



# TNAU NEWS

TAMIL NADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY NEWS LETTER

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Planning & Monitoring

ஊருக்கெல்லாம் உணவளிக்கும் உத்தம உழவர்களுக்கு  
உதவிக்கரம் நீட்டும் பல்கலைக்கழகம்

## Signing of MOU for Developing Safer Pest Control Technologies



Tamil Nadu Agricultural University is undertaking multi-dimensional Research and Development activities towards evolving more eco-friendly and consumer safe pest control technologies for adoption by farmers. In this context, TNAU is collaborating with Sun-Agro Biotech Research Centre (SABRC) an autonomous scientific society, recognized by Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR), Government of India, which is also focused on R & D of eco-friendly crop protection technologies like bio pesticides, bio control agents and insect trapping systems, besides environment impact assessment, with internationally experienced experts as scientific faculty.

This R & D collaboration has now completed three years and has resulted in several promising leads towards evolving safer and widely adoptable eco-safe pest management technologies, such as; extended shelf life of the biocontrol agent *Trichogramma*, enhanced potency of botanical bio pesticides based on sweet flag, more efficient trap designs and pheromone / attractant lure dispensers for fruit flies and crop borers.

This collaboration agreement was renewed on 09.07.2015 by the signing of fresh MoU for the next three years period with the Registrar – Dr.C.R.Anandakumar representing TNAU and Dr. S. Sithanantham representing SABRC in the presence of senior crop protection scientists with the blessings of the Vice Chancellor TNAU Dr. K. Ramasamy.

## Scientific Awareness Programme for Students, Farmers and Self help groups



Sugarcane Research Station, Cuddalore along with C. Kandswami Naidu College for Women, Cuddalore organized a Scientific Awareness Programme (SAP) for students, farmers and self help groups with the financial assistance from Tamil Nadu State Council for Science and Technology, Chennai.

The latest technologies were highlighted to the farmers (50 numbers), higher secondary school students (100 numbers) and self help groups (50 numbers) at sugarcane Research station, Cuddalore for a period of three days on 6-8, July 2015. The participants were exposed to the latest techniques in agriculture- organic farming, drip irrigation and bio fertilizers. Dr.P.Christy Nirmala Mary, Assistant professor (SS & AC) explained the principles behind the techniques and Dr.C. Muralidaran, Professor (Agronomy) explained the crop management, conservation of water and post harvest technologies.

Dr. R. S. Purushothaman, Professor and Head, Sugarcane Research Station presided over the programme and narrated the varietal improvement on sugarcane. Dr. R. Anitha, Assistant professor (Crop Physiology) explained about tissue culture and plant molecular biology in sugarcane and discussed the biotechnology and nano technology aspects.

Food processing was explained by Dr. R. Anitha, Assistant Professor (Crop physiology), Dr. S. Douresamy, Professor (Entomology) gave a special lecture on sericulture and Dr. V. Ravichandran, Assistant Professor (Plant Pathology) gave information on mushroom culture to the self help group members.

## Cent Percent Placement



Job offers were offered to all the students of 2013-2015 batch, who have completed their two year diploma in agriculture at Institute of Agriculture, Regional Research Station Campus, Aruppukottai in a Placement function held on 10.07.2015. Twenty six students were placed in M/s. Sathyam Bio (P) Ltd., Madurai as Sales Executives; 15 students were appointed in M/s. DHAN Foundation, Madurai as Agriculture Business Associates; Seven students were placed in M/s. Tuticorin Hindustan Bio Plant Pvt. Limited, Thoothukudi as Sales Officers.

Earlier the Principal Dr.V.K.Paulpandi distributed the job offer letters to the students. The Placement Officer Dr.K.A.Jeyakumar made the arrangements for the function. The faculty members offered their felicitations to the students.

## Inauguration of Automatic Seed Vending Machine at TCRS, Yethapur

Automatic seed vending machine introduced by Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore was inaugurated by Honorable minister for Highways, Small ports and Forestry, Edapadi Thriu.K.Palaniswamy on 08.07.2015 at Tapioca and Castor Research Station, Yethapur, Salem district to



help farmers and the general public to purchase seeds in small quantities for cultivating vegetables and flowers in kitchen and terrace garden. Thiru. R. Ilangovan, State President, Co-operative Bank, Thiru.V. Sampath, District Collector, Salem, Dr. M. Maheswaran, Director of Research, TNAU, Coimbatore, Dr.M.Bhaskaran, Special Officer (Seeds), TNAU, Coimbatore and Dr. S. Manickam, Professor and Head, Tapioca and Castor Research Station, Yethapur, TNAU scientists and progressive farmers have participated. The machine is refrigerated and maintained at 4 degrees centigrade to avoid degradation of seeds.

**Helmet Awareness Programme by NSS Students of AC & RI, Eachangkottai, Thanjavur**



Awareness programme on wearing helmet was conducted on 11.07.2015 at Keelavas-thachavadi and Mannargudi Bye pass junction by the NSS volunteer students of AC & RI, Eachangkottai, Thanjavur, under the guidance Dr. K. Samiayyan, Dean i/c of the College. Handouts were distributed to the public on importance of wearing helmet and statistics of accidents caused by two wheelers. NSS Programme Officer Dr.S.A.Ramjani, Assistant Professor (Bio Energy) organized the pogramme with the co-ordination of police in Thanjavur Taluk.

**PRE - KHARIF Mela 2015**



Dryland Agricultural Research Station, Chettinad actively took part in the exhibition organized by KVK, TANUVAS, Kundrakudi, Sivagangai district on 16.7.2015 and exhibited various value added products, tree seeds, byproducts from wood and millet food products as part of pre-kharif Mela 2015. Scientists from DARS explained about modern cultivation practices of annual crops, food processing technology, dry farming activities, agroforestry models suitable for dryland, water management, use of green manures, organic farming, important protein rich fodder crops for cattle and integrated farming system models. Participants of various categories viz., progressive farmers, farm women, farmers interested groups, farmers friends, Self Help Groups, farmer producer companies, all numbering 475 participated and benefited.

**Training on 'Organic Agriculture'**



A one day Training on 'Organic Agriculture' was conducted on 07.08.2015 at the Department of Sustainable Organic Agriculture, TNAU, Coimbatore. Dr.C.Jayanthi, Director, Crop Management, inaugurated the programme by lighting the Kuthuvillaku and released the training hand book on "Organic Agriculture" and addressed the participants. Dr.E.Somasundaram, Professor and Head, emphasized the need for protecting the ecosystem through organic farming and narrated the current situation of farmers switching over to organic agriculture. Demonstrations on panchagavya, vermicompost preparation, seed treatment with biofertilizers and herbal leaf extract preparation for pest management in organic farming were conducted by Dr.A.Bharani, Assistant Professor (Environmental Science), Dr.R.Parimala devi, Assistant Professor (Agricultural Microbiology) and Dr.K.Ganesan, Assistant Professor (Agricultural Entomology), respectively.



A lecture on terrace cultivation was given by Dr.Subesh Ranjithkumar, Assistant Professor (Horticulture). Dr.S.Pugalendhi, Professor and Head, Bioenergy spoke on the advantages of utilizing the biogas slurry as an organic source of nutrients. Dr.R.Jansi Rani, Professor (Agricultural Extension) explained about the organic certification and the need for awareness in this regard. All the participants interacted and shared their experiences about the organic farming cultivation. Organic inputs recommended for crop husbandry were displayed in the Exhibition. Certificates were distributed to all the participants.

**Jackfruit Diversity Show and Farmers Training at HC & RI, Periyakulam**



A "Jackfruit diversity show and farmers training" was organized by the Department of Fruit Crops, HC&RI, Periyakulam under ICAR – AICRP (Fruits) on 09.07.2015 in which 150 farmers from Theni and Dindigul districts participated. Dr. Prakash Patil, Project Coordinator (Fruits), IIHR, Bengaluru inaugurated the exhibition and delivered the Special Address on importance of jackfruit diversity in India and the need for research interventions with a global perspective. Dr. T.N. Balamohan, Dean i/c, HC&RI, Periyakulam presided over the training and highlighted the nutritional, medicinal values and importance of value added products in view of entrepreneurship in fruit industry. Dr. J. Rajangam, Professor and Head, Department of Fruit Crops explained the varietal improvement in jackfruit in India and emphasized the conservation of jackfruit germplasm for research programmes. The Deputy

Directors of Horticulture, Th. Chinnaraj from Theni and Th. Ramanathan from Dindigul felicitated.

Dr. S. Parthiban, Professor and Head, Grape Research Station, Anamalaiyanpatty, Dr. M. Theradimani, Professor (Plant Pathology), Dr. M. Prabhu, Assistant Professor (Horticulture) and Dr. K. Suresh, Assistant Professor (Agricultural Entomology) delivered special lectures on jackfruit cultivation, plant protection, post harvest management and marketing. For the benefit of fruit growers, scientists and students, 67 jackfruit varieties / ecotypes and value added products collected from different parts of South India were displayed. A planting programme on jackfruit (varieties viz., Swarna, G-15a, G-65a and Konkan Prolific) was also organized.

### Pre Kharif Awareness Campaign at KVK, Vridhachalam



A pre - *kharif* awareness campaign on paddy and groundnut was organized at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Vridhachalam, Cuddalore district, on 8.8.2015 for achieving higher productivity in the district.

The Programme Coordinator Dr.S.Kannan welcomed the gathering. Thiru. M.C. Sampath, Hon'ble Minister for Commercial Tax and Registration, Government of Tamil Nadu declared open the exhibition having various agricultural technologies, varieties and farm implements displayed by the Regional Research Station and Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Vridhachalam, Oil seeds Research Station, Tindivanam, Vegetable Research Station, Palur, State agricultural department and other private companies. The entrepreneurs

developed by the KVK, Vridhachalam displayed a wide range of value added products, seeds and ornamental nursery. The Hon'ble Minister in his Special Address urged the farmers to utilize recent technologies with the assistance of the KVK. Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Cuddalore Constituency, Thiru. A. Arulmozhithevan and the District Collector Thiru. C. Sureshkumar, I.A.S., were the Special Invitees for the programme. Technical bulletins on *Kuruvai* Paddy cultivation and Groundnut cultivation were released on the occasion. Critical inputs for the Front Line Demonstration Programmes were distributed to the farmers by the dignitaries. Dr. M.S. Annesarani, Professor and Head, Regional Research Station, Vridhachalam and Mr. T. Dhanasekaran, Joint Director of Agriculture felicitated the programme. Tree saplings were planted in the premises of KVK by the dignitaries.

The Technical session included lectures on recent technologies, varietal development, crop management, plant protection in paddy and groundnut, which were delivered by the scientists of KVK and RRS. Groundnut seed drill sowing and seed treatment using biocontrol agents were demonstrated to the farmers. Finally, an interaction session was arranged between the scientists and farmers and the queries raised by the farmers were answered by scientists. Nearly 300 farmers participated in the programme and got benefitted.

Dr.M.Nirmala Devi, SMS (Agricultural Extension) proposed the formal Vote of Thanks. The Programme ended with National Anthem.

### School students visit to Seed Centre

Three teachers of Delhi Public School, Coimbatore visited the Seed Centre and Department of Seed Science and Technology along with the students numbering on 03.07.2015 and the activities of the Seed Centre were explained to them.

## Important Visitors

- Mr. Sanjay khatal, Director (Commercial), National Seeds Corporation, New Delhi visited to Seed Centre on 05.07.2015 and discussed about the seed production plan, collaboration and promotion of TNAU new varieties and hybrids.

## New Schemes Obtained

S. No.	Name of the Scheme	Principal Investigator	Budget (Lakhs Rs.)	Duration	Funding Agency
1.	Molecular breeding to mitigate Chilli leaf curl virus (ChiLCuV) incidence by augmenting host plant resistance against its vector white fly <i>Bemisia tabaci</i> in Chillies ( <i>Capsicum annum L.</i> )	Dr.M.Murugan, Professor and Head (DAS), HSC & RI, Madurai	44.33	2015 to 2018	DBT, New Delhi
2.	Ergonomic Interventions to promote Occupational Health and Safety of Women Workers employed in Small Scale Food Processing Units	Dr.P.Parimalam, Professor and Head (FRM) HSC & RI, Madurai	24.84	2015 to 2018	DST, New Delhi
3.	Manufacture of simulated Rice Analogues from millets using extrusion technology	Dr.G.Hemalatha, Professor (FSN), HSC & RI, Madurai	51.48	2015 to 2019	DST, New Delhi
4.	Development of Innovative High Value Pulse based Food Products with Enhanced Functional and Nutraceutical properties for Potential Utilization	Dr.G.Hemalatha Professor (FSN), HSC & RI, Madurai	\$190,990	2015 to 2018	Saskatchewan Pulse Growers Association, Canada
5.	AICRP on Home Science	Dean, HSC&RI, Madurai	200.00	2015 to 2018	ICAR

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