



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

"OWN YOUR TREE" - *Melia* PARK AT TNAU



Melia is an industrially and economically important fast growing multipurpose tree species which can be harvested on a short duration, to fulfill the requirement of timber, pulp, biomass and as source of plywood. The tree is also known for its medicinal properties. Department of Farm Management, TNAU and NSS student volunteers jointly established a *Melia* Park with 760 tree saplings popularly known as Malaivembu in Tamil. Each volunteer was vested with responsibility of maintaining two species of melia viz., *Melia dubia* and *M. composita* planted during the programme.

The programme was inaugurated by Dr. K. Ramasamy, Vice Chancellor, TNAU who also planted the first seedling and reiterated the importance of trees in environmental protection and for getting pure air and rain. *Melia* is used in biodiesel preparation. It also possesses medicinal properties and leaf decoction is given for dengue patients.

Dr. C. Jayanthi, Director (i/c) Crop Management, Dr. S. Mahimairaja, Dean (Agriculture) (i/c), Dr. C. Chinnusamy, Professor and Head, Department of Farm Management, Dr. K. Kumutha, NSS Programme Coordinator, Farm Managers, NSS programme officers, staff members, research scholars, farm workers and 350 NSS volunteers participated in the programme.

Technology Book Released



Shri.Sajjansingh, R. Chavan, IAS, District Collector The Kanyakumari District visited HRS, Pechiparai on 22.04.2015. Selvi. Shreya P. Singh, IAS, Assistant Collector, officials from State Department of Horticulture, Agriculture and Agricultural Engineering accompanied the Collector. Dr. R. Kannan, Professor and Head, welcomed the visitors and explained the various research activities of the research station. The Collector planted a tree sapling in the station premises.

The Assistant Collector delivered felicitation address. Shri. Sajjansingh R. Chavan, IAS, District Collector released book entitled "improved cultivation technologies of spices and fruit crops" and distributed merit certificates to the students and mentioned about the importance of agriculture and opportunities for agriculture graduates. The staff members of HRS, Pechiparai including Dr. M. Palanikumar and Dr. P. Rajarathinam, Assistant Professors, Dr. J. D. Nirmalatha, Senior Research Fellow and Diploma (Horticulture) students attended the meeting. Dr. S.T. Bini Sundar, Assistant Professor (Horticulture) proposed a formal Vote of Thanks.

Tribal Farmers Trained to Harvest Pesticide Free Vegetables



Forty tribal farmers of Sengadu village, Yercaud Taluk, Salem district were given training on 03.09.2014 about the use of biological control agents to suppress the pests and diseases of vegetable crops. Dr. K. Ramaraju, Director (i/c) (CPPS) delivered a special talk on the need for the use of Biological control of pests and diseases in vegetable crops. Dr. S. Kuttalam, Professor and Head, Department of Agricultural Entomology delivered the Inaugural Address and emphasized the ill effects and beneficial effects of chemical pesticides and the need for the use botanical pesticides to harvest pesticide residue free vegetables. Dr. S. Nageswari, Professor and Head, HRS, Yercaud emphasized the need for quality essential nutrients to human health and the easy way to get these through kitchen garden. The training programme was organized under the TSP AICRP BCCPW, TNAU, Coimbatore. Dr. S. Sridharan, Professor of Agricultural Entomology and Dr. P. A. Saravanan, Asst. Professor (Agricultural Entomology) organized the training programme and facilitated the interactive sessions.



Similar training was organized at Thadiyankudisai village, Kodaikanal Taluk, Dindigul district on 04.12.2014 about the use of biological control agents to suppress the pests and diseases of vegetable crops and the potentials of beekeeping in crop pollination. In the training programme thirty farmers participated. Dr. Praneetha, Professor and Head, HRS, Thadiyankudisai emphasized the need for kitchen gardening and its benefits. Dr. M. Muthusamy, Professor (Entomology) spoke on the eco friendly management of pests and diseases of vegetable crops. In the training programme demonstrations on the grafting procedures of avocado and selection of pepper vines for bush pepper production were conducted. The preparation and use of botanical pesticides and beekeeping were also explained. In the training programme, the tribal farmers were supplied with vegetable seeds namely clusterbeans, lablab, bhendi, tomato and bottle gourd along with biocontrol inputs like *Beauveria bassiana*, *Metarhizium anisopliae*, *Pseudomonas fluorescens*, *Trichoderma viridi*, neem seed, neem oil and bee

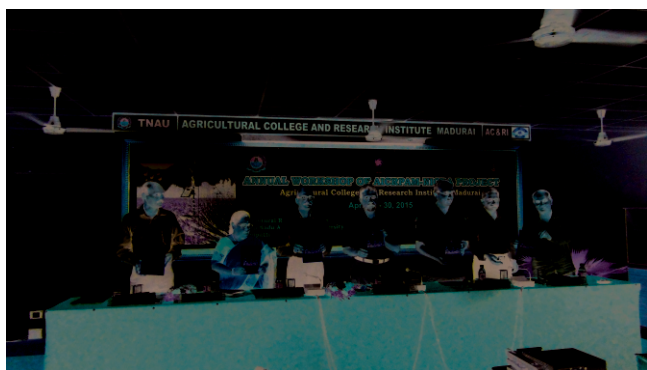
Demonstration of Turmeric Processing Equipments



A demonstration of turmeric processing was arranged at Thamarapalayam village, Kodumudi block of Erode district on 23.04.2015 under All India Co-ordinated Research Programme - Post Harvest Technology Scheme functioning at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore. Post harvest machineries of turmeric developed by various centers namely; turmeric boiler from Bapatla, Andhra Pradesh, turmeric washer from Bhubaneswar, Orissa, waste fired dryer from Akola, Maharashtra and turmeric polisher from TNAU, Coimbatore were demonstrated.

Sixty progressive farmers in and around Erode district participated in the programme. Dr. K. Alagusundram, Deputy Director General (Agricultural Engineering), Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi initiated the event. Dr. V. Thirupathi, Research Engineer, and his team organized the demonstration.

Annual Workshop of AICRPAM (NICRA)



Annual workshop of AICRPAM (NICRA) project was organized by the Agricultural Research Station, Kovilpatti at Agricultural College & Research Institute, Madurai during April 28-30, 2015 in collaboration with Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture, Hyderabad. Sixty farmers participated from all over the country. On 28.4.2015, Dr. K. Velayudham, Dean (i/c), welcomed the delegates from all over the

country and explained the accomplishments of AC & RI, Madurai in the past 50 years. Dr. M. Maheswaran, Director of Research (i/c), TNAU, Coimbatore in his Special Address suggested that scientists should identify the suitable crops, varieties and technologies and the same have to be transferred to farming community through training programmes to increase the food production in the country under the context of climate change. Dr. VUM Rao, Project Coordinator, CRIDA, Hyderabad in his Special Address stated that block level weather forecast is given under the project along with climate resilient farming technologies to farmers twice a week in 25 climatically prone districts of India as pilot mode. He presented the Action Plan for 2015-16. Dr. Maheswari, Principal Investigator, NICRA project, CRIDA, Hyderabad and Chief Guest of the event stated that NICRA project is aimed to provide integrated package of agricultural technologies to Indian farmers to overcome even severe climate change situation and stressed crop insurance to farmers. Dr. K. Ramasamy, Vice Chancellor, TNAU, Coimbatore in his Presidential Address expressed that the reduction of forest green cover in India has caused climate change in our country. He indicated that, even as the number of farmers in agriculture are declining in recent times, the required quantity of food is being produced to feed the people. Five technical bulletins were released on the occasion. Dr. D. Jawahar, Professor & Head, ARS, Kovilpatti proposed a formal Vote of Thanks.

Experts chaired the technical sessions there on and offered critical comments to improve the activities of the project. The delegates were taken to Agricultural Research Station, Kovilpatti on 29.04.2015 to explain the various activities of AICRP on Agrometeorology which operates from 1988. At the farmers - scientists' interaction arranged in NICRA village Allikuntam, Madurai district arranged on the third day, farmers expressed that block level forecast was accurate than district level one. Dr. A. Solaimalai and Dr. S. Subbulakshmi, Assistant Professors of AICR (AP) M along with staff of ARS, Kovilpatti and AC & RI, Madurai arranged the workshop.

Empowering Rural Youth in Drip System Maintenance

The Water Technology Centre of TNAU initiated a new venture in retaining young rural work force in farming through imparting intensive training on the maintenance of drip irrigation system which will enable them to sustain their income apart from increasing the water use efficiency in drip systems maintained by a lot of farmers in Western tract of Tamil Nadu viz., Erode, Tirupur and Coimbatore districts. Drip irrigation saves



50 - 60 per cent of irrigation water and increases the productivity of crops. A baseline survey undertaken in these districts by the Water Technology Centre revealed that in the drip installations dated back to 10 years to 2 years in the farmers' holding clogging was the major problem. Only less than 20 per cent of the drip farmers maintain these systems.

The WTC in collaboration with the M/s Navajbai Ratan Tata Trust based at Mumbai organized the training cum demonstration on the systematic maintenance of drip systems through a project called Reviving Green Revolution. Around 1000

farmers were trained during 2013-15 in Erode and Tirupur districts. As many farmers required the maintenance support thro' paid technicians (para technician) the WTC planned for equipping the rural youth in the project area who would serve the farmers on cost basis. Therefore, a two day Capacity building programme was organized at WTC during 12-13, May, 2015. Thirty rural youth identified from Erode, Tirupur and Coimbatore districts attended the training. The components of drip system, layout, causes of clogging in the system and its maintenance, quality of irrigation water, fertigation to different crops were explained by the Scientists. The participants were taken to M/s Jain Irrigation Systems Limited at Udumalpet on the 2nd day and trained on the practical aspects of maintaining the drip system.

This innovative programme was inaugurated by Dr. B.J. Pandian, Director (i/c) WTC on 12.5.2015 and the Valedictory Address was delivered by Ms. Khorshed, Senior Executive of NRTT, Mumbai on 13.5.2015. The Principal Investigators of the Project Dr. SP. Ramanathan, Professor of Agronomy and Dr. K. Nagarajan, Professor of Soil Water Conservation, co - ordinated the two day event.

Important Visitors

- < Dr. S.B. Verulkar, Professor and Head, Dept. of Plant Molecular Biology and Biotechnology, Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwavidyalaya (IGKV), Raipur visited Centre for Molecular Biology, TNAU on 07.04.2015 to deliver guest lecture on "Identification of QTLs for grain yield and root traits for developing drought tolerant rice genotypes"
- < Dr. Suman Govil, Advisor, HRD division, Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology, New Delhi visited Centre for Plant Molecular Biology and Bio Technology, TNAU on 07.04.2015
- < Dr. K.S. Charak, Department of Biotechnology, New Delhi, Dr. K. Veluthambi, Madurai Kamarajar University, Madurai and Dr. H.E. Shashidhar, University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru visited Centre for Plant Molecular Biology and Bio Technology, TNAU on 20.04.2015
- < Dr. Jim Gaffney and Dr. Valasubramani, Dupont Pioneer Seeds visited Centre for Plant Molecular Biology and Bio Technology, TNAU on 24.04.2015

NEW SCHEMES

S. No.	Name of the Scheme	Principal Investigator	Budget (Lakhs Rs.)	Duration	Funding Agency
1.	Morphometry and Phylogeography of honey bees and stingless bees in India - Phase II	PI: Dr. S. Mohankumar Co - PI: Dr. M.R. Srinivasan	84.96	April 2015 to March 2018	DBT

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