



# TNAU NEWS

TAMIL NADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY NEWS LETTER

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Planning & Monitoring

ஊருக்கெல்லாம் உணவளிக்கும் உத்தம உழவர்களுக்கு  
உதவிக்கரம் நீட்டும் பல்கலைக்கழகம்

## TNAU CELEBRATED INTERNATIONAL WOMENS' DAY



The International Womens' day 2015 was celebrated under the NSS wing at TNAU, Coimbatore on March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Ms S.P.Jothi, Managing Director, Sakthi Social Education and Economic Trust, in her Special Address recalled the audacious qualities of Thillayadi Valliammai for her significant role as the freedom fighter. She further reiterated to be loyal to Oneself, Family, Society and the Country.

Dr.K. Ramasamy, Vice Chancellor, TNAU in his Presidential note emphasized that the menfolk always stood behind the development of women. Decision making by women has always been encouraged in the family and to put in the right sense, women should always be proactive to come forward to remove gender discrimination.

Mrs. Krishnammal Jagannathan, Founder, Land For Tillers Freedom, Nagapatinam, in her Chief Guest Address, emphasized the importance of the spiritual education and self discipline. Selvi. T. Dhanusha, II B.Tech(AIT) welcomed the gathering. Dr.A. Arulmozhi, University Medical Officer, Dr.P. Santhy, Director i/c, DODL, Mrs. Annapoorani Ganeshkumar, Branch Manager, SBI, TNAU Branch, offered felicitations. Selvi. Sowmya Ravi, I B.Tech (Horticulture) proposed a formal Vote of Thanks. Dr.S.Mahimairaja, Dean (i/c) (Agriculture), NSS Programme Officers, Staff Advisor and 500 NSS volunteers participated in the programme organized by the NSS wing at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University.

## MoU SIGNED FOR LANDSCAPING



Considering the importance of greenery, Department of Floriculture and Landscaping, Horticultural College and Research Institute, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore, initiated an organised research effort through PG students research in the arena of “Sports turf” and “Vertical gardening” which are the upcoming fields in the modern day gardening. The Tamil Nadu Agricultural University has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Coimbatore Golf Club at Chettipalayam, in the field of “Landscape Gardening” to support PG students through research assistantship on “Golf sports turf research”. Similarly TNAU entered in to a MoU with Indian Green Infrastructure Network (IGIN), Bangalore in the field of “Vertical Gardening Research” for a period of three years. These MoUs were signed on 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2015. On behalf of Coimbatore Golf Club, Mr.R.Gopinath, Vice President and on behalf of IGIN, Mr.Hemakumar, Founder-Chairman, have signed the MoU respectively with the TNAU. The MoU was signed by the Registrar on behalf of TNAU in the presence of Dr.K.Ramasamy, Vice Chancellor, TNAU.

## HIV AIDS AWARENESS PROGRAMME

Red Ribbon Club (RRC) of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University organized HIV AIDS awareness programme on 28, 29, 30<sup>th</sup> March 2015. In the orientation training conducted on the occasion 400 volunteers participated. HIV AIDS awareness lecture was delivered by Dr.K.Mahadevan, Professor and Head

(Rtd), Department of Skin and Sexually Transmitted Diseases, Coimbatore Medical College Hospital who explained the causes of HIV infection and the fact that Tamil Nadu ranks 9<sup>th</sup> in the country in HIV infection with 0.3% of population being infected by the killer syndrome. Further, he reiterated that youth should be well educated about the clean habits, healthy foods and avoid the spread of AIDS.



The volunteers interacted with him and learnt about the stigma and discrimination faced by HIV infected people in the society. A peer group consisting of 40 volunteers was trained on reproductive health.

## AWARENESS PROGRAMME ON PULSE PRODUCTION



One day awareness cum training programme on “Synchronized maturing pulse varieties” was organized by the Department of Pulses, Centre for Plant Breeding Genetics, TNAU, Coimbatore at KVK, Virinchipuram on 12<sup>th</sup> February, 2015 for the benefit of the farmers of Vellore District. Dr.J.R.Kannan Babu, Professor and Head. in his Presidential Address emphasized the importance of pulses and the role of synchronized maturing pulse varieties in mechanical harvesting.

Dr.S. Pandiyan, Professor and Head, ARS, Virinchipuram, explained the cultivation of pulses in soils with high electrical conductivity. Dr.K.R. Latha, Professor elaborated the agronomic practices of pulses and Dr.D. Rajabaskar, Assistant Professor (Agricultural Entomology) highlighted the integrated management of major insect pests in the pulse fields. Dr.P.Sridhar, Program Co-ordinator interacted with the farmers on the cultivation of pulses especially in the problem water with high EC (up to 10 dsm<sup>-1</sup>) and also in the climate change scenario.



The same programme was conducted at Sugarcane Research Station, Melalathur on 13<sup>th</sup> February, 2015. The programme was inaugurated by Dr.A.Thirumurugan, Professor and Head, SRS, Melalathur. Dr.J.R. Kannan Babu, Professor and Head, Department of Pulses, Dr.K.R.Latha, Professor (Agronomy), Dr.D.Kumaresan, Assistant Professor (PB & G), Dr.D. Rajabaskar, Assistant Professor (Agricultural Entomology) served as resource persons and 50 farmers participated in the programme. Dr. K.R. Latha, Professor (Agronomy) and PI of the scheme proposed a formal Vote of Thanks.

Similar programme was organized at Ayyampalayam, Pollachi by the Department of Pulses, CPBG, TNAU, Coimbatore on 27.02.15. Dr. K.R.Latha, Dr. D.Kumaresan, Assistant professor (PB & G), Dr.D.Rajabaskar, Assistant Professor (Agricultural Entomology), Dr.E.Rajeswari, Assistant Professor (Plant Pathology), were the resource persons and 30 farmers participated in the programme.

## FIELD DAY ON SYNCHRONIZED MATURING REDGRAM VARIETIES



Field day was organized at Idikarai village, Sarkar Samakulam block, Coimbatore district on 11.02.2015 under the scheme "Demonstration of synchronized maturing pulses varieties with key technologies and mechanization to higher productivity". Dr. K. Srinivasan, Professor, Department of Agronomy, welcomed the gathering. Dr. K. Velayudham, Director (i/c) (Directorate of Crop Management), in his Inaugural Address highlighted the nutritious aspects of pulses and their importance. Dr. J.R. Kannan Babu, Professor and Head, Department of Pulses, TNAU, narrated some success stories about redgram cultivation by the farmers. Dr. K.R. Latha, Professor (Agronomy), in her Special Address explained the objectives of the scheme and cultivation technologies in pulses. Thiru. Vincent Manoharan, Deputy Director of Agriculture, Coimbatore, explained the government schemes for the benefit of the farmers and subsidies available for pulse production. Forty farmers participated. They also visited the crops raised under the demonstration programme along with scientists and officials.

## NABARD SENSITIZATION PROGRAMME AT TCRS

NABARD organized a sensitization programme for Salem District Farmers Federation members at Tapioca and Castor Research Station, Yethapur on 05.03.2015. Thiru. K.Maharabooshanam, I.A.S., District Collector, Salem delivered the Presidential Address and distributed the Joint Liability



Group Loans to the farmers and interacted with scientists on the Research and Development programmes. Dr.S.Manickam, Professor and Head, briefed the research achievements and ongoing activities pertaining to Tapioca variety YTP-1, Castor Hybrid YRCH-1 and explained about Castor gold (growth regulator), Coconut tonic, *Pseudomonas fluorescens* and *Trichoderma viride*.

### TRIBAL FARMERS TRAINING ON MILLET SEED PRODUCTION AND VALUE ADDITION TECHNIQUES



The Centre of Excellence in Millets, Athiyendal along with TNAU Seed Centre under ICAR Sub-Plan organized a training programme to the tribal farmers of Javadhu hills on millet seed production and value addition techniques on 25.03.2015. Tribal farmers numbering 120 from Javadhu hills participated in the training. Dr. M. Jayachandran, Professor and Head, CEM, Athiyendal welcomed the gathering and explained about the Centre. Dr. Balasubramaniam, Principal Scientist, delivered a lecture on millet processing machine, De-stoner cum grader aspirator and CIAE millet mill. Dr. M. Bhaskaran, Special Officer, Seeds reiterated the capacity

building training on millets conducted through TN-IAMWARM scheme and motivated the farmer participants to practice science based agriculture in their locality for maximizing profit in agriculture. Dr.V. Ravi, Director (i/c), TRRI, Aduthurai encouraged the farmers to focus on agri-business in the future. During the function, a book on “Millet improved seed production techniques and value added technologies” was released and truthfully labelled Tenai CO (Te) 7 seeds were distributed to the participants. Dr.V. Paramasivam, Professor (SS & T), proposed a formal Vote of Thanks. Later, the farmers were taken around the station for field visit and to the millet processing unit.

### TRAINING ON GARLIC CULTIVATION



Training on “Recent cultivation techniques in Garlic” was organized jointly by Horticultural Research Station, Kodaikanal and Directorate of Arecanut and Spices Development, Calicut at CSBWRI, Mannavanoor, Kodaikanal on 03.03.2015 under GOI-NHM (Spices) scheme. Dr.J. Rajangam, Professor and Head in his Inaugural Address emphasized the importance of hill garlic and potentiality of the garlic cultivation to uplift the economy of the farmers in the hilly regions of Tamil Nadu. Dr.P. Jansirani, Professor and Head, Department of Spices and Plantation Crops, HC&RI, Periyakulam Presided over and insisted that garlic cultivation should be oriented towards ‘tripling the production and doubling the income’ and also stressed the importance of seed material in viable production of garlic. Th. M. Pandey, the Deputy Director of Horticulture, Kodaikanal delivered

the Special Address and emphasized the promotional schemes for hill garlic cultivation. Dr.A.S. Rajendran, Principal Scientist and Head, Central Sheep Breeding and Wool Research Institute, Mannavanur, released the training manual on garlic cultivation for the benefit of the farmers. The training programme was felicitated by Th.V. Subramanian, Manager, Punjab National Bank, Mannavanur and Tmt. Muniammal Thiruvassagam, President, Mannavanur. Technical lectures on hi-tech cultivation of garlic was delivered by Dr.B. Senthamizh Selvi, Dr.G. Sathish, Dr.G. Ashok Kumar, Dr.N.Seenivasan and Th. M. Saravanan. Demonstration of seed treatment and use of biofertilizer and biocontrol agents in garlic cultivation was done by R. Muthuselvi. Nearly 140 garlic growers were benefitted by the training programme. Dr.N.Seenivasan, Assistant Professor (Nematology) welcomed the gathering.

### THIRUVARUR DISTRICT FARMERS EXPOSURE VISIT



An exposure visit was organized for 20 farmers of Thiruvavarur District by KVK, Needamangalam who were taken to TNAU, Coimbatore on 20.03.2015. The farmers were shown demonstration of farm implements and they also visited various workshops and research centre at the AEC & RI to gain knowledge on farm mechanization. The exposure visit was arranged by Dr.A.Kamaraj, Assistant Professor (Agricultural Engineering).

### TRAINING ON INTEGRATED FARMING SYSTEM (IFS)



A training on IFS was organized in batches in which 65 farmers of Thiruvavarur District (35 – Koradacherry block and 30 – Kottur block) were trained under SPC - State Balanced Growth Fund scheme on 04.03.2015 to 06.03.2015 and 11.03.2015 to 13.03.2015. The training included one day on campus training, one day exposure visit to model IFS farms established by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Needamangalam. And on the third day of the training, officials from financial institutions viz., NABARD, HDFC Bank, Co-operatives were invited to sensitize the farmers about the financial support available to establish IFS model units and the procedures to be followed to apply for the loan and to avail the subsidies. The JDA, JDAH, ADA, ADAH, AO's and AAO's of Koradacherry and Kottur blocks of Thiruvavarur district also taken part in the training. The training programme was organized by Dr.K.Chozhan, Professor and Head and Dr.S.Saravanan Assistant Professor (Veterinary Science).

### SEMINAR ON FARMER PRODUCER ORGANIZATION

To popularize the Farmers Producer Organization (FPO) among the farmers of Thiruvavarur District, a one day district level seminar was conducted at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Needamangalam on 19<sup>th</sup> March, 2015. The seminar was chaired by the Thiruvavarur district Collector, Dr. M.Mathivanan, I.A.S., who emphasized its advantages and the need in the present situation of the district.

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Mr. S.Renganathan, Member of Research Council, TNAU and who established a Farmer Producer Organization (FPO) explained the procedure for establishing the FPO. Dr.K.Chozhan, Professor and Head spoke on role of FPO in increasing production during his welcome address. The JDA, DDM, NABARD, AEE (Agricultural Engineering) and other officials from line departments participated. About 100 participants from Thiruvarur district attended the seminar.

**TRAINING ON INTEGRATED RODENT PEST MANAGEMENT**



Training on Integrated Rodent Pest Management under SSEPERS (ATMA) support was inaugurated by the Collector of Thiruvarur district Dr.M.Mathivanan, I.A.S., on 03.03.2015 at KVK, Needamangalam who released the training pamphlet. A total of 5 batches of training covering two blocks each in Thiruvarur district for a period of 2 days were conducted from 03.03.2015 to 24.03.2015.

In each block, 40 innovative farmers (total 400 farmers) were trained on the management of rodent pests. Besides class room lectures, identification of live burrows, method of poison bait preparation and

keeping them in the field were demonstrated. Also a model exhibition was arranged. Dr.K.Samiayyan, Special Officer, AC & RI, Thanjavur delivered the Special Lecture during the valedictory function, The training programme was organized by the Professor and Head, Dr.K.Chozhan and Dr.R.Ramesh, Assistant Professor(Agricultural Entomology).

**BIOCONCORRENZA'15**



A national level symposium entitled “Bioconcorrenza’15 and PG Biotechnology Seminar” was organized by the undergraduate and postgraduate students of Centre for Plant Molecular Biology, TNAU, Coimbatore on 3.3.2015 and 4.3.2015 at TNAU, Coimbatore. A total of 590 delegates from different institutes across the state and neighbouring states participated in the event.

Several competitive events viz., Tech talk, Biomarketing, quiz programme, fiction writing, pick a stick, tool finder, turn a coat, elocution, Pencil sketching, interpreta, just a minute and extempore were conducted on the eve of the symposium. A total of 34 posters were displayed in the poster session. Dr. K. Ramasamy, Vice Chancellor distributed the prizes and delivered the Valedictory Address on 04.03.2015.

**HI-TECH PRODUCTION OF IMPORTANT SPICES**

Two days State Level Seminar entitled “Hi- Tech Production of important spices” was organized by the Department of Spices and Plantation Crops, HC & RI, Coimbatore on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2015 jointly with DASD, Calicut under GOI-CSS-MIDH scheme.

Dr. K. Ramasamy, Vice Chancellor, TNAU highlighted the importance of branding of spices for exports and domestic marketing. The Vice Chancellor also released the booklets prepared for this seminar during the occasion. Dr. K. Rajamani, Professor and Head, Department of Medicinal Crops, welcomed the gathering. Dr. J. Suresh, Professor and Head, Department of Spices and Plantation Crops, proposed a formal Vote of Thanks.



In the technical session Dr. J. Suresh, Dr. Paramaguru, Professor (Hort.), Dr.S. Subramanian, Professor (Hort.), Dr.R. Chitra, Assistant Professor (Hort.) Dr.V. Jegadeeswari, Assistant Professor (Hort.) and Dr. M. Mohanalakshmi, Assistant Professor (Hort.), spoke on various topics. Protray nursery technology in turmeric was taught to the trainees. Plant protection scientists Dr.C. Ushamalini and Dr. G. Asokan, delivered lectures on pest and diseases management in turmeric, ginger and black pepper. A field visit was arranged on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day to the turmeric, ginger and black pepper cultivation fields. Twenty officials of Horticulture and hundred farmers from various districts of Tamil Nadu participated in the State Level Seminar.

### SELF DEFENCE PROGRAMME FOR WOMEN 2015

National Service Scheme of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University organised self defence programme for women volunteers on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2015. Mr. Francis Xavier, Director, Outreach Foundation, India and team of

experts conducted the programme in which 400 volunteers and NSS Officers participated. During the programme counseling was given to girls regarding how to build self esteem and confidence and about body language, communication and techniques to prevent men from attacking them.



Simple methods of using hands and legs, safety pins, pen, pencils, blade, small stones, chilly flour to combat the attack by strangers were also demonstrated. He also called upon the male volunteers to give high regard to their female counterparts and also have positive attitude towards women in family and society. There was an interaction session of the volunteers with Mr.Francis and team.

### TNAU TRAINED FARMERS AWARDED



Th.G.Gopalraman of Vellukudi received the BEST FARM MECHANIZATION FARMER AWARD on 20.03.2015 during the Demonstration of Farm Implements at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore for complete mechanization in rice and for disseminating the latest agricultural technologies in Thiruvarur District. Another

farmer Th.M.Deivamani of Keluvathur, received BEST FARMER AWARD from Malarum Velanmai magazine on 14.03.2015 for his outstanding contribution in achieving highest grain production in rice.

### TNAU SCIENTIST BAGGED TNSC AWARD

Dr.K.Sathiya Bama, Assistant Professor (Soil Science) received Tamil Nadu Young Women Scientist Award 2015 in the discipline of agriculture sciences which was instituted by Science City, Chennai on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2015 at Chennai Science Festival 2015



for her contribution in the field of developing organic fodder production technologies, exploitation of forage crops for environmental safety and other important contributions made in the new cauvery delta zone soil.

### Important visitors

- ◀ Dr.M.Rajendiran, I.A.S., Director of Agriculture, Tamil Nadu visited Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Needamangalam on 08.03.2015 and Presided over the International Women's Day Celebrations
- ◀ Dr. Ram Rajasekaran, Director, Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysore, Dr. Purnima Sharma, Biotech Consortium India Limited, New Delhi and Dr. Ravi, Indian Institutes of Science, Education and Research, Trivandrum visited Centre for Plant Molecular Biology, Coimbatore on 03.03.2015
- ◀ Dr.D.M.Hegde, Chairman, DUS Monitoring Team for Sunflower & Ex-Project Director and Dr. Mangesh.Y.Dudhe, Scientist from the Directorate of Oilseeds Research, Hyderabad visited the Department of Seed Science and Technology, Seed Centre, TNAU, Coimbatore on 27.02.2015 for monitoring sunflower DUS testing trial.

Published by  
Directorate of Planning and Monitoring,  
TNAU, Coimbatore - 641 003.

Printed at :  
TNAU Offset Printing Press,  
Special Officer (Publications & Public Relations)  
TNAU, Coimbatore - 641 003.

From  
Directorate of Planning and Monitoring,  
Tamil Nadu Agricultural University,  
Coimbatore - 641 003.

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April 2015

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