



# TNAU NEWS

TAMIL NADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY NEWS LETTER

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உணருக்கெல்லாம் உணவளிக்கும் உத்தம உழவர்களுக்கு  
உதவிக்கரம் நீட்டும் பல்கலைக்கழகம்

## TNAU AND KVK TRAINED FARMERS' RECEIVED 'VELANMAI CHEMMAL' AWARD



Five farmers and young agripreneurs in different parts of Tamil Nadu were honoured with the “Velanmai Chemmal Award” at state level farmers’ day celebrations held at TNAU, Coimbatore on 11.1.2014 on their achievements in the field of agriculture and allied activities.

Thiru. A. P. Karuppaiah of Chinnamanur, Theni District was awarded the Velanmai Chemmal Award. A progressive and innovative banana farmer, trader and exporter the adopts hi-tech agricultural practices in banana cultivation under expert guidance who formed the APK Banana World. He has adopted an integrated approach to agricultural production by adopting the pre and post harvest practices which has led to substantial increase in farm income among the 500 and odd farmers.

Thiru. G. Myilsamy of Sulur in Coimbatore District was awarded with Velanmai Chemmal Award for his traditional farming method. He has introduced organic farming, developed organic manure in his own method. He is marketing the manure successfully for the past 25 years and also developed VAM with the help and guidance from TNAU.

The young agripreneur Tmt. R. Suganthi from Neyveli in Cuddalore District was honoured with the Velanmai Chemmal Award on her achievements in the field of value addition and food processing in vegetables

## Farm School on Quality Seed Production in Wheat



Three trainings were conducted on 06.02.2014, 14.02.2014 and 21.02.2014 at RRS, Paiyur, Chinnakalvehalli, Kaveripattinam block, Krishnagiri district and Mukkareddipatti, Harur block, Dharmapuri district respectively, under “Farm School training on Quality seed production in wheat” to the farmers under NABARD - FTTF Scheme operated at the Regional Research Station, Paiyur. Dr. M. N. Buddhar, Professor and Head, welcomed the participants and explained the importance of seed production technology in wheat. Th. T. Sundararaju, Programme Coordinator, KVK, Krishnagiri in his Special Address emphasized the advantages of wheat and seed production in wheat. Dr. K. Geetha, Professor (Plant Breeding) and Principal Investigator and Dr. A. K. Mani, Professor (Soil Science) and Co-PI explained the importance of quality seeds, package of practices for seed production, genetic purity maintenance and post harvest technologies of wheat seeds and organized field visit to farmers. Dr. S. Vijayabaskaran, Professor (Agronomy) and Co PI proposed a formal Vote of Thanks.

## A Field Day on Azimsulfuron



A field day was organized in Ammayaendal village of Thirupattur block of Sivaganga district on 11.02.2014 to demonstrate the post emergent application of the new herbicide Azimsulfuron for controlling weeds in direct seeded rice to the beneficiary farmers under NADP - RKVY - DSR Scheme. The role and mode of action of the herbicide was explained by Dr. P. Kathirvelan, Assistant Professor (Agronomy) to the farmers while Dr. C. Swaminathan, Professor and Head, Dryland Agricultural Research Station, Chettinad stressed the importance of weed control in rice production under direct seeded condition. Mr. R. Saravanan and Mr. M. Jeyaraman, Senior Research Fellows of the scheme made arrangements for the event.

## Training Course on “Economics and Marketing of Value Added Foods”



Government of India sponsored National level eight days Model Training Course on “Economics and Marketing of Value Added Foods” was organized by the Department of Market Extension, TNAU, Coimbatore during 12<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> February, 2014 with the objective to equip the participants with knowledge and skill relating to process of value addition, investment, estimation of costs, returns and profitability to inculcate a positive attitude towards value added enterprises. Twenty middle level officers from the Directorates of Agriculture representing nine States of India participated in the Model Training Course. Technical lectures delivered covered topics relating to process of preparation of value added food products from cereals, millets, fruits and vegetables and methods of preparation were demonstrated at the Post Harvest Technology Centre laboratory and bakery unit. The topics on estimation of costs and returns, marketing strategies, methods of price fixation, business models, human resource management, role of APEDA, financing for enterprises involved in manufacture of value added food products,

and pulses. Thiru. D. Rajkumar of Devankudi in Needamangalam Taluk of Thiruvarur District a progressive farmer was honoured with the Award for complete mechanization in rice and for disseminating the latest agricultural technologies in Thiruvarur District.

Thiru. G. Karikalan of Keelapatti village in Kulithalai Taluk of Karur District-a software engineer turned farmer involved in activities like, Front Line Demonstrations, training and extension activities related to Agriculture was honoured with the award. He was one of the ICAR nominated participant in the ASEAN Young Farmers Exchange visit to Malaysia.

### Training to Women on Value Addition in Flowers



A Training Programme on 'Value addition in flowers' was conducted by the Department of Floriculture and Landscaping of the Horticultural College and Research Institute, TNAU, Coimbatore from 22<sup>nd</sup> January to 19<sup>th</sup> February, 2014. The training was sponsored by the Entrepreneurship Development Institute, Chennai and Government of Tamil Nadu with the objective of encouraging women entrepreneurship. Thirty women participated in the training programme. The programme was inaugurated by Dr. N.K. Krishna Kumar, Deputy Director General (Horticulture) of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, Dr. S. Mariappan, Dean (i/c), (Horticulture), TNAU, welcomed the dignitaries and trainees. Dr. M. Jawaharlal, Professor and Head, Department of Floriculture and Landscaping elaborated the salient achievements made by TNAU in Floriculture and the efforts taken to promote Floriculture entrepreneurship. Dr. M. Ganga, Assistant Professor (Horticulture) explained the various components of the training

programme. Dr. M. Kannan, Professor (Horticulture) delivered a formal Vote of Thanks. During the occasion, an exhibition displaying various value added products made with flowers was arranged.

### Biomass Energy Meet



A meet on Biomass Energy was organized at Dryland Agricultural Research Station, Chettinad, under "Science Forum" on 06.02.2014 with an objective of taking up research on biofuel and rural biomass energy in Sivaganga district. Prof. Erkki hiltunen, Ph.D. Professor, Vaasa Energy Institute, University of Vaasa, Finland delivered a Special Lecture on "Effective tapping, utilization and conversion of rural biomass and biofuel energy including geothermal and solar energy" and emphasized the need for tapping local biomass resources and efficient conversion of them into energy; opportunities for conventional preferably wood based materials for biofuel; utilization of all agricultural wastes into energy through value addition like briquetting, etc. Mr. Ari Haapenen, Project Fellow of University of Vaasa, Finland also participated in the discussion. The Assistant Director of Agriculture, Sakkottai block, local agricultural officers and horticultural officers and scientists of the research station attended the meeting. Dr. C. Swaminathan, Professor and Head organized the event and made a presentation on "Opportunities for biomass and biofuel research in Sivaganga district". Dr. P. Kannan, Assistant Professor proposed a formal Vote of Thanks.

### Training on Food Processing and Preservation

A Training on, "Food Processing and Preservation under the Entrepreneur Development programme funded by Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Government of India, New Delhi was conducted at Regional Research Station, Aruppukottai from 29.01.2014 to 26.02.2014 to benefit the rural youth and farming community. Twenty seven participants attended the training from the various parts of Virudhunagar District. During the training programme



technical sessions on Value addition in amla, sapota, guava, banana, millets, maize, onion, tomato, greens and preparation of bakery foods, chocolates and dairy products were conducted along with practical exposure to various industries. Government schemes and procedure to start the food industry were also explained to the participants by the representatives of MSME, District Industry Centre, NABARD, KVIC and Food Safety Standards Authority of India. The Inaugural Function was Presided by Dr. G. Pushpa, Dean (i/c), Home Science College and Research Institute, Madurai who highlighted importance of food processing and nutritional security of the rural population. Dr. V. K. Paulpandi, Professor and Head delivered the Welcome Address. Mr. M. S. Shenbagaraj, Deputy Director - ATMA and Mr. K.Muthumuniyandi Deputy Director - Agricultural Marketing and Agribusiness Department falcitated. Dr. V. Veeranan Arun Giridhari, Assistant Professor (FSN) and Coordinator of this training, proposed a Vote of Thanks. The Valedictory Function was Presided by Dr. C. Chinnusamy, Dean (i/c), Agricultural College and Research Institute, Madurai who distributed the certificates.

### Training on Green Manure Seed Production Technology



Two trainings were organized on 05.02.2014 and 13.02.2014 to the farmers under NADP Scheme on “Quality seed production programme in green manure crops” by the Regional Research Station, Paiyur. Dr. M. N. Buddhar, Professor and Head, welcomed the participants and explained the importance of seed production technology in green manure crops. Thiru. S. Radhakrishnan, Joint Director of Agriculture, Krishnagiri district in his Special Address emphasized the advantages of green manure and the roll of farmers in seed production of green manure crops. Dr. K. Geetha, Professor (Plant Breeding) explained importance of quality seeds, selection of land for seed production, genetic purity maintenance and post harvest technologies of green manure seeds and also organized visit to the farmers field . Dr. P. Sudhamathi, Associate Professor (Plant Breeding) proposed a formal Vote of Thanks.



Three training programmes on 'Green manure crops seed production' were organized by the Department of Seed Science & Technology, Agricultural College and Research Institute, Madurai at three places viz., Navinipatty, Malayalathanpatti villages and Agricultural College and Research Institute, Madurai on 9<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> January and 5<sup>th</sup> February 2014. One hundred farmers from Madurai district participated in the programme. Dr. P. Masilamani, Professor (SST) and Principal Investigator, welcomed gathering. The Inaugural Address was delivered by Dr. K. Balakrishnan, Professor and Head, Dept. of. Seed Science & Technology. Dr. C. Chinnusamy, Dean (i/c), AC & RI, Madurai delivered the Presidential Address and emphasized the importance of green manuring in crop production and productivity. Dr. M. Bhaskaran, Special Officer (i/c) (Seeds), TNAU, Coimbatore explained in detail the cultivation, seed handling and quality control of green manure seeds. Dr. K. Sujatha, professor (Department of Seed Science & technology) proposed a formal Vote of Thanks.

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Two, one day trainings on “Promotion of Quality Seed Production in Green Manures” under NADP (RKVY) scheme were organized at TRRI, Aduthurai on 21.02.2014 and 26.02.2014. Sixty farmers (30 farmers per training) from Keezhamaruthuvakkudi, Sathanur, Valangaiman, Thirubhuvanam, Melamaruthuvakkudi and Kuruvadippatti villages of Thanjavur district participated. Dr. R. Rajendran, Director (i/c), TRRI, Aduthurai inaugurated the training on 26.02.2014 and emphasized the need of green manure seed production and its importance in improving the soil fertility which in turn increases the productivity of crops. The role of green manures in maintaining soil fertility, seed production technologies and pest and disease management were explained to the farmers. Dr. K. Natesan, Professor (Soil Science), Dr. S. Suresh, Professor (Entomology), Dr. P.Parasuraman, Professor (Agronomy), Dr. R. Saraswathi, Professor (PB & G), Dr. K. Raja, Assistant Professor (SS & T), Dr. A. Bharani, Assistant Professor (Environment Science) and Dr. E. Subramaniam, Assistant Professor (Agronomy) presented technical lectures.

**Foot and Mouth Disease Awareness Campaign**



An awareness campaign was organized at K.Rasiamangalam village of Alangudi Taluk on 20.02.2014 by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Vamban to create awareness about the Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) (called Komari disease, locally) in cattle among dairy farmers of Pudukkottai district. The major reason behind the FMD was that the dairy farmers do not vaccinate their animals in time during cold/winter seasons and the disease outbreak occurs. In Pudukkottai district, cattle rearing is the major occupation next to agriculture. The Vadakadu veterinary dispensary doctor Dr. S. Anandaraj from Department of Animal Husbandry, Pudukkottai explained in detail the circumstances for disease occurrence, reasons for disease outbreak, symptoms identification, vaccination, treatment procedures and first aid herbal medicinal methods. He also added that the affected cattle will have thick hair growth along the body line of hump and legs would be thicker and flattened. Dr. V. Krishnamoorthi, Dr. Noorjahan and Dr. K. Geetha from the KVK, Vamban organized and participated in the awareness campaign in which more than 60 dairy farmers participated

**Field Day for Onion Seed Production**



A Field day was conducted for popularizing the CO5 Onion Seed Production (Bulb to Seed Method) at Thadhakoundanpatti village, Alanganallur Block on 27.02.2014. Dr. C. Ravindran, Assistant Professor (Horticulture) and scientist in charge for the programme explained the suitability of Alanganallur block for Seed Production in Onion. Mr. A. Thirumurugan, Assistant Director of Horticulture, Alanganallur Block highlighted the scheme available with the Department of Horticulture for Drip and Solar System. Vegetable growers from Periyailanthaikulam, Thadha - koundanpatti, A. Pudur, Kondainpatti and Kalvelipatti participated and interacted with the experts.

