



TNAU NEWS

TAMIL NADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY NEWS LETTER

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Planning & Monitoring

ஊருக்கெல்லாம் உணவளிக்கும் உத்தம உழவர்களுக்கு
உதவிக்கரம் நீட்டும் பல்கலைக்கழகம்

Visit of Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture to Tapioca and Castor Research Station, Yethapur



The Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture, Thiru. Agri. S.S. Krishnamoorthy visited Tapioca and Castor Research Station, Yethapur on 07.06.2014. The Hon'ble Minister was appraised about the horticulture and agriculture technologies for increasing the productivity of tapioca and castor. After observing the various research activities undertaken he emphasized the need for distribution of quality seeds and vegetative propagating materials for getting higher productivity to benefit the farming community. Thiru. Elangovan, State President, Co-Operative Bank, Tamil Nadu and other line department officials also participated in the programme. Dr. S. Manickam, Professor and Head, welcomed the gathering and explained the activities of the Research Station.

Training Programme on Commodity Futures Markets



A Capacity Building Programme on Commodity Futures Markets was jointly organized by the Department of Agricultural Economics, Centre for Agricultural Development Studies (CARDS), Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore and Forward Markets Commission (FMC), Mumbai at Agricultural Research Station, Kovilpatti on 3rd and 4th of March, 2014. This training programme about the futures market's functions, regulation and its importance was organized for agricultural scientists, research scholars and agricultural extension officials from Thoothukudi and Tirunelveli Districts. Dr. D. Jawahar, Professor and Head, Agricultural Research Station, Kovilpatti welcomed the gathering and explained various activities of the Agricultural Research Station, Kovilpatti. The capacity building programme was inaugurated by Dr. M. Mathisekaran, Member, Forward Markets Commission, Government of India, Mumbai. Dr. M. Chinnadurai, Director (i/c), CARDS, TNAU, Coimbatore delivered the Presidential Address and narrated the present scenario of agriculture in Tamil Nadu and explained various problems faced by the farmers and also how to make use of the new marketing platform to safeguard the producers from market risks and the need of new marketing systems for agricultural commodities in order to get higher net income for the farmers. Mr. Davey Cherimulah, Manager NCDEX, Mumbai in his Introductory Address highlighted the role of marketing institutions in stabilizing the commodity prices, regulation of commodity markets and the way ahead for the growth of commodity futures markets. Dr. S. Angles, Assistant Professor, Department of Agricultural Economics, TNAU, Coimbatore proposed a formal Vote of Thanks.

Training to IAS Probationers on Advanced Skills in Agriculture



A training was organized to nine IAS Probationers of 2012 batch on 14th, 18th and 19th March 2014 at TNAU, Coimbatore to inculcate technical knowledge in agriculture and allied sciences so as to enhance their managerial capabilities. The training covered transfer of technology, agricultural education, agricultural research, horticultural development, latest development in paddy, millets, pulses, irrigation management, e-extension, nano technology and farm mechanisation.

Dr. H. Philip, Professor and Head, Training Division welcomed the participants and explained about the new initiative in transfer of technology. The trainees were taken to various facilities in TNAU. Dr. K.A. Ponnusamy, Director of Extension Education (i/c), TNAU shared his experiences on extension education activities with the participants. Dr. K. Ramasamy, Vice Chancellor, TNAU narrated the development of agriculture and TNAU's contributions for the development. Dr. C. Sylandrababu, IPS, ADGP, Chennai also interacted with the trainees. The training programme was coordinated by Dr.R.Jansirani, Professor (Agricultural Extension) of the Directorate of Extension Education, TNAU, Coimbatore.

NSS SPECIAL CAMP

NSS special camp for the year 2013-14 was conducted at Narasingam Village of Madurai East block from 25th May to 31st May, 2014. Ninety nine volunteers from the NSS units of Agricultural College and Research Institute and Home Science College and Research Institute, Madurai attended the camp. Prior to the special camp, a resource



inventory of the village was taken by the students and a comprehensive report was prepared based on which various events were organized. The camp included activities, trainings, rallies and skits pertaining to Public Health and environmental awareness, Rural hygiene and organic agriculture, Youth welfare, entrepreneurship opportunities in agro based ventures like mushroom production, vermicompost, honey bee rearing, banana fibre products, Jasmine processing and value addition of millets, vegetables and fruits, holistic rural development, Yoga for Human and excellence and women self employment. Tree planting around the Narasingam Panchayat union office was taken up by the student volunteers followed by an interactive and practical session on Yoga the way to better self discovery by Thiru. R. Neelamegam, Co-ordinator, World community Service Centre on the first day of the camp. During the programme various camps viz., health camps, veterinary camp etc., were organized in collaboration with local hospitals and State Bank of India for the benefit of the villagers. About 542 villagers including women and children benefited from the above campaigns. Besides, lectures and exhibitions by the Scientists of Agricultural College and Home Science college involving production of biofertilizers, biopesticides, nutritive food and personal health, improved agronomic practices, soil testing, use of improved tools and machineries were held on daily basis. The competitions for the village school going children on sports and cultural were also organized at evening hours. Dr. C. Chinnusamy, Dean (i/c), Agricultural College and Research Institute, Madurai initiated the tree planting activity named "GO GREEN" during the special camp. Dr.B.B.Saliha and Dr. K. Chandrakumar, NSS programme officers co - ordinated the Special camp activities. Dr.K.Kumutha, NSS programme co - ordinator, TNAU, Coimbatore also interacted with the NSS students. Tmt. Vijayalakshmi Baskar, Narasingam President along with the villagers extended their full support and co - operation in organizing the week long special camp.

Agri Expo at Madurai



The United Trade Fairs India Pvt. Ltd., Coimbatore, organized an Agricultural Exhibition 'United Agri Tech 2014' during June 19 - 22, 2014 at Madurai. The Agricultural College and Research Institute and Home Science College and Research Institute, Madurai, extended technical support and the technologies related to crop improvement, crop management, crop protection, horticulture, technologies developed from Home Science College and Research Institute were displayed in the exhibition with the participation of scientists, scholars and entrepreneurs trained by the Directorate of Agri Business Development (ABD) and KVK. Dr.C.Chinnusamy, Dean (i/c), Agricultural College and Research Institute, Madurai inaugurated the four days exhibition and underlined the need for organizing such events to transfer latest technologies to the farming community. More than 24,000 farmers and visitors benefited from the exhibition.

Training on Weed Management



A training programme on "Weed Management" for the benefit of sales and marketing team of M/s Coromandel International Ltd., was organized at the Department of Agronomy, Agricultural College and Research Institute, Madurai on 13 - 14 June, 2014.

Dr. C. Chinnusamy, Dean (i/c) inaugurated the training programme and delivered a special lecture on herbicide resistant weeds and herbicide resistant crops and emphasized the importance of weed control. Dr. R. Balasubramanian, Professor and Head, Department of Agronomy delivered a lecture on integrated Weed Management in crops and selectivity of herbicides. The training programme included weed identification and assessment of intensity, herbicide application techniques, Weed Management in major crops and nanotechnology application in weed science. Mr. B.S. Sampathkumar, Senior Zonal Manager, M/s. Coromandel International Ltd., arranged the training programme.

Establishment of CFTRI supported Food Tech Laboratory



A discussion meeting on Establishment of Food Processing Technology and Quality Control Laboratory at Agricultural College and Research Institute, Madurai Campus with the support of Central Food Technology Research Institute (CFTRI), Mysore was held on 16.06.2014 under the Chairmanship of Dr.K.Ramasamy, Vice Chancellor, TNAU. The Vice Chancellor in his Presidential Address emphasized the need for the involvement of TNAU and CFTRI, Mysore to establish Food Process Technology and Quality Control Laboratory as mutual partner for getting benefit. Dr. Ram Rajasekharan, Director, CFTRI, Mysore in his address to the audience, indicated that the CFTRI has interest in establishment of Laboratory in Tamil Nadu at AC & RI, Madurai so as to cater to the need of Tamil Nadu people. Dr. C. Chinnusamy, Dean (i/c), AC&RI, Madurai welcomed the gathering. Dr. G. Pushpa, Dean (i/c), Home Science College and Research Institute, Madurai proposed a formal Vote of Thanks.

Green the Brown - Mass Tree Planting at DARS, Chettinad



The Science Forum of Dryland Agricultural Research Station, Chettinad organized a mass tree planting programme to commemorate the World Environment Day on 5th June, 2014, under the banner “Green the Brown” meaning greening of the brown lands for increasing the tree cover in Dryland and waste lands to combat climate change and livelihood security of humans and animals. During this event all the technical and non-teaching staff and farm labourers planted hundreds of tree saplings in three acres of land in the farm. Dr. P. Kathirvelan, Assistant Professor (Agronomy) and Dr. M. Sivaprakash, Assistant Professor (Forestry) made elaborate arrangements for mass planting of tree saplings in the farm.

HRS, Yercaud Received Award



The Horticultural Research Station, Yercaud participated and displayed variety of cut flowers, cut foliage, ornamental plants and herbal plants in the 39th flower show organized by Department of Horticulture, Salem on 7-8 June, 2014 and won a special prize for the floral gallery and first place for the Best Institutional landscape. The event was inaugurated by Honourable Minister for Agriculture Thiru. Agri. S.S. Krishnamurthy. Honourable Minister for

Highways and Small Port Thiru. Edapaddi K Palanisamy inaugurated the stalls exhibited by different development departments of Tamil Nadu. Honourable Minister for Tourism Thiru. S.P. Shanmuganathan and the District Collector Mr. K. Maharabushanam also participated and addressed the gathering. Dr. K.Nageswari, Professor & Head, HRS, Yercaud honoured the Chief Guests and explained the significance of cut flowers and dry flowers displayed in the stall. All the staff members of HRS, Yercaud participated.

Training on Community Nursery Management



Trainings on community nursery management for Kuruvai season was organized jointly by KVK and the local extension functionaries on 24 - 26, June, 2014 for five intensive kuruvai cultivating blocks of Cuddalore district viz., Kattumannarkoil, Parangipettai, Keerapalayam, Kumaratchi and Melbhuvanagiri. Totally 168 farmers participated and benefitted. Dr. V.Vijaya Geetha, Subject Matter Specialist (Seed Science and Technology) explained in detail about community nursery management, benefits of community nursery, steps to be followed in the formation of community nursery and also demonstrated the formation of community nursery at farmers' field and State Seed Farms at Vandurayanpet and Miralur. Dr. T.Saravanan, Subject Matter Specialist (Pathology) explained in detail about pest and disease management in paddy nursery. The district extension functionaries made elaborate arrangements for the successful conduct of the trainings.

Project Review Committee (PRC) Meeting For DSIR Schemes

Second Project Review Committee (PRC) meeting to review the projects entitled "Technological empowerment and sustainable livelihood security of tribal women through



agricultural farm productivity and employment generation activities in Kalrayan hills of Tamil Nadu" and "Generating Secured Income for farm Women through Dissemination of Hybrid Castor Production Technology" supported under Technology Development and Utilization Programme for Women (TDUPW) of Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR) was held on 18.06.2014 at Tapioca and Castor Research Station, Yethapur, Salem District, Tamil Nadu. Dr. S. Manickam, Professor and Head, welcomed the dignitaries and participants. The meeting began with brief introduction of the members by Dr. Ramunuj Banerjee, Scientist-D, DSIR. Dr. M. K. Kalarani, Professor (Crop Physiology) cum Principal Investigator of the tribal women scheme and Dr. G. Selvarani, Assistant Professor (Agricultural Extension) cum Principal Investigator of the hybrid castor scheme presented the technical and financial progress of the project. Dr. N. Natrajan, Professor (Agricultural Entomology) cum Chairman of the PRC, Dr. B. Geetha, Assistant Professor (Agricultural Entomology), Member of PRC for tribal women schemes, Dr. R. Kavimani, Professor and Head, CRS, Veppanthattai, Perambalur, cum Chairman of the PRC, Dr. S. Manickam, Professor and Head, TCRS, Yethapur and Member of PRC for hybrid castor schemes participated. Dr. Ramunuj Banerjee, Scientist-D and Co-Chairman and Member Secretary for DSIR schemes appreciated the progress of the scheme work and interacted with the project beneficiaries regarding the usefulness of the scheme. The meeting concluded with vote of thanks by Dr. S. R. Venkatachalam, Professor (PB&G), TCRS, Yethapur.

Hybrid Castor RCH 1 Field Day

A Field Day was organized on "Castor hybrid YRCH 1 cultivation" by Tapioca and Castor Research Station (TCRS), Yethapur in



T collaboration with KVK, Needamangalam and Directorate of Oilseeds Research (DOR), Hyderabad on 25.06.2014 at Vellakudi village, Needamangalam block, Thiruvarur district. **N** Dr. A. Joseph Prabakaran, PI, AICRP-Castor, DOR, Dr. S. Manickam, Professor and Head, TCRS, Dr. S. R. Venkatachalam, Prof. (PB&G) and Dr. K. Thirukumar, Assistant Professor (Agronomy) and scientists of KVK, Needamangalam participated in the programme. **A** Thirty farmers participated in the programme. **U** The performance of the crop happened to be good and farmers are willing to cultivate castor in the ensuing season. The objective is to spread hybrid castor technology in the rice fallow areas of Cauvery Delta Zone.

Training on Sustainable Sugarcane Initiative (SSI) Technologies

N Training on “Sustainable Sugarcane Initiative (SSI) technologies” was organized by Tapioca and Castor Research Station, Yethapur sponsored by NRTT scheme at Kadayampatti block on 27.06.2014. **E** Dr. S. Manickam, Professor and Head, TCRS, Yethapur cum Principal Investigator of the NRTT scheme namely “Popularization of SSI technology in Salem district” **W** inaugurated the training and emphasized the SSI technologies for increasing the productivity and

Important Visitors

S < Mr. J. Sundar, Programme Executive, Prasar Bharati, Doordarshan Kendra, Chennai visited Agricultural Research Station, Vaigai Dam on 24.03.2014



reducing the cost of cultivation in sugarcane. Dr. M. Senthilkumar, Assistant Professor (Agricultural Entomology) delivered a lecture on “Integrated pest and disease management technologies in Sugarcane”. Thiru. Senthilnathan, Programme Assistant (Technical) explained “Sustainable Sugarcane Initiative (SSI) technologies”. Agriculture department officials and scientists participated. Totally 58 farmers benefited by this training programme.

Nursery Technique for Machine Transplanting

With a view to reduce the labour scarcity and to enhance the community nursery for Kuruvai season, on Campus training on nursery techniques for machine transplanting was given to 30 farmers at KVK, Needamangalam. The training was arranged by Dr. A. Kamaraj, Assistant Professor (Agricultural Engineering) on 19.06.2014. The farmers were trained on tray nursery techniques and mat nursery techniques. The farmers and farm women were given the field training and field demonstration of the above techniques and they themselves raised both nursery. They were also taught about the advantage of community nursery and about the commercial competition and potential of rice nursery industry.

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