



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

State Level Farmers' Day and New Varieties Release Function 2014



The State level Farmers' Day and New Varieties Release Function 2014 was conducted on 11th January 2014 at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), Coimbatore. Dr. M. Rajendran, Commissioner of Agriculture inaugurated the programme and released four new crop varieties, viz., Rice TPS 5, Black Gram MDU 1, Fodder sorghum Co 31, Butter Pear Ooty 1 and one farm implement - Tractor drawn Tapioca harvester. Dr. K. Ramasamy, Vice Chancellor, TNAU in his Presidential Address informed that so far TNAU has developed 788 new crop varieties, 157 farm implements and more than 1500 management technologies. Th. M. K. Muthukaruppanasamy, MLA, Pollachi and Member, Board of Management, TNAU, Thiru. R. Doraiswamy, MLA, Coimbatore South, felicitated and Dr. K. A. Ponnusamy, Director of Extension Education (i/c), TNAU welcomed the gathering. Dr. M. Maheswaran, Director of Research (i/c), TNAU proposed Vote of Thanks. More than 3500 farmers visited the exhibition stalls.

Exposure Visit for Flower Growers



The KVK, Vridhachalam had arranged sensitization training programmes for the local leading flower growers on formation of Farmer Producer Organization (FPOs) in Cuddalore District during September and October 2013. In continuation of these training programmes, on 27.11.2013, 25 selected progressive flower growers of the District were taken on an exposure visit to the state level leading flower producer society functioning at Sathiamangalam and FPOs of Precision farming farmers at Sivagiri of Erode District. Dr. R. Arunachalam, Programme Coordinator of the KVK arranged the successful conduct of this visit. Dr. S. Kannan, SMS and Thiru. R. Rajeshkannan, Farm Manager accompanied the farmers.

Training Programme on 'Data Analysis using SAS'



The Department of Physical Sciences and Information Technology, Agricultural Engineering College and Research Institute, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore and National Academy of Agricultural Research and Management (NAARM), Hyderabad jointly organized a University level training programme on "Data Analysis Using SAS" to the Scientists of TNAU and Sugarcane Breeding Institute, Coimbatore during 9th to 14th December 2013. The training was focused on Base SAS, Statistical Analysis, Experimental Designs, Reporting and Advanced

Multivariate techniques using SAS Enterprise Guide. Thirty Four scientists participated in the training programme. Dr. K. Ramasamy, Vice Chancellor, inaugurated and delivered the Inaugural Address. Dr. M.R. Duraisamy, Professor and Head, Dr. M. Suresh, Consultant (Statistics) and Tmt. R. Gangai Selvi, Assistant Professor (Statistics) were the Course Directors of the training programme.

Training on Precision Farming Technologies



A training programme on Precision farming technologies was conducted by the Precision Farming Development Centre (PFDC), Department of Soil & Water Conservation Engineering, AEC & RI, TNAU, Coimbatore for the Salem and Namakkal farmers under the National Horticulture Mission (NHM) and National Mission on Micro Irrigation (NMMI) at Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Santhiyur for two days on 10th & 11th December 2013. This training was funded by National Committee on Plasticulture Applications in Horticulture (NCPAH), Ministry of Agriculture, GOI, New Delhi. Fifty two farmers and four staff members from Horticulture Department attended this training. Agricultural and horticultural crops were covered. The trainees visited the progressive farmers' field to know about latest technologies on drip fertigation. A manual regarding precision farming technologies and training kit were distributed to the farmers. The PFDC staff Dr. M. Selvamurugan, Dr. M. Manikandan and Thiru E. Kalicharan conducted the training programme. Dr. I. Muthuchamy, Professor and Head and Principal Investigator of PFDC designed the entire training programme.

Training on Tapioca Cultivation and Value Addition

Training on problems, prospects and scope of Tapioca cultivation and value addition was conducted at Tapioca and Castor Research Station, Yethapur on 12-12-2013 under National Agricultural Development Programme (NADP) in which 145 beneficiaries participated. Dr. M. Maheswaran, Director of



Research (i/c), TNAU, Coimbatore delivered the Presidential Address and distributed planting materials of Tapioca YTP 1, mealy bug parasitoid and mobile starch extraction unit to the farmers. Dr. S. Manickam, Professor and Head, TCRS, Yethapur delivered the Welcome Address. Thiru. P. Arulmurugan, Chairman, SAGOSERVE, Salem, Thiru. P. Muthuraja, State Secretary, Tamil Nadu Starch and Sago producers Association, Salem, Thiru. R. P. Athiyappan, President, Attur taluk Starch and Sago Producers Association, Thiru. R. Kathiravan, Deputy Director of Horticulture, Salem, Thiru. R. J. Sunder, Joint Director of Horticulture, Salem and Dr. K. Nageswari, Professor and Head, HRS, Yercaud participated and addressed on the problems and prospects and scope of tapioca cultivation. Dr. V. Palanisamy, Professor (SST), TCRS, Yethapur proposed a Vote of Thanks.

Field Day on Pearlmillet



Pearl millet field day was organised at Pothuravuthanpatti Village, Krishnarayapuram block, Karur District on 13.12.2013 under the Front Line Demonstration on Pearl millet. Ten demonstrations were organized in that village to show the potential of Co (cu) 9 cumbu variety and TNAU cumbu hybrid Co9 under ICAR - AICPMIP and part II plan scheme by Department of Millets, TNAU, Coimbatore. More than 80 farmers participated in the field day and discussed

about the production technologies and visited the crops raised under FLD programme along with Scientists and officials. Dr. R. Ravikesavan Professor and Head, Department of Millets, TNAU, Coimbatore Chaired the function and highlighted the nutritious aspects of pearl millet and other millets. Thiru M. Deivendran, Joint Director of Agriculture, Karur in his Special Address stressed the need for cultivation of millets and explained about the different schemes initiated by the government for the benefit of the farmers and subsidies that can be availed for the same. Thiru K. Balakrishnan, Assistant Director of Agriculture, Krishnarayapuram and Tmt. Ruba Senthil, President, Pothuravuthanpatti, also participated and spoke during the occasion. Dr. P. Sumathi, Professor, Department of Millets, emphasized the special features of the Co (Cu)9 and TNAU cumbu hybrid Co 9. Dr. G. Karthikeyan, Professor (Plant Pathology) and Dr. N. Meyyazhagan, Professor (Agronomy) explained about the plant protection and production technologies. The beneficiary farmers expressed their views about the yield potential of the varieties. Dr. J. Dhiravium, Programme Coordinator, KVK, Karur participated along with the SMS (Home science) and SMS (Agronomy).

Hands on Training in Dry Flower Technology and Value Addition in Jasmine



Hands on training on dry flower technology for Self Help Group (SHG) women and Unemployed Youth was conducted at SIDCO industrial area, Mathur, Pudukottai District by Salem Spices (p) Ltd., Salem (Consortium partner NAIP (Flower)) on 6th and 7th December, 2013 under NAIP project " Value Chain on flowers for export and Domestic market". Dr. M. Jawaharlal Professor and Head (Floriculture), PI – NAIP (Flowers) inaugurated the function and delivered special lecture on dry flower marketing and dry flower product development. Forty participants including women from SHGs participated and benefited. Training was given to make dry flower products like; mums, aster, roses, bouquets and floral arrangements.

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R. P. Rajaram, Managing Director, (SSPL), CCPI (NAIP) Chaired the Valedictory function and delivered Valedictory Address and distributed certificates to the beneficiaries. Dr. S. Karthikeyan, Research Associate (NAIP), Dr. M. Visalakshi Senior Research Fellow (NAIP) and T. Vetrivel, Ph. D scholar organized the function. Professor (Soil Science), ABD unit organized the programme.



A one day training programme on “Value addition of jasmine to women and self help group” was organized on 12.12.2013 in association with the Agri Business Development Unit functioning at Agricultural College and Research Institute, Madurai. Forty two beneficiaries from farmers groups, women self help groups and students of Home Science College and Research Institute, Madurai participated in the training programme. Dr. M. Jawaharlal, Consortium Principal Investigator of the project and Professor & Head, Department of Floriculture and Landscaping, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore and Mr. K. Sethumathavan of M/s. Vanguard Exports, the Consortium Co-Principal Investigator and consortium partner in the NAIP (Flowers) project participated and explained about the jasmine supply chain, value addition, marketing opportunities and export packaging technology of jasmine to domestic and long distance export markets. Dr. Bakiyathu Saliha, Assitant Professor (Soil Science), ABD unit organized the programme.

Regional Agricultural Mela at Madurai



Regional Agricultural Mela 2013 was conducted at Agricultural College & Research Institute, Madurai on 7th December 2013 in collaboration with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Madurai zone and Tamil Nadu State Government Departments. The Deans of Colleges, Heads of Research Stations, KVKs and NGOs, Baba Atomic Research Centre Officials, Private Banks and Farming equipment companies, processors and agri business participated. Agricultural and allied field technologies were displayed. Demonstrations were conducted with the help of Post Graduate students of the colleges for the benefit of the farmers of Southern Region. The Agriculture Production Commissioner and Principal Secretary to Government of Tamil Nadu Shri. Sandeep Saxena, I.A.S., inaugurated the Mela and stressed the need for adopting improved technologies to increase the productivity and production of various crops and emphasized the need to start cold storage facilities. Dr. K. Ramasamy, Vice Chancellor, TNAU, Coimbatore while presiding over the interactive session on Innovative Farmers Technology stressed the need to adopt improved technologies to triple the income from the farming and informed the need for innovating new technologies to increase the standard of living of farmers.

Interactive sessions on 12 striking technological themes were organized to facilitate farming activities and also to solve the farm related problems. On an average, 3000 farmers attended on each day of the Mela and got benefited. Dr. M. Chandrasekeran, Director (i/c) (Planning & Monitoring), and other University Officers of TNAU also addressed the Mela on different themes. Dr. R. Rabindran, Registrar (i/c) of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore while participating in the interactive sessions highlighted the need of farmers meets for farm technology transfer. Honourable Thiru. E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, Government of India, delivered Valedictory Address and presented the awards to the best technology display stalls and demonstration units.

Regional Agricultural Mela at Killikulam

Regional Agricultural Mela was conducted at Agricultural College and Research Institute, Killikulam on 02.01.2014. It was inaugurated by Thiru. S. Damodaran, Honourable Minister for Agriculture. He stressed on the need for digitizing information based on soil testing in all the farmers holding and stated that the Government of Tamil Nadu will soon introduce a new policy on organic farming. He also released a souvenir on farm technologies. Honourable Minister for Tourism Thiru. S. P. Shanmuganathan, in his Presidential Address highlighted the need for establishment of Agricultural



Tourism in the locality to cater to the needs of the knowledge seekers. Dr. K. Ramasamy, Vice chancellor, TNAU, in his Special Address emphasized the development of region specific farm technologies and that these reach the farmers in time. About 2500 farmers participated in the mela and visited the stalls put up by various agencies. In the afternoon question answer session was conducted with the farmers on farm technologies. The farmer-teacher awards were presented to the farmers who had obtained highest crop yields in three southern districts. Dr. V. Subramanian, Dean (i/c) narrated the educational and research activities of Agricultural College and Research Institute, Killikulam. Dr. M. Ariavanam Katha Pillai, Professor (Agricultural Entomology) proposed a formal Vote of Thanks.

Regional Agricultural Mela at TRRI, Aduthurai



The Regional Agricultural Mela at Tamil Nadu Rice Research Institute, Aduthurai was held on 10.01.2014. Thiru.S. Damodaran, Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture, Government of Tamil Nadu, Th.O.S. Manian, M.P., Mayiladuthurai, Dr. K. Ramasamy, Vice Chancellor, TNAU and Thiru. N. Subbaian, District Collector, Thanjavur participated in the function. The Honorable Agriculture Minister emphasized that the State Government is giving more thrust to agricultural research and farmers' welfare and food security. Thiru. O.S. Manian, MP mentioned that

efforts should be made by the scientists to release alternate variety to replace CR 1009 a long term samba paddy variety and TKM 9 a kuruvai paddy variety. In the mela, live demonstrations were made on Integrated Farming system, System of Rice Intensification, Mushroom and Vermi Compost Production. A souvenir (technical bulletin) with all improved technologies on crops grown in region II of TNAU was released. About 5000 farmers participated in the mela and benefited. Souvenir, vegetable seeds and tree saplings were distributed free of cost to the farmers. Dr. R. Rajendran, Director i/c, TRRI, Aduthurai welcomed the gathering and Dr. R. Natesan, Professor (SS & AC), TRRI, Aduthurai proposed a formal Vote of Thanks.

National Ground water Conference



A three days National Ground Water Conference (NGWC) was organized by Water Technology Centre, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore, on 09 to 11th December 2013 with main focus on problems, challenges and management of groundwater in agriculture. Shri J.Chandrashekar Iyer, Chief Engineer, Central Water Commission delivered the Inaugural Address and released the conference abstract. Dr. K. Ramasamy, Vice Chancellor, TNAU, delivered the Presidential Address. Mr. P. Vasimalai, Executive Director, Dhan Foundation, Madurai, delivered the Special Address on Tamil Nadu Water Week. Dr. B.J. Pandian, Director i/c (WTC) welcomed the gathering. Technical sessions were conducted with 112 participants from all over India. Scientists and research scholars presented 169 papers. Subsequently, a stake holders meet was conducted with participation of 120 farmers on the third day of the conference. Dr. K. Palanisami, Director IWMI - TATA Water Policy Program, ICRISAT, Hyderabad, Dr. E.J. James, officiating Vice Chancellor and Director, Water Institute, Karunya University also participated.

Training on 'Empowering the Livelihood of Tapioca Farmers'



A training on 'Empowering the livelihood of Tapioca farmers' was jointly organised at Kongu Samudhaya Koodam, Sendamangalam Privu Road, Rasipuram on 22-12-13 by the Tapioca and Castor Research Station and ICICI bank. A total of 120 beneficiaries participated in the programme. Thiru. P. Prabhu, Thiru. K. Vijayakumar, Thiru. R. Abdul Biji of ICICI Bank and Dr. S. Manickam, Professor and Head, TCRS, Yethapur participated. The information on varietal wealth and recent agro - techniques of tapioca was delivered by Dr. M. Velmurugan, Assistant Professor (Horticulture). Dr. M. Senthil Kumar, Assistant Professor (Entomology) delivered information on pest and disease management in tapioca.

Energy Conservation – Awareness Camp



NSS Students of AEC&RI, Kumulur conducted a rally on "energy conservation" on 14.12.2013 from Lalgudi taluk office to women Police Station in Lalgudi. Awareness was created among the public through mobile and online service.

National Integration Camp by TNAU Students

Dr. P. Kamaraj, NSS Programme Officer, AEC&RI, Kumulur had accompanied 10 NSS volunteers from constituent colleges of TNAU to participate in the National Integration camp at Mangalore University, Karnataka from 24.12.2013 to 30.12.2013.



Training on Promotion of Quality Green Manure Seed Production



A one day training on "Promotion of quality seed production in green manure crops" was conducted at AEC&RI, Kumulur on 27.12.2013. Thirty beneficiaries participated. Dr.G.Kathiresan, Professor and Head (Agricultural Science) welcomed the trainees and delivered a lecture on production techniques in green manure crops. Dr. K. Ramaswamy, Dean (i/c), AEC&RI, Kumulur delivered the Special Address and Dr. S.Vallalkannan, Asst. Professor (Agronomy) delivered a lecture to the trainees. Dr. N. Punithavathi Asst. Professor (SS&T) organized the training programme and delivered a lecture on quality seed production in green manure crops, arranged field visit to the trainees and demonstrated seed treatment with bio-fertilizer, 1% DAP foliar spray to the green manure crops and finally proposed a formal Vote of Thanks.



One day farmers training programme was organized at Coconut Research Station, Aliyarnagar on 30th December 2013 under NADP (RKVY). A total of 32 farmers participated. Dr. J. Yogalakshmi, Assistant Professor (SST) welcomed the gathering and highlighted the importance of quality seed production in green manure crops. The Inaugural and Introductory Address were given by Dr. M. Bhaskaran, Special officer (Seeds) and he indicated the importance of NADP (RKVY) Schemes and highlighted the use of quality seeds in crop production. Dr. N. Shoba, Professor and Head, explained the importance of green manure crops and their uses. Dr. N. Premalatha, Assistant Professor (PBG) described the Sunnhemp seed production and organised exposure field visit to Sunnhemp seed production field. The training ended with the formal Vote of Thanks by Th. P. Maruthupandi, Technical Assistant, CRS, Aliyarnagar.

Training on Nursery Techniques and Quality Seedling Production



A one day training was conducted at KVK, Vridhachalam on Nursery Techniques and Quality Seedling Production for the rural youth of Cuddalore District on 19.12.2013 in which 105 young participants benefited. Dr. R. Arunachalam, Professor and Head inaugurated the training programme and explained the need for and use of quality seedlings and its production and also the maintenance of Hi - tech nursery. Dr. V. Vijaya Geetha SMS (Seed Technology) co-ordinated the training and explained the principles of nursery, different nursery techniques including cuttings, layering, budding, grafting and also the maintenance of Hi-tech nursery. Thiru. R. Rajesh Kannan, Farm Manager demonstrated the preparation of compost and other manures, cultural practices to be adopted, besides different grafting techniques. He also explained the pest and disease management and post harvest operations in quality nursery management

Training Course on Integrated Nutrient Management and Fertigation



An eight days programme on Integrated Nutrient Management and Fertigation for Field and Horticulture Crops was organized by the Department of Market Extension of the Directorate of Extension Education on 11 to 18 December, 2013 at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore. Twenty Middle Level Officers from the Directorates of Agriculture and Horticulture representing 12 different States of India participated in the Model Training Course. The trainees were exposed to various nutrient management technologies namely; drip fertigation, water quality appraisal, role of nutrients and their interactions in crop production, role of bio-fertilizers, IFS, Integrated Pest & Disease Management, through INM, Precision Farming, Weather and Nutrient Management, Foliar Nutrition, Boosters and PGR under INM, Waste Recycling Technologies, INM and Fertigation for Fruits and Flowers, Vegetable, Medicinal and Aromatic Plants, etc. A hands on training to use TNAU Agri Tech Portal was also imparted. Field visits were conducted for Resource Inventory by PRA method and case study analysis at Thondamuthur, to have an exposure on mulching and drip fertigation at a farmer's field at Kanuvakrai, Annur and to HRS, Ooty to visit INM & Fertigation trials in flower and vegetable crops.

Dr. D. Selvi, Professor (SS & AC) was the Course Director and Dr. P. Muthiah Manoharan, Professor and Head, Dept. of Market Extension and Dr. V.V. Krishnamurthi, Professor (SS&AC) were the Co-Course Directors of the Model Training Course.

Award for TNAU Scientist

Dr. C. Karthikeyan, Professor of Agricultural Extension, TNAU, Coimbatore was conferred the "Young Extension Professional Award" carrying Rs. 5,000/- Cash, a Citation, and a Memento at the International Conference on "Extension Educational Strategies for Sustainable Agricultural Development – A Global Perspective" jointly organized by the International Society of Extension Education (INSEE),



Nagpur and University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS), Bangalore at UAS, Bangalore during 5-8, December, 2013. His research paper entitled "Pilot Testing and Upscaling of e-Velanmai – An ICT enabled Agricultural Extension Approach" was awarded as the "Best Research Paper" in the Conference under the theme entitled, ICT based Extension Models. The award was presented by Dr. S. Ayyappan, Director General, ICAR, New Delhi on December 13, 2013.

Important Visitors

- ◀ Dr. Paul Ebert, Dr. David Schiphalius and Dr. Rajeswaran Jagadesan from University of Queensland, Australia visited Department of Plant Molecular Biology during 25.10.13 to 30.10.2013 for Indo - Aus collaborative project discussion and the team gave a lecture on "Enhancing phosphine toxicity"
- ◀ Dr. Hansel M. Fletcher, Assistant Dean (Graduate Student Affairs), Professor of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics and Dr. Wilson, Assistant Professor of Loma Linda University, California, USA visitors Centre for Plant Molecular Biology, TNAU, Coimbatore on 28.11.2013 and delivered a lecture on Periodontal pathogens.
- ◀ Dr. Pat Collins, DAFF, Australia visited CPMB, TNAU, Coimbatore for Indo- Australia project discussion during 27.11.2013 to 1.12.2013
- ◀ Dr. Sambasivam Periyannan, CSIRO visited CPMB, TNAU, Coimbatore on 3.12.2013
- ◀ Dr. Raja Sivamani, Clinical Dermatologist, UC Davies, California, USA visited TNAU on 4.12.2013
- ◀ Dr. Girish Srinivas, Max Plank Institute, Cologne, Germany visited TNAU, Coimbatore on 20.12.2013
- ◀ Dr. A.K. Shukla, Project Co - ordinator (micro - nutrient), Indian Institute of Soil Science, ICAR, Bhopal visited Rice Research Station, Ambasamudram on 26.12.2014 and discussed with Scientists about the ongoing research projects.
- ◀ Dr. B. Prithviraj, Associate Professor (Marine Biology), Dalhousie University visited Tamil Nadu Agricultural University for selection of students for the year 2014 for dual degree programmes and extension of MoU for Dual degree programme on 09.10.2013.

NEW SCHEMES

S. No.	Name of the Scheme	Principal / Co - Principal Investigator	Budget (Lakhs Rs.)	Funding agency
1.	Model Training Course on "Integrated Nutrient Management and Fertigation for Field and Horticulture Crops"	PI : Dr. Mrs. D. Selvi Professor (SSAC) Co PI : Dr. P. Muthiah Manoharan, Professor & Head, Dr. V.V. Krishnamurthi, Professor (SSAC)	2.01	Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India

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