



TNAU NEWS

TAMIL NADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY NEWS LETTER

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Editor: Dr. M. Chandrasekaran, Director (i/c),
Planning & Monitoring

ஊருக்கெல்லாம் உணவளிக்கும் உத்தம உழவர்களுக்கு
உதவிக்கரம் நீட்டும் பல்கலைக்கழகம்

GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS



The Agricultural College and Research Institute, Madurai is celebrating its Golden Jubilee Year from 19th August 2014 to 19th August 2015. The Inaugural of Golden Jubilee Celebrations was held on 19.08.2014.

Thiru. Agri, S.S. Krishnamoorthy, Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture, Government of Tamil Nadu inaugurated the Golden Jubilee Celebrations and delivered Inaugural Address and indicated that with the Chief Minister encouraging green revolution, the agricultural sector is bound to grow and improve the lives of farmers in Tamil Nadu.

Thiru. Sellur K.Raju, Hon'ble Minister for Co-operation delivered Golden Jubilee Special Address and highlighted the various schemes available for the welfare of the farming community. Dr. K. Ramasamy, Vice-Chancellor, TNAU, Coimbatore in his Golden Jubilee Address appealed to all the stake holders to contribute for the Growth and development of AC&RI, Madurai.

Dr. Sandeep Saxena, IAS, Agricultural Production Commissioner and Principal Secretary to the Government of Tamil Nadu in his Presidential Address noted that with the support of the academic community our farmers have been introduced to the various recent technological advancements. As a part of the Inaugural Programme a Special Postal Cover to signify the Golden Jubilee Year of

Agricultural College and Research Institute, Madurai was released by Thiru. Mervin Alexander, Post Master General, Chennai Circle. Hon'ble Ministers released Special Golden Jubilee Logo, Brochures of Seminars and Workshops and a Manual on Seed Production during the event. Also samples of recently introduced Amma Seeds were distributed to the women farmers.

Vice-Chancellors of Tamil University, Thanjavur and Madras University, Chennai participated and offered felicitations. Members of Legislative Assembly and the representatives from local administration also participated and offered felicitations. Dr. R. Rabindran, Registrar (i/c), TNAU, Coimbatore welcomed the gathering and Dr. C. Chinnusamy, Dean (i/c), AC&RI, Madurai proposed a formal Vote of Thanks.

NATIONAL SEMINAR ON "SCOPE OF AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT"



A National seminar on "Scope of Agribusiness Development" was conducted on 20.08.2014 at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore in association with Symbiosis Institute of International Business, Pune and Directorate of Agribusiness Development. Third year under graduate students of Agriculture participated in the event. Various events such as presentations on the need for management in the agriculture sector, untapped potential of agribusiness sector, food processing, bio fuel, organic farming, FMCG, retail sector, agricultural commodities, agricultural inputs, supply chain, entrepreneurial opportunities for agribusiness managers and business

quiz were conducted. Dr.C.Vijayalakshmi, Professor welcomed the gathering and the Inaugural Address was delivered by Dr.Mahimairaja Dean (Agri), Coimbatore. Dr.N.Ragupathi, Director, Students welfare (i/c) delivered the felicitation address. Dr.K.N.Selvaraj, Professor, proposed a formal Vote of Thanks and handed over the certificate to all student participants.

TRAINING ON POST HARVEST TECHNOLOGY AND VALUE ADDITION



A two days training on Post harvest Technology and Value addition under the Tribal Sub Plan Scheme was organized for 20 tribal farmers from Senguttai village, Karamadai block at the Department of Food and Agricultural Process Engineering during 19.8.2014 and 20.8.2014 with an objective to ensure direct benefits to the individual families belonging to Scheduled Tribes (ST) and to promote agriculture and allied activities that provides a source of livelihood to the ST population. Dr.T.Pandiarajan, Professor and Head, Dr.V.Thirupathi, Research Engineer, Post Harvest Technology Scheme and Dr.C.Indu Rani, Assistant Professor (Horticulture) organized the training.

TRAINING TO WATERSHED DEVELOPMENT TEAM MEMBERS

A training program on Participatory Watershed Management was organized to the watershed development team members of Tirunelveli district under the Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP)



for five days from 19th to 23rd August, 2014 at Water Technology Centre, TNAU, Coimbatore. In all 23 participants from various disciplines attended the training programme. Dr.B.J.Pandian, Director (i/c), WTC highlighted the importance of the watershed management and delivered the lecture on emerging trends in Integrated Watershed Management. Dr.C.Divakar Durairaj, Dean (i/c), AEC&RI, Coimbatore Dr.K.A.Ponnusamy, Director of Extension Education (i/c) and Dr.M.Chinnadurai, Director (i/c) (CARDS) in TNAU spoke. Mechanization in watershed areas, coordination and convergence of watershed development programmes were emphasized. Topics such as, PRA techniques, IFS for efficient water use in watershed areas were covered. Common guidelines for watershed development project, selection of watershed planning and implementation, Conservation Agriculture in watershed development and Role of Organic farming were also discussed. The participants were taken to CSWCRTI, Ooty and Madamapatti watershed for field exposure. Dr.B.J.Pandian, Director (i/c), Dr.A.Raviraj, Professor (SWCE), Dr.A.Valliammai, Assistant Professor., (SWCE) and Dr.P.Jothimani, Assistant Professor (ENS) coordinated the training programme.

RAWE 2014 EXHIBITION

The Final Year B.Sc (Agri.) students of Agricultural College and Research Institute, Madurai underwent Rural Agricultural Work Experience Programme (RAWE 2014) from 03.06.2014 to 03.09.2014.



Totally 79 students were placed in 10 locations covering Madurai, Theni, Dindugal and Virudhunagar districts. As a part of the RAWE programme, the students are organized exhibition at College campus on 11.09.2014. The Exhibition was inaugurated by Mr. M.P. Vasimalai, Executive Director, DHAN Foundation, Madurai. The students exhibited their experiences gained in a novel way and the need to validate the ITK collected by the students through research and development was emphasized. The students also displayed various crop specimens, models, products, publications and samples collected during RAWE programme.

FIELD DAY CUM TRAINING PROGRAMME ON SOIL TEST



With a view to popularize the benefits of soil test and target yield based balanced fertilization for crops among the tribal farmers, a field day cum training programme was organized under Tribal Sub Plan of AICRP - STCR at Irularpathi tribal hamlet of Kandiyur village, Coimbatore district on September 8, 2014. The participants of the programme visited the field demonstrations on STCR-IPNS technology for vegetables at Irularpathi itself and interacted with the beneficiaries and

scientists. Subsequently, hands on training on the collection of soil and irrigation water samples were given by Dr.K.M.Sellamuthu, Assistant Professor (SS&AC).

Dr. R. Santhi, Professor (SS & AC) and Scheme-in-charge (AICRP - STCR) while welcoming the gathering, highlighted the importance of soil test and yield target based balanced fertilisation through (STCR-IPNS) in enhancing crop yields and sustaining soil fertility. Dr. R.Natesan, Professor (SS&AC) briefed about the facilities for soil testing available in the Soil Testing and Technology Advisory Centre (SOTAC) of the Department of SS&AC, TNAU, Coimbatore. Tmt.M.Tamilselvi, Assistant Director of Agriculture and Tmt.K.Premalatha, Assistant Director of Horticulture, Karamadai Block, Coimbatore District shared information about the Government programmes available to benefit tribal farmers. Dr. Pradip Dey, Project Coordinator (AICRP-STCR), Indian Institute of Soil Science, Bhopal in his special address emphasized the importance of fertilizer prescription equations developed by AICRP - STCR and also the ICAR supported TSP programme. Dr. V.P Duraisami, Special Officer (i/c), Directorate of Natural Resource Management released a Tamil booklet on "Soil Test and Yield Target based Balanced Fertilization for Horticultural crops".Dr.S. Maragatham, Assistant Professor (SS&AC) proposed a formal Vote of Thanks. An exhibition was arranged highlighting different aspects pertaining to soil fertility and plant nutrition which was explained by Dr.S.Maragatham, Assistant Professor (SS&AC).

WORLD FOOD DAY CELEBRATIONS

Second year, B.Tech. (Food Process Engineering) students organised World Food Day celebrations on October 16th 2014. On the occasion, Dr. K. Ramasamy Vice-Chancellor, TNAU released a bi-monthly e-magazine uploaded in TNAU agri tech portal. The issues will include

various information on food engineering and technology, entrepreneurship development, placement details, knowledge base, etc. Dr.C.Divaker Durairaj, Dean (i/c), AEC&RI, Dr.K.Ilamurugu, Controller of Examinations (i/c), Dr.T.Pandirajan, Professor and Head (F&APE) participated. Dr.V.Thirupathi, Professor, Department of Food & Agrl. Process Engineering organized the event.



As a part of World Food Day celebrations, a training was conducted at Dryland Agriculture Research Station, Chettinad. for farmers of Sakkottai block, Sivaganga district and members of Self Help Group, Thirumayam, Pudukottai district on "Traditional millet foods". Dr.P.Sudha and Dr.E.Tamilselvi conducted the trainings. Further a competition on Innovative millet foods was organized for the trainees to bring out the best of cooking in them and they were asked to prepare the best traditional millet based foods. A team of jury selected two food preparations viz., varagu briyani and thenai payasam as the best and the trainees were awarded.



The chief guest Dr.M.Arulnambi, Designated Officer, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, Sivaganga district gave a talk on “Food adulteration and food safety”. Dr.C.Swaminathan, Professor and Head, welcomed the gatherings. Mr.R.Manivannan, ADA, Sakkottai block of Sivaganga district made elaborate arrangements for the programme under ATMA and proposed a formal Vote of Thanks.

RAT CONTROL AWARENESS CAMPAIGN



An awareness campaign cum training on rat control was conducted at TRRI, Aduthurai on 17.9.2014. Different non-chemical methods of rat management, various chemical and ITK methods of rat control, poison bait preparation and precautions to be followed while handling the rodenticides were covered. Identification of live rat burrows and zinc phosphide poison bait preparation were demonstrated in the field.

An exhibition was also arranged in which various traps, different rodenticides used by the farmers, ITK methods and different bait stations used for rat management were displayed to the farmers. Nearly 50 farmers and farm women of Thriavidaimaruthur block participated in this training. Dr.R.Rajendran, Director (i/c), TRRI, Dr.K.Ramaraju, Director(i/c), CPPS, Dr.R.K.Murali Baskaran, Dr.V.G.Mathirajan and Dr.P.G.Kavitha from TNAU and Mr.S.Udayakumar, Assistant Director of Agriculture of Thiruvaidaimaruthur Block spoke on the occasion. Dr.P.G.Kavitha, Assistant Professor (Nematology) proposed a Vote of Thanks.

FARMERS AWARENESS PROGRAMME ON AGMET ADVISORY



A Farmers awareness programme was conducted on 09.09.2014 at Tamil Nadu Rice Research Institute, Aduthurai under Gramin Krishi Mausam Sewa- AGMET scheme. The main objective of the programme was to create awareness among the farmers about using the medium range weather forecast and weather based agro advisory for Cauvery Delta Zone. Hundred farmers participated in the programme. Lectures covered weather based agro advisories, weather based livestock and poultry management and role of Regional Meteorological Centre in medium range weather forecast. Dr.R.Rajendran, Director (i/c), TRRI, Dr.K.Subramanian and Dr.G.Senthilkumar from TNAU, Dr.A.Natarajan of Tamil Nadu University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Dr.T.N.Balasubramanian, Retired Professor of TNAU and Mr.S.Ravichandran of India Meteorological Department, Chennai spoke on the occasion.

FARMERS' MEET

The Directorate of Agri Business Development (ABD) technically supported the Farmers' Meet organized by one of its Incubatees M/s Agro-Green Biolife, at Coimbatore on 6.9.2014. Dr.K.N.Selvaraj delivered a talk on Marketing Initiatives for Direct Marketing covering topics such as; Commodity Groups, Farmer Producer Organizations, Agribusiness Centers, Rural Business Hubs, AEZ, etc., in Tamil Nadu benefitting farmers and participation of farmers in such initiatives to reap the benefits.



Mr. A.V. Gnanasambandam, Business Manager spoke about the ABD activities and supporting services provided by ABD for start ups. He also narrated the successful business models of various incubatees of ABD.

Nadu and Kerala States on 11.9.14 at Coimbatore. The role of the ABD in TNAU business promotion was highlighted and an appeal was made to the officials to extend the credit facilities to innovative projects to create forward and backward linkages in agriculture and the food processing sector due to its higher investment requirements. By displaying the various innovative products of incubatees of ABD, Mr. A.V.Gnanasambandam, Business Manager informed the gathering about the credit requirements of the incubatees of ABD for large scale production and promotion.

WORKSHOP FOR AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION OFFICER IN CANARA BANK

A workshop was organized by the Regional Office, Canara Bank for the Agricultural Extension Officers of various branches of Canara Bank functioning in Tamil

Important visitors

- ◀ Dr. Pradip Dey, Project Coordinator (AICRP-STCR), Indian Institute of Soil Science, Bhopal, visited the AICRP-STCR Centre, Department of Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry, TNAU, Coimbatore on 8.9.14 and 9.9.14

New Scheme

S.No.	Name of Scheme	Principal Investigator	Amount (Lakh Rs.)	Duration	Funding Agency
1.	Harvesting Processing and Value Addition of Natural Resins and Gums- Tamarind seed gum	PI: Dr.A.Balasubramanian Professor(Forestry) Co PIs : 1.Dr.S. Radhakrishnan Assistant Professor(Forestry) 2.Dr.P. Pretheep Kumar Assistant Professor (Entomology) 3.Dr.M. Kiruba Assistant Professor(Forestry)	52.70	September, 2014 to August 2017	ICAR, New Delhi

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