



# TNAU NEWS

TAMIL NADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY NEWS LETTER

Patron: **Dr. K. Ramasamy**, Vice Chancellor  
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Planning & Monitoring

உறுக்கெல்லாம் உணவளிக்கும் உத்தம உழவர்களுக்கு  
உதவிக்கரம் நீட்டும் பல்கலைக்கழகம்

## TNAU Students - Farmers Participatory Village Adoption Programme



Honourable Agriculture Minister in Tamil Nadu Thiru. S. Damodaran inaugurated adoption of the Sattakkal pudur village of Kinathukadavu zone, a Horticulture practicing area by the Horticultural College and Research Institute, TNAU, Coimbatore to raise the livelihood of farmers through Tamil Nadu Government's goal of doubling the productivity and trebling the farm income". The students – farmers participatory programme was held on December 28th, 2013 in Sattakkal pudur village. The Honourable Minister exhorted the farmers to step out of conventional farming and catch up the new technologies for future production. Dr. K. Ramasamy, Vice Chancellor, TNAU in his Presidential Address stated that the students should be in the forefront to restore the pace in production of millets and vegetables by combining the theoretical knowledge with the practical approaches used by farmers and in the process emerge as future entrepreneurs. The Vice Chancellor also emphasized that it will also be an opportunity for the students to know the prospects and bottlenecks in agriculture. 250 participants comprising horticulture students of TNAU and farmers of Kinathukadavu zone attended the programme. Mrs. Archana Patnaik, I.A.S., District Collector, Coimbatore felicitated on the occasion. Dr. S. Mariappan, Dean i/c (Horticulture), TNAU, Coimbatore welcomed the dignitaries and participants and Mr. K. Rajamanikkam, Kinathukkadavu Panchayat Union President proposed a formal Vote of Thanks.



## Seminar on “Pre and Post Harvest Technologies of Mango”



A one-day Seminar on “Pre- and Post Harvest Technologies in Mango” was organized on December 27, 2013 at Krishnagiri involving 400 mango growers representing 28 clusters besides representatives from Mango Growers’ Association, local officials, scientists and research scholars working in the International Development Research Center (IDRC) Project. Dr. K.S. Subramanian, Principal Investigator of the scheme briefed the project objectives. The Technical Session included besides on Production technologies by Dr. M. Vinoth, Research Associate in Horticulture, Pest Management by Dr. M. Kalyanasundaram, Professor of Entomology, Disease Management by Dr.G.Thirubhuvanamala, Assistant Professor Pathology, Post harvest management by Dr. R. Kailappan, Professor Food Process Engineering and value addition by Mrs. R. Kavitha, PHTC. Farmers interactions were held to clarify their doubts relating to the pre and post production technologies of mango. The Tamil Nadu State Mango Growers’ Association President, Mr.R.Sitrasasu and leading mango grower, Mr. Santhakumar have shared their experience of using hexanal formulation in their mango orchards for retaining fruits in the tree itself for 3-4 weeks besides to keep the leaves green. More than 150 women farmers had attended the event. The programme was organized by Dr. K.S. Subramanian, Professor and Dr.C.Sekar, Professor (Social Research) and Mr.L.Vijay Prakash of Myrada - an NGO.

### Book Exhibition at AC & RI, Madurai

Book Exhibition - 2014 was organized at Agricultural College and Research Institute, Madurai on 9th and 10th January 2014, with the objective to facilitate the faculty and students of AC&RI and HSC &RI, Madurai to select and purchase recent publications and also to equip library with latest books. Thiru.C.Karuilancheran, Assistant Librarian of Agricultural College and Research Institute, Madurai made all arrangements in organizing the book Exhibition.



### Farmer`s Training on Aromatic Crops Cultivation

District Level Farmer`s Training on Aromatic crops cultivation under GOI-NHM-CSS programme sponsored by the Directorate of Arecanut and Spices, Calicut was conducted at Nagercoil on 10.1.2014. Eighty nine farmers from Thovalai, Agastheeswaram and Rajakkamangalam blocks of Kanyakumari district attended the training. Dr.P.Nainar, Professor and Head, Floriculture Research Station, Thovalai, welcomed the gathering. The training was presided over and inaugurated by Dr. R. Sankaranarayanan, Dean (i/c), Horticultural College & Research Institute, Periyakulam. Th.P.Sivakumar, Deputy Director of Horticulture (i/c), Kanayakumari delivered the Special Address. Th.C.Meenakshisundaram, President, Kanyakumari District Uzhavar Perumantram felicitated. Special lectures on Hi tech practices on thulasi, marikolundu, pachai, maruvu, patchouli, palmarosa and management of pest and diseases of aromatic crops were delivered by scientists of TNAU. Th.C.Nallaperumal, Junior Agricultural Officer, Floriculture Research Station, Thovalai, proposed a formal Vote of Thanks.



### Training on Garlic Cultivation

Training on “Innovative technologies for Garlic cultivation” was organized jointly by Horticultural Research Station, Kodaikanal and Directorate of Arecanut and Spices Development, Calicut at





Horticultural Research Station, Kodaikanal on 23.01.2014 under GOI-NHM (Spices) scheme. Dr. J. Rajangam, Professor and Head welcomed the gathering and delivered the Key Note Address on the importance of hill garlic and potentiality of the cultivation of garlic to improve the economic status of the farmers in the hilly regions of Tamil Nadu. Dr. P. Jansirani, Professor and Head, Department of Spices and Plantation Crops, HC&RI, TNAU, Coimbatore presided over the training programme and emphasised the importance of seed material in viable production of garlic. Dr. A.S. Rajendran, Principal Scientist and Head, Central Sheep Breeding and Wool Research Institute, Mannavanoor explained the medicinal importance of garlic. Th. S. Raja Mohammed, Deputy Director of Horticulture released the training manual on garlic cultivation for the benefit of the farmers and discussed on the schemes related to the improvement of vegetable crops in Kodaikanal region. Th. L. Nagarajan, Agricultural Marketing Officer, emphasised the importance of storage godown, market intelligence and the utilization of online marketing in hill garlic. Technical lectures on hi-tech cultivation of garlic was delivered by Dr. B. Senthamizh Selvi, Dr. G. Sathish, Dr. J. Ezhilan, Dr. P. Vetrivelkai and Th. M. Saravanan. Demonstration of seed treatment and use of equipments in garlic cultivation was done by R. Muthuselvi and 125 garlic growers benefitted.

### Maize Hybrid Field Day

A field day on the introduction of new Maize hybrid COH (M) 6 was conducted at Sivarakottai village of Kalikudi Block of Thriumangalam Taluk, Madurai district on 04.02.2014 under the GOI - DST- SEED Project entitled “Techno–Economic Empowerment of Dry land Farm Women for Livelihood Security under Millets based Eco system-Whole Farm Approach”. Tmt. Dimmamal a woman farmer of Sivarakottai had shared her experience about the performance of hybrid COH (M) 6 with fellow farm women and officials of State Department of Agriculture, as she got 30-40 per cent increased yield by cultivation of TNAU-CO H (M) 6 maize compared to the Private hybrid. The grains of TNAU - COH (M) 6 hybrid also happened to be very bold besides the eye catching golden colour. The Field Day



was inaugurated by Thiru.Jei Ganadurai Singh, Joint Director of Agriculture, Madurai. Dr. C. Chinnusamy, Dean i/c, AC&RI, Madurai delivered the Key Note Address and Dr. G. Pushpa, Dean (i/c), H.Sc., & RI, Madurai delivered the Special Address. Dr.V.Sekar, Professor and Head, Department of Agricultural Extension welcomed the gathering. Thiru, M. Amuthan, Assistant Director of Agriculture also spoke and stated the importance of value addition and maize cultivation. Dr.J.Pushpa, Professor (Agricultural Extension) and PI of the project explained the objective of the project and proposed a formal Vote of Thanks.

### Market Maker India for Enhancing Farmers Income



Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore signed the General Memorandum of Understanding with University of Illinois, USA and a Specific Memorandum of Understanding with Riverside Research Institute (RR) and Modernizing Extension Advisory Services Project (MEAS) of Illinois, USA on January 26, 2014 in the presence of Dr. K. Ramasamy, Vice Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore to take up the project 'Market Maker India'.

The aim of this project is to develop an Indian version of Market Maker in USA suitable for use among Indian farmers and food related enterprises, help Indian farmers profitably participate in market driven value chains within India and in global export markets and develop a model program for public-private cooperation

to meet the evolving needs of the global agricultural and food distribution markets.

Market Maker India will facilitate the farmer organizations, commodity groups, agripreneurs and other stakeholders for linking the markets to realize maximum profit. Market Maker India will create an Information and Communication Technology infrastructure with farmers and buyers database in collaboration with University of Illinois and Riverside Research, USA.

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### Organic Farmers Meet



A Stake - holders Meet on Organic Agriculture was organized at the Directorate of Crop Management, TNAU, Coimbatore on 30.12.2013. Thirty farmers who practice organic farming representing all the districts of Tamil Nadu have participated and shared their experience and concern over organic agriculture. Dr.K.Ramasamy, Vice-Chancellor, TNAU, in his Presidential Address emphasized the variations in practicing organic agriculture and lack of uniformity in principles and in usage of inputs. Changes with innovation are required in organic farming and the traditional crops and varieties should be revived through verification and the role of microbes in organic farming to be accounted properly. Dr. S. Ramasamy, Professor and Head, Department of Sustainable Organic Agriculture in his introductory remarks emphasized the need and relevance and the global picture of the fast developing science of organic agriculture. Dr. K. Velayutham, Director (i/c), Directorate of Crop Management in his Key note Address emphasized that organic agriculture is one of the pathways for the country to flourish through local consumption and export that will pave way for economic as well as social enhancement. The meet was arranged to facilitate setting the research agenda in organic agriculture in TNAU. Dr. M. Mohammed Yassin, Professor (Agronomy) proposed a formal Vote of Thanks.

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### Farmers Interactive Meeting to Boost Income in Sodic Soil Areas



A farmers interactive meeting was organized at Poongudi village of Trichy District on 22.1.2014 to improve the income and livelihood of farmers of these areas. Dr. S. K. Ambast, Project Co-ordinator, AICRP on Management of Salt Affected soils, CSSRI, Karnal advocated taking up the Integrated Farming System Approach and advised farmers to choose the enterprises in the IFS unit according to their choice and also based on the social acceptance in their locality to get employment to the people all through the year. Mr. D. Subramaniam, Chief Area Manager, IFFCO explained the effect of gypsum in reducing the soil sodicity level. Progressive farmers of the village shared their experience on the benefit of gypsum reclamation technology by achieving more yield in rice. Dr. P. Pandiyarajan, Dean (i/c), Anbil Dharmalingam Agricultural College and Research Institute, Trichy explained the beneficial effect of utilizing the distillery spent wash as alternate source for the reclamation of sodic soil. Dr. A. Sagunthalai, Programme Co - ordinator, KVK, Sirugamani advocated the local people to explore the possibility of utilizing the sodicity tolerant rice variety (TRY-3) released from ADAC & RI, Trichy. Dr. P. Balasubramaniam, Professor and Head, Dept. of Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry welcomed the gathering and explained the benefit of growing green manure for reclamation of sodic soil. Dr. M. Baskar, Assistant Professor proposed a formal Vote of Thanks.

### Demonstration on Synchronized Maturing Pulses Varieties

An on campus training programme was conducted at Agricultural Research Station, Vaigai Dam on 22.1.2014 under NADP scheme entitled "Demonstration of Synchronized maturing Pulses varieties with key technologies and mechanization for higher productivity". Thirty Officials including Agricultural Officer, Deputy Agricultural Officers, and Assistant Agricultural Officers from the Department of Agriculture at Uthamapalyam, Bodi, Cumbum and Chinnamanur Blocks of Theni District participated.





Dr.M.P.Kavitha, Assistant Professor (Agronomy) and Scientist incharge of the scheme welcomed the participants. Dr.A.Balakrishnan, Professor and Head explained the scope and importance of Pulses and mechanization of cultivation for higher productivity. Dr. V. Paramasivam, Professor (SST) narrated the pre sowing seed management practices for the maintenance of population and uniform growth. Essentials of nutrients, mode of application and importance of foliar nutrition was explained by Dr. R. K. Kaleeswari, Professor (SS&AC). Harvest and post harvest handling viz., threshing and storage practices and pre harvest sanitation spray were discussed by Dr. P. R. Renganayaki, Professor (SST). Finally demonstration on tropiculator sowing (mechanized sowing) of green gram was demonstrated by Dr. M. P. Kavitha.

### Field Day on Drip Irrigated Rice



Drip irrigation in rice was tried at Th. Mannargudi S.Ranganathan's field in Kandaramangalam of Thiruvarur District. Sowing of BPT 5204 in an area of 0.50 acre was taken-up on 17.09.2013 in the presence of Dr. K. Chozhan, Professor and Head, KVK, Needamangalam. The crop was irrigated by drip. The crop was harvested on 31st January 2014 which recorded 4950 kg / ha of grain yield with 60 percent water saving. The District Collector Th. S. Natarajan initiated the harvest and officials from

State Agricultural Department, representatives from Jain Irrigation Company and farmers from Mannargudi Taluk were also present. During his address the Collector reiterated that this trial of drip irrigating rice will lead to special distinction in the field of rice cultivation

### On Campus Training at KVK, Needamangalam



With a view to double the yield and triple the income of the farmers, training on Recycling of farm wastes was given by Dr. A. Kamaraj Assistant Professor (Agri. Engineering) on 21.01.2014 and Popular Tree Production was given by Dr. V. Siva Kumar, Assistant Professor (Horticulture) on 23.01.2014. A total of 25 farmers were trained in Recycling of farm wastes and 40 were trained farmers in Popular Tree Production at KVK, Needamangalam.



A Farmers Field School on ICM in Vegetables was initiated on 06.01.2014 and regular classes were planned up to 27.03.2014 by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Needamangalam. Dr.V.Siva kumar, Assistant Professor (Horticulture) was incharge of conducting the classes in which 350 vegetable growing farmers were selected and trained.



## Training on “Improved Technologies for Cocoa Cultivation”



A Three day farmers training on “Improved technologies for cocoa cultivation” was conducted at Department of Spices and Plantation Crops, HC & RI, TNAU, Coimbatore from 16.12.2013 to 18.12.2013. The Directorate of Cashewnut and Cocoa Development, GOI, Cochin had sponsored the training programme.

Dr. K. Ramasamy, Vice Chancellor, TNAU inaugurated the training programme and presided over the training. The Vice Chancellor highlighted the usage of cocoa beans in the food/consumable industries and narrated the achievements of the research project on cocoa sponsored by Cadbury India Ltd and the minimum supply price given for cocoa beans for the improvement of cocoa cultivation in Tamil Nadu. Further, he emphasized the importance of cocoa cultivation under coconut gardens for getting additional income. Dr. P. Jansirani, Professor and Head, Dept. of Spices and Plantation Crops, Coimbatore welcomed the gathering and explained the improved pruning techniques/ Canopy management in cocoa. Dr. S. Mariappan, Dean (i/c) (Horticulture) delivered a lecture on Scope and importance of cocoa cultivation in Tamil Nadu. Dr. N. Kumar, Professor (Horticulture) explained the improved varieties in cocoa and the nursery management practices in cocoa. Water management, fertigation and integrated nutrient management technologies in cocoa were explained by Dr.P.Paramaguru, Professor and Head, CRS, Veppankulam. A lecture on Cocoa as intercrop in coconut eco system was given by Dr. S. Subramaniam, Professor. Dr.M.Suganthi, Assistant Professor (Entomology), Dr. P. Muthulakshmi, Assistant Professor (Pathology), Dr. N. Shoba, Professor and Head, CRS, Aliyar Nagar and Dr.G.Gurumeenakshi, Assistant Professor, PHTC and Tmt.Vasanthi, ADH, Thondamuthur also delivered lectures on various aspects of cocoa cultivation.

A field visit/exposure visit to cocoa fields at Anaimalai, Sethumadai, Pollachi was arranged on 18.12.2013. A progressive farmer of cocoa cultivation, Dr.V.Jayaraj, shared his success stories on cocoa cultivation to the trainees and he emphasized the prospects of cocoa cultivation in Tamil Nadu. Demonstration on drying and secondary processing of cocoa was conducted at Er. V. J. Prasad farm. Th. C. Sivakumar, Field officer, Cadbury India Ltd, Annamalai, interacted with the cocoa growers and cleared their doubts. He also explained the marketing of cocoa bean in Tamil Nadu. A video film on cocoa cultivation was screened in the field with mobile video programme. A booklet on “Naveena cocoa sagupadi” was released. Fifty farmers from Erode, Dharmapuri, Karur, Salem, Namakkal, Coimbatore, Tirupur, Trichy, Madurai, Pollachi, Sathyamangalam, Bhavani, Kanyakumari, Thiruvavur, Nagercoil, Pattukottai and Thanjavur districts participated in the training.

## Farmers Workshop on Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Rights Act



A Training cum Workshop to sensitize the stakeholders about the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers’ Right Act sponsored by Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers’ Right Authority was organized at KVK Salem on 12th February 2014. An Exhibition was organized on the occasion and farmers from Salem district have showcased more than 50 traditional crop varieties from paddy, thinai, varagu, horse gram, lab lab, panivaragu, chillies, pumpkin, bottle gourd, bitter gourd, ribbed gourd, cumbu, brinjal, bhendi for registration as farmers’ varieties under the Act. Based on the scrutinization by a team of scientists, 23 traditional varieties were chosen for registration. Nearly 150 farmers from all the blocks of Salem district participated in the workshop cum training.

Dr.V.Ganesan, IFS, Chief Conservator of Forest, Salem Region delivered Presidential Address. He had emphasized the important of preservation and conservation of traditional varieties and explained how it could be registered for further use with an example and presented a self documented plant and fish species in the forest areas and same was also displayed in the mini



exhibition for the benefit of the farmers. Dr. K. Mahandrakumar, Programme Coordinator, KVK, Salem, Dr. N. Sriram, Assistant Professor (Agrl. Extension) and Dr. R. Vijayan, Assistant Professor (Seed Science) also spoke.

### Awareness Campaign on Control of Foot and Mouth Disease in Live Stock



Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Tirur, Tiruvallur District had organized an awareness campaign on Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) in livestock on 07.02.14 at Poorivakkam village, Ellapuram block, Uttukkotai Taluk, Tiruvallur District. Dr. R. P. Tamilselvan, Scientist, IVRI, Bangalore participated in the campaign and delivered lecture about clinical signs of the disease, losses due to the disease, FMD spread and transmission and treatment. Dr. P. Suseela, Veterinary Assistant Surgeon, Kannigapair, Poorivakkam Village explained the cause of FMD, its symptoms and mortality. Preventive measures of FMD were also prescribed. Dr. R. Agila, Programme Coordinator, KVK, Tirur delivered a special lecture on damage caused to live stock industry of Tiruvallur District and the need for creating awareness on FMD to the cattle rearing farmers. Subject Matter Specialists of KVK, Tiruvallur Dr. A. Manjula, Dr. S. Sheeba, Dr. M. Niramala Devi, and Th. D. Kumar, Farm Manager of KVK, Tirur participated in the campaign. Interaction session was held and the progressive farmers got clarified their doubts on FMD and its control measures.

### Centenary Symposium on Entomology in TNAU

The Department of Agricultural Entomology, TNAU, Coimbatore celebrates its Centenary year of establishment in TNAU. In Commemoration, a National Symposium on “Emerging Trends in Eco-friendly Insect



“Pest Management” was organised during January 22-24, 2014. Sessions were held on key themes namely, Biodiversity, Botanical Bio pesticides, Biological Control (Parasitoids, Predators and Pathogens), Chemical Ecology and Pest Tolerant Varieties, Productive Insects, Integrated Pest Management and Biorationals, Nanotechnology and New Approaches. Dr. K. Ramasamy, Vice Chancellor inaugurated the symposium. Dr. N. K. Krishnakumar, DDG (Horticulture), ICAR, New Delhi released the volume of Extended Summary and delivered the Key Note Address. During the symposium, Dr. V. V. Ramamoorthy, Principal Scientist, IARI and National Co-ordinator of ICAR Network Project on Insect Biosystematics and an alumnus of the Department of Agricultural Entomology delivered the centenary lecture on ‘Biosystematic as the science behind the art of IPM’. More than 250 delegates from across the country participated in the Symposium. Leading Entomologists of India including Dr. C.A. Viraktamath, Professor, UAS, Bengaluru, Dr. M. Mani, Professor, IIHR, Bengaluru, Dr. K. Venkataraman, Director, ZSI, Kolkata, Dr. Renee Borges, Chairman, CES, IISc, Bengaluru delivered lead lectures on 34 different topics of current interest. In addition, a total of 239 oral and poster presentations by scientists and students from 20 states were also made in the Symposium. During the Symposium, former Entomology professors were honoured for their services. Dr. Abraham Verghese, Director (NBAll), Bengaluru (ICAR) distributed certificates to scientists and students who made the best oral and poster presentations during the Symposium and delivered the Valedictory Address. Dr. K. Ramaraju, Director (i/c) (CPPS) and Organizing Secretary of the Symposium and Dr. S. Kuttalam, Professor and Head, Department of Agricultural Entomology along with the Organising team coordinated the arrangements.



## IPNI Award to TNAU Ph.D. Scholar



Mr. Mahesh Rajendran, Ph.D. Scholar (Agronomy) had won the IPNI Scholar Award 2013, sponsored by International Plant Nutrition Institute (IPNI), USA. He was one among the 26 scholars

selected throughout the world to receive this Award after an annual competition amongst students enrolled in graduate degree programs supporting the science of plant nutrition and crop nutrient management. He has been working on “Subsurface drip fertigation in sugarcane” under the guidance of Dr. N. Asoka Raja, Professor and Head, Department of Agronomy, TNAU, Coimbatore. The research aims to provide a list of best management practices based on 4R (Right fertilizer source, Right rate, Right time and Right place), Nutrient Stewardship to enhance sugarcane productivity and achieve higher nutrient and water use efficiencies. The award was handed over to the scholar on 16th, December, 2013 in a function organized at Department of Agronomy. This Award carries a cash prize of USD 2,000.

## Important Visitors

- ◀ Mr. P. Velusamy, B.Sc. (Ag.), PGDMM, MIMA, FIV, Retired Project Executive, Chennai Petroleum Corporation (Unit of IOC) and an alumnus of TNAU visited Agricultural College Research Institute, Madurai on 09.01.2014.
- ◀ Dr. V. Balasubramanian, Former Agronomist of IRRI, Philippines and International Consultant visited Tamil Nadu Rice Research Institute, Aduthurai on 17.01.2014.
- ◀ Mr. Isaya Vincent Sijali, Co-ordinator, Irrigation from Nairobi, visited TNAU and delivered special lecture to the PG students in TNAU on “Kenyan Irrigation System and Agriculture Scenario” on 3.2.2014
- ◀ Dr. S.B. Singh, Consultant, National Horticulture Board, Gurgaon and Th. S. Krishnamoorthy, Deputy Director, NHB, Chennai visited HRS, Kodaikanal on 23.02.2014.

## NEW SCHEMES

S. No.	Name of the Scheme	Principal / Co - Principal Investigator	Budget (Lakhs Rs.)	Funding agency
1.	“ Screening of Indian muskmelon varieties for betacarotene quality traits and development of superior muskmelon hybrids for commercial cultivation”	PI : Dr. K. Venkatesan, Professor (Horticulture)	12.00	GOI – Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB), DST, New Delhi.
2.	Model Training Course on “Economics and Marketing of Value added Foods”	PI : Dr. (Mrs.) T. Alagumani, Professor (Agrl. Economics) Co PI : Dr. P. Muthiah Manoharan, Professor & Head, Dept. of Market Extension	2.01	Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India

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