



TNAU NEWS

TAMIL NADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY NEWS LETTER

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Planning & Monitoring

ஊருக்கெல்லாம் உணவளிக்கும் உத்தம உழவர்களுக்கு
உதவிக்கரம் நீட்டும் பல்கலைக்கழகம்

Monograph on GPS and GIS based Soil Fertility Released



A book entitled “GPS and GIS based Soil Fertility Appraisal for Selected Districts of Tamil Nadu - A Monograph” was released by Dr.Sandeep Saxena, IAS, Agricultural Production Commissioner and Principal Secretary to Government of Tamil Nadu on 4th March 2014 in the Orientation Workshop on National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) at TNAU, Coimbatore. The first copy was received by Dr. K. Ramasamy, Vice Chancellor, TNAU, Coimbatore in his Inaugural Address emphasized fertilization based on Soil Test Crop Response System for the maintenance of soil health.

Dr. M. Velayutham, Former Director, National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning, Nagpur (ICAR) highlighted the Monograph as a precise documentation to serve as an appropriate tool for macro level planning and soil health maintenance in the State of Tamil Nadu. The information contained in the monograph will be useful to researchers, planners, policy makers, extension workers of the State Department of Agriculture, fertiliser industries and farmers. Dr. R. Jayakumar, Professor and Head, Department of Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry, TNAU, Coimbatore briefed about the content of the book and proposed a formal Vote of Thanks.

ISOPOM - Maize Training



Training under Integrated Scheme on Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil palm and Maize (ISOPOM) for the extension functionaries was conducted at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Vriddhachalam on 4th and 5th of March, 2014. Thirty extension functionaries from Cuddalore, Villupuram and Thiruvannamalai districts had participated. Sessions on the importance of maize, suitable seasons, promising varieties, cultivation techniques, pest and disease management and post harvest technologies were organised. Dr.K.Venkatalakshmi, Assistant Professor (Agronomy), Dr.V. Vijayageetha, Assistant Professor (Seed Science), Dr. T. Saravanan, Assistant Professor (Plant Pathology) and Dr. S. Kannan, Assistant Professor (Home Science) served as resource persons. Dr. R. Arunachalam, Professor and Head arranged the training.

Roof Gardening



The KVK, Vriddhachalam has established a roof garden on the roof top of its Farmers' Residency with tomato, brinjal, annual moringa, cauliflower, cabbage, bush type lab lab, bitter gourd, ribbed gourd, greens and flowers. A herbal collection consisting of thulsi, karisilangani, toothuvalai, vettiver, omavalli, karpooravalli, kesavarthini, akra, sadavari, sitharathai, vallarai, etc. is also maintained. Training to the farmers and rural youth are arranged on the principles and procedures of raising crops in roof gardens. The Vice Chancellor, TNAU visited the roof garden on 24.03.2014 and gave suggestions and guidelines to improve the roof garden potentialities.

TNAU NSS Volunteers at State Level Seminar



Forty one National Service Scheme Volunteers of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore belonging to different degree programmes participated in the Seminar on Technologies for Rural Development organized by the NSS unit of Sri Krishna College of Engineering and Technology, Coimbatore on 19th March 2014. The Maximum number of participants' award was bagged by the TNAU students. Ms. B. Priyanka and Ms. R. NandithaKarpakam, I B.Tech (Energy and Environment Engineering) bagged the first prize for their ideas on efficient management of organic wastes in rural areas including food and human wastes and their conversion to energy and manure. Ms.B.Shafana Yasmin, II B.Tech (Agricultural Information Technology) and Ms. R. Abarna, II B.Tech (Horticulture) were awarded third prize for their idea on integrated green management including solar lighting, biogas cooking, roof gardening and the concept of Agriculture Information Centre which provides

inputs and advisory for farmers. Dr. K. Kumutha, NSS Programme Coordinator and Dr. M. R. Latha, NSS Programme Officer coordinated the programme for TNAU.

Training on “Summer Sorghum Cultivation”



A training was organized on 14.03.2014 at RVS KVK, Oormelazhagian, Ayikudi, Tenkasi Taluk, Tirunelveli District to create awareness on 'Summer Sorghum Cultivation' to the farmers of Naynagaram, Sivarampettai, Kadayanallur block and Extension officers of Madurai and Virudhunagar Districts, by the All India Co-ordinated Sorghum Improvement Project scheme operated at Agricultural Research Station, Kovilpatti. Dr. D. Jawahar, Professor and Head, Agricultural Research Station, Kovilpatti welcomed the gathering and highlighted importance of sorghum as an alternate millet crop for maize in summer season. Mr. K. Soundararajan, Joint Director of Agriculture, Tirunelveli district explained the local cultivation aspects of summer sorghum. Dr. J. V. Patel, Director, Directorate of Sorghum Research, Hyderabad emphasized the tolerance of sorghum varieties for drought situation and released a booklet on summer sorghum cultivation. He emphasized doubling of yield if sorghum is cultivated under summer irrigated condition, besides the use of stalk as green fodder for all livestock. Dr. T. S Mishra and Dr. R. R. Chapke, scientists from Directorate of Sorghum Research explained with the video clippings of rice fallow/summer sorghum cultivation and importance of sorghum hybrids for stress condition. Dr. A. Kalaisekaran and Dr. P. Anandhi, Entomologists explained the incidence of pest and diseases of sorghum and recommended the plant protection measures for controlling these pest and diseases in sorghum. Mr. B. Rex, Deputy Director of Agriculture advised the farmers to utilize the residual moisture after harvest of rice crop for

growing sorghum as rice fallow crop. Dr. R. Sankarapandian, Sorghum Breeder explained the economic importance and value added products of sorghum and proposed a formal Vote of Thanks.

Training cum interaction Meeting with Flower Growers Association



The Department of Market Extension of the Directorate of Extension Education, TNAU organized a day long training cum interaction meeting at Sathyamangalam of Erode District on 10.03.2014. One hundred members of Flower Growers' Association participated in the programme. The theme of the interaction was “Market-led Extension Activities with special emphasis on Crop Protection”. Dr.D.Selvi, Professor (SS&AC) welcomed the gathering, interacted with the farmers on soil fertility sustenance, soil testing and its importance, foliar nutrition to crops etc. Dr. P. Muthiah Manoharan, Professor and Head, Department of Market Extension delivered the Inaugural Address and emphasized on the production of quality flowers for getting higher price and initiated the interaction. Dr. S. Ramakrishnan, Professor (Nematology) explained the symptoms of nematode attack in flower crops, soil sampling for nematodes, sampling procedure and how to overcome the nematode attack. The damage caused due to pest attack by mealy bug, bud worms, etc., were explained by Dr. T. Kempraj, Professor (Entomology). IPM method to control the pests was recommended to the farmers. Live samples were brought by the farmers and remedial measures were given. Dr. C. Gopalakrishnan, Professor (Plant Pathology) narrated the symptoms of wilt, root rot, diseases, etc., in flower crops. The importance of Trichoderma viride in effective control of disease attack was explained. The use of

water soluble fertilizer used under drip Fertigation was explained by Dr. V. V. Krishnamurthi, Professor (SS & AC).

National Workshop on Value Addition of Millets for better Utilization



A National Workshop on “Emerging Technology in Processing and Value addition of Millets for better Utilization” sponsored by State Mission on Food Processing, Department of Agricultural Marketing and Agri Business, Chennai, was organized at Home Science College and Research Institute, Madurai during 13th - 14th March 2014. Dr. S. Parvathi, Convener of the Workshop welcomed the gathering. Dr. G. Pushpa, Dean (i/c), Home Science College and Research Institute, Madurai delivered the Special Address. Dr. Neelam Grewal, Director, Directorate of Research on Women in Agriculture, Bhubaneswar, inaugurated the workshop and released the Souvenir. She elaborated the need to include millet foods in Mid Day Meal Schemes and anganwadies and to develop innovative dishes to bring millets back to the dining table. Dr. R. Rabindran, Registrar (i/c), TNAU, Coimbatore, stressed the potential of millets based foods to overcome all types of life style diseases and the need to create awareness on the use of millet foods among the younger generation. Dr. C. Chinnusamy, Dean (i/c), Agricultural College and Research Institute, Madurai indicated the potential of value addition of millet products to create employment opportunities in a wider area as millets can be grown well in different agro climatic conditions. During the technical sessions, six lead papers, 17 oral papers and 31 posters were presented. Dr. J. V. Patil, Director, Directorate of Sorghum Research, Hyderabad and six other experts presented the lead papers. A cooking

competition on millet foods was organized as a part of the workshop. Dr. T. Padmini, Co-convenor of the workshop proposed a formal Vote of Thanks.

National Symposium on “Recent Advances in Molecular Biology”



A National level Symposium on “Recent Advances in Molecular Biology” was organized by the undergraduate and postgraduate students of Centre for Plant Molecular Biology, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore on 4.3.2014 and 5.3.2014 in commemoration of Silver Jubilee Celebrations and Bioconcorrenza 2014. Six hundred delegates from different institutes across the State and neighbouring States participated in the event. Mr. K. B. Chibbi, III B. Tech (Biotechnology) student welcomed the gathering. Dr. S. R. Sreerangasamy and Dr. S. Sadasivam, former directors of CPMB, Dr. S. Mohan, Dean (i/c) (SPGS) and Dr. M. Maheswaran, Director of Research (i/c), TNAU felicitated on the occasion. Dr. P. Lakshmanaperumalsamy, Registrar, Karpagam University, Coimbatore inaugurated the function and delivered the Inaugural Address. Dr. K. Ramasamy, Vice Chancellor, TNAU delivered the Presidential Address and released a CD containing abstracts of the lectures and poster presentations. Ms. M. Nandhini Devi (III B. Tech Bioinformatics) proposed a formal Vote of Thanks. BLOWIZZ – a quiz programme was conducted for the external participants. Several competitions viz., Tech talk, Biomarketing, quiz programme, cartooning, fiction writing, error finder, tool finder, elocution and extempore were conducted on the eve of the symposium. Fifty five posters were displayed in the poster session. Several Academicians from Educational Institutions and top level executives of Private Enterprises delivered lectures for the benefit of students.

Rare Documents Preserved at TNAU Library



Digitization of 7.80 lakh pages of valuable documents (rare Books, Theses, Back Volumes, Annual Reports, etc.) have been digitized at TNAU Library for the use of students, faculty and scientists, through the NAIP-ICAR Project on Strengthening of Digital Library and Information Management (e-Granth). All these contents are made available in the Digital Repository of Krishikosh and could be referred to at any time by anybody. The TNAU Library was also fully automated to facilitate the users for quick reference of needed documents besides becoming part of the National Agricultural Research System Libraries across states in the country. Dr. R. Vijayaraghavan, Special Officer (i/c) (Publications and Public Relations) emphasized the present day trend of the library going to the user's doorsteps / study rooms.

Training Programme on Introduction of Hybrid Castor

A one day training programme on introduction of hybrid castor in newer areas was conducted jointly by Tapioca and Castor Research Station, Yethapur and Directorate of Oilseeds Research, Hyderabad on 11.03.2014 at Yethapur. A total of 18 scientists from KVKs and 26 farmers from various districts participated. Dr.S.Manickam, Professor and Head, TCRS, Yethapur, welcomed the gathering and Dr. M. Maheswaran, Director of Research (i/c)



delivered Presidential Address, Dr. A. J. Prabakaran, Principal Scientist, Directorate of Oilseeds Research, Hyderabad, delivered the Inaugural Address. Scientists of TCRS, Yethapur delivered technical lectures to the gathering. An Action Plan was chalked out for the spread of hybrid castor cultivation in newer areas.

Personality Development Workshop



The Directorate of Students Welfare organized two workshops on 4th and 5th of March 2014 and on 20th and 21st March, 2014. Totally 356 final year students of all under graduate programmes of Coimbatore campus participated in the personality development programme with the objective of improving communication and confidence to perform better in group discussions and interviews. The employability skills were honed by through following the topics, viz., Leadership traits and personality grooming, Curriculum Vitae & Resume preparation, Quantitative aptitude, Verbal / Analytical / Logical reasoning, Group discussion, Telephone and Skype Job interview, Interview Skills (HR Interview), Covering Letter Preparation and Application writing. Dr. N. Ragupathi, Director i/c, Students Welfare, TNAU, inaugurated the two workshops and Dr. M. Suresh, Assistant Professor (English), proposed a formal Vote of Thanks.

Motivational Lecture by Dr. C. Sylendra Babu, IPS



Dr. C. Sylendra Babu, IPS, Additional Director General of Police, Coastal Security Guard, Chennai presented a motivational lecture to the students of TNAU, Coimbatore on March 18th, 2014. More than 500 students and staff members attended the session. Besides, being good citizens, he emphasized the 'pleasure – pain

principle' and advised the students to consider 'Studying as a pleasurable experience with positive attitude'. Knowledge is to unlock the unlimited potential in students, but action should ensure building better human relationships and human skills. Students must get trained in interpersonal skills, soft skills, human skills, to be a successful individual in his/her career. He encouraged the students to read the life history of great achievers in the world. He recalled the statement by Ms. Hellen Keller that "Life is a daring adventure" and exhorted the students to take life seriously as all achievers across the world do. He advised the girl students to earn and sustain their life independently. He told the students to accept their first job and perform it with passion and become an expert in the area. The real happiness of an individual lies in whatever work, he does was his ultimate message. Dr. N. Ragupathi, Director i/c, Students Welfare, TNAU, welcomed the gathering and Dr. S. Mahimairaja, Dean (Agri.) (i/c), TNAU proposed a formal Vote of Thanks.

Important Visitors

- ◀ Dr. Karal Marx, Professor and Head, Dept. of Fisheries Biotechnology, Fisheries College and Research Institute, Tamil Nadu Fisheries University, Thoothukudi, Mr. R. Ramani, CEO, CI Global Technologies, Chennai, Mr. K. Vijayaraghavan, Chairman and CEO, Sathguru Management Consultants, Hyderabad, Dr. M. Ramasami, Chairman and Managing Director, Rasi Seeds Pvt. Ltd., Attur, Dr. Valasubramani, DuPont Pioneer, DuPont Knowledge Centre, Hyderabad, Dr. K. Veluthambi, School of Biotechnology, Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai, Dr. D. J. Bagyaraj, NASI Senior Scientist, and Chairman CNBRCD, Bangalore visited Centre for Plant Molecular Biology on 4th and 5th March, 2014 on the eve of Silver Jubilee Celebrations of CPMB and Bioconcorrenza' 14
- ◀ Dr. Eliverd, Head Agronomist, Netafirm Irrigation Limited, Israel, Dr. C. L.N. Rao and Dr. R. Sabarinathan, Senior Agronomist visited Tamil Nadu Rice Research Institute, Aduthurai on 13.03.2014

NEW SCHEMES

S. No.	Name of the Scheme	Principal / Co - Principal Investigator	Budget (Lakh Rs.)	Funding agency
1.	Design and development of ozone based farm level storage bin for managing insects in stored grains	Dr.V.Thirupathi, Professor and Head, Department of Food & Agricultural Process Engineering	12.88	All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), New Delhi

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