career opportunities in France, followed by Mr. P.M. Austin, CEO, Max Value Online, Chennai who delivered a speech on "Online coaching for competitive exams". Dr. N. Ragupathi, Director, Students Welfare, welcomed the gathering and Dr.M.K.Siva, Professor (Education) in TNAU, Coimbatore proposed a Vote of Thanks.

Formation of Farmer Producer Companies at KVK, Vridhachalam



An orientation training was conducted at KVK, Vridhachalam on 30.09.2013, in which 26 leading flower producers from Cuddalore District participated. Dr. S. Selvam, Executive Director of Agrl. Marketing Intelligence and Business Promotion Centre, Trichy, was the Master Trainer. He explained the modalities of organizing producer companies among flower growers and the benefits which can be derived from national and international governmental and non governmental agencies. The challenges and issues in the flower business were also discussed. Dr. R. Arunachalam, Programme Co - ordinator of the KVK delivered Introductory Address. Thiru. T. Mohandoss, Assistant Director of Horticulture and Tmt. A. Chitra, Agricultural Officer (Marketing) also participated and gave technical guidance to the farmers. Dr. S. Kannan, Assistant Professor (Home Science) proposed a Vote of Thanks.

Training on Tree Cover Assessment to Combat Pollution in Chennai

"One day Programme on "Training and awareness on tree cover assessment to combat pollution in Chennai" was organized by Forest College and Research Institute (FC & RI), Mettupalayam on



12.09.2013 at Chennai. Thiru. Gautam Dey, I.F.S., Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Head of Forest Force and the Chief Guest for the training in his Address highlighted that young trees absorb CO₂ at a rate of 6 kilograms per tree every year and release enough oxygen back into the atmosphere to support two persons, thus could save consumers billions of Rupees each year on utility bills. Dr. K. Ramasamy, Vice Chancellor, TNAU Presided over the function and remarked that the scientific research is the need of the hour and the tree cover will be increased by following advanced techniques for commercial tree planting, silvicultural management of urban trees and protection and maintenance of urban tree planting. Dr. P. Durairasu, I.F.S., Dean, FC & RI in his introductory remarks stated that improving the quality and quantity of the City's urban forest by providing and integrating systematic planning processes will maximize the benefits from the urban forest. Dr. H. Malleshappa, I.F.S., Director, Department of Environment in his Felicitation Address said that to overcome environmental challenges, policies and scientific practices should emphasize the critical necessity of green areas within urban - social-ecological systems. Over 250 participants from NGO's, Volunteers and staff of Eco Clubs from city colleges, officials from State Forest and Agricultural Departments participated in the training. Lectures on Tree Cover Assessment in Chennai, Experience Sharing, Urban Pollution Assessment of Chennai were delivered during the occasion. Dr. A. Balasubramanian, Professor and Head, Department of Forest Ecology and Environment, FC & RI, Mettupalayam welcomed the gathering. Dr. I. Sekar, Professor and Head, Department of Forest Products and Utilization, FC & RI, Mettupalayam proposed a Vote of Thanks.

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Introducing Groundnut Stripper

A field demonstration was organized at *Chakkavayal* village of Sakkottai Block in Sivaganga District to introduce the machinery for stripping of groundnut pods in a farmer's field on 31.07.2013 in



collaboration with the ADA, Sakkottai. The groundnut stripper available at Dry Land Agricultural Research Station, Chettinad was taken to the farmer's field and the stripping was demonstrated. The groundnut growers were advised to form groups and purchase one unit for their own use. Dr. C. Swaminathan, Professor and Head and Scientists of DARS, Chettinad demonstrated groundnut stripping.

Kudiraivali Field Day



The much talked crop of recent days Kudiraivali was reintroduced to the farmers of Sivaganga District and grown in the field of a progressive woman farmer Mrs. Amsavalli at *Sithivayal* village of Sakkottai Block. Seeds of Kudiraivali Co (kv) 2 were supplied by DARS, Chettinad and the agro technology was also provided to the farmer then and there. In this regard, a Field Day was organized on 31.07.2013 in collaboration with the ADA, Sakkottai. The Professor and Head and scientists of DARS; ADA and field functionaries and farmers participated in the programme

Training Programme on Sustainable Sugarcane Initiative at ARS, Bhavanisagar

A training programme on "Sustainable Sugarcane Initiative (SSI) Technology" was organized



at ARS, Bhavanisagar under Capacity Building for Adoption Technology programme (CAT) of NABARD from 16th to 18th July, 2013. On the first day of the training programme, Mr. G. Santhanam, Assistant General Manager, NABARD, Erode Presided over and Inaugurated the function. Dr. V.K. Duraisamy, Professor and Head, delivered the Welcome Address. Dr. B. J. Pandian, Director, WTC, TNAU, Coimbatore delivered the Special Address on "Scope of SSI in Tamil Nadu and its concept" and Mr. R. Boopalan, Director, Canara Bank, Rural Self Employment Training Centre, Erode also delivered a Special Address. Twenty five farmers from Erode District participated in the training programme. The scientists of ARS, Bhavanisagar delivered technical information on various aspects of "Sustainable Sugarcane Initiative (SSI) Technology" to farmers. A field visit was organized in K.N. Palayam village, Erode District where a nursery for production of sugarcane seedlings was established by Thiru Karuppanagounder. Dr. K. Ramah, Assistant Professor coordinated the training programme.

Orientation Programme for Agricultural Officers at KVK, Madurai



An orientation training programme for the newly recruited Agricultural Officers of State Department of Agriculture was organized for five days from 19.08.13 to 23.08.13 at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Madurai. Dr. C.Chinnusamy, Dean, i/c, AC & RI, Madurai

inaugurated the Orientation Programme in the presence of Thiru. A.J.A. Jeyasingh Gnanadurai, Joint Director of Agriculture and Dr. N.S. Venkataraman, programme coordinator, KVK, Madurai. Fifty Agricultural Officers from nine Southern Districts viz., Madurai, Dindigul, Theni, Sivaganga, Viruthunagar, Ramnathapuram, Tuticorin, Tirunelveli and Kanyakumari participated and got trained in various aspects of establishment, technical, maintenance of records, audit and other aspects. These lectures were delivered by resource persons from Department of Agriculture, Statistics, and KVKs.

Coconut Cultivation Technology at CRS, Aliyar Nagar



Considering the importance and potential of coconut cultivation, the Directorate of Open and Distance Learning, TNAU, Coimbatore is offering a six month Certificate Programme on Coconut Cultivation through Coconut Research Station (CRS), Aliyar Nagar. So far 252 candidates completed this programme. The students include small and marginal coconut growers as well as entrepreneurs. In lieu of completion of 2012-13 Batch, a function was organized at CRS, Aliyar Nagar to distribute the Certificates to the candidates who had successfully completed the programme on 08.08.2013. A total of 32 students attended the function and received their certificates from Dr. P. Santhy, Director(i/c), Open and Distance Learning, TNAU, Coimbatore. The function was Presided over by Dr. N. Shoba, Professor and Head, CRS, Aliyar Nagar. Dr. P. Santhi, Professor (Agronomy) and Co-ordinator of the Certificate Course programmes, narrated the importance of ODL programmes to the participants and invited them to study many other courses, which will guide them to take agriculture in a more sustainable way. Among the participants 16 were graduates and six were women, aged from 20 to 68 years and most importantly a father and a son, and a mother and a daughter were part of the programme. Dr. M. Gopalakrishnan, Assistant Professor (Soil Science) proposed a formal Vote of Thanks.

Certificate Distribution Function at DODL, TNAU, Coimbatore



To disseminate the latest technologies on composting, the Directorate of Open and Distance Learning (DODL), TNAU offered six months certificate course on "Solid Waste Management and Vermicompost Production Technology" during 2012-2013 to the students at Cambridge Matriculation School, Pantampalayam village, Cheyur, Avinashi Taluk, Tirupur District. It was the first time that school students were trained on the environment related technology through an Agricultural University along with their regular studies. The certificate distribution function was held on 24.07.2013 at DODL, Coimbatore. Dr. P. Venkatachalam, Professor (Bio-energy) welcomed the gathering. Dr. P. Santhy, Director (ODL) i/c, in her Inaugural Address emphasised the importance of composting the disposed waste as manure for healthy environment. Dr. M. Maheswaran, Director of Research i/c and Chief Guest of the function distributed the Certificates to the students. Mr. K. Duraisamy, Secretary, Cambridge Matriculation Higher Secondary School and the students expressed the practical utility of the vermicompost certificate programme. The function ended with a formal Vote of Thanks by Dr. S. Velmurugan, Assistant Professor (Horticulture).

Participation of TRRI, Aduthurai in Agrotech Festival 2013



TRRI, Aduthurai participated in the two days National workshop cum showcasing agricultural technologies, Agrotech Festival, 2013 organised by Periyar Maniammai University, Vallam, Tanjore on 30th and 31st of August, 2013. TRRI exhibited the latest varieties released from the institute and showcased the

recent agricultural technologies. About 500 farmers visited the stall and benefitted. Dr. R. Rajendran, Director i/c, TRRI delivered a lecture on "input management for cost effective cultivation".

NEW SCHEMES

S. No.	Name of the Scheme	Principal / Co - Principal Investigator	Budget (Lakh Rs.)	Funding agency
1.	Nano Technological Strategies for seed invigoration in rainfed groundnut	P.I : Dr. N. Natarajan Professor Co - PI : Dr. K.S. Subramanian Professor	25.00	Department of Science & Technology, Government of India, New Delhi

Important Visitors

- Dr. S. Chellaiah, Founder Director, TRRI, Visited TRRI and participated in the TRRI Science Club meeting at Aduthurai on 2.9.2013
- Drs. Jim Dale and Harjeet Khanna of Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane visited Centre for Plant Molecular Biology to review the progress of Indo-Queensland Banana Biofortification work on 10.9.2013
- Dr. Swami Subramanian, Former Director (CSCMS), TNAU, Coimbatore visited and had general discussion about his experience and suggestions for future line of work at TRRI, Aduthurai on 15.9.2013
- Dr. A. K. Singh, Professor and Programme leader (Rice), IARI visited the Centre for Plant Molecular Biology on 17.9.2013
- The Committee on Papers Laid on Floor of Tamil Nadu Assembly visited important research facilities at TNAU, Coimbatore on 18.9.2013
- Dr. V. Veerabhadriah, Chairman, NICRA Monitoring Committee, Dr. S. Prabhukumar, ZPD and NICRA scientists visited Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Needamangalam on 24.09.2013.

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