



TNAU NEWS

TAMIL NADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY NEWS LETTER

Patron: **Dr. K. Ramasamy**, Vice Chancellor
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Planning & Monitoring

உணர்ச்சிக்ல்லாம் உணவளிக்கும் உத்தம உழவர்களுக்கு
உதவிக்கரம் நீட்டும் பல்கலைக்கழகம்

COCONUT SEMINAR CUM EXHIBITION



A Coconut Seminar cum Exhibition was conducted under the Chairmanship of Shri. Pon. Radhakrishnan, Hon'ble Minister of State for Road Transport, Highways and Shipping, Government of India, New Delhi at Nagercoil on 30.05.2015. The Honorable Minister emphasized the need for sustainable agriculture activities in the District. He also pointed out the participation of youth on production and marketing of coconut value added products and to ensure sustained development and profitability in coconut industry besides developing the export market. Dr. K. Ramasamy, Vice Chancellor, TNAU in his Key Note Address highlighted that the people of Kanyakumari District are blessed with ample land-water ecosystem. He also stressed the need for reforms and the possibility of farmers themselves to fix the price of the produces. Dr. M. Maheswaran, Director of Research (i/c), Dr. H. Philip, Director of Extension Education (i/c) and Dr. K. Ganesamoorthy, Director (i/c), Centre for Plant Breeding and Genetics are other dignitaries who participated and interacted with farmers. Shri. C. Dharmaraj, District Councilor, Smt. M. Meena Dev, Chairperson, Nagercoil Municipality and Shri. R. Ganesan, Dharmapuram Panchayat President also participated in the programme. A group of 1000 coconut farmers who are actively engaged in coconut cultivation participated and interacted with the scientific community. Dr. R. Premavathi, Programme Coordinator of KVK, Thirupathisaram proposed a formal Vote of Thanks.

XXIV Annual Group Meeting on Biological Control of Crop Pests



The inaugural function of 24th Annual Group Meeting of All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on Biological Control of Crop Pests was conducted on 2nd June 2015 at TNAU, Coimbatore. Dr. K. Ramasamy, Vice Chancellor presided over the function and delivered the Presidential Address. Dr. P.K.Charabarty, ADG (PP &B), ICAR, New Delhi, the Chief Guest of the function delivered the Inaugural Address. Earlier, Dr. M. Maheswaran, Director of Research (i/c) welcomed the gathering and Dr. Abraham Verghese, Project Coordinator and Director, NBAIR, Bengaluru, presented the research findings of the different centres for the year 2014-15. Dr.K.Ramaraju, Director (i/c),CPPS delivered Special Address and explained the achievements of biological control programme in TNAU, Coimbatore. About 60 scientists from different parts of the country representing the ICAR institutes and State Agricultural Universities participated. Nine booklets on the mass production and use of biocontrol agents prepared by scientists of various AICRP Centers were released. Dr. B.Ramanujam, Principal Scientist, NBAIR, Bengaluru, proposed a formal Vote of Thanks.

NSS Special Camp at TNAU

A Special camp for NSS Volunteers of HC & RI, Periyakulam was held at Erumalainayakanpatti of Periyakulam Block on 24-30th May 2015. Dr. J. Rajangam, Staff Advisor welcomed gathering. The camp was inaugurated by Mr. Sundaravivel, I.P.S., Deputy Commissioner of Police, Tirupur Dr. K. Ingarsal, DGM, NABARD felicitated and emphasized the role of horticulture students in social service and rural development.



Mr.Pon. Andavar, Vice President of Erumalainayakanpatti, Mr.S.Murugan, Panchayath Union Councillor also felicitated. Dr. T.N. Balamohan, Dean (i/c), HC & RI, Periyakulam presided over the function and delivered Special Address. Dr. M. Prabhu, NSS Programme officer proposed a formal Vote of Thanks. During the week long programme, a special Veterinary camp, a Special health camp, Special free eye checkup camp, an awareness program on "Education for all and awareness about usage of village library" and a training programme on agriculture and horticulture technologies and entrepreneurship development were organized. A Mass tree planting programme was also organized in the village and 150 tree saplings were planted.



NSS special camp of Agricultural College and Research Institute, Coimbatore was held at Sokkanur Panchayat near Kinathukadavu in the TNAU adopted villages viz., Sokkanur, Sattakkal - pudhur, Muthugoundenur and Veerappagoundenur for seven days from 23-5-2015 to 29.5.2015. A total of 333 volunteers comprising of 241 girls and 92 boys along with programme officers participated. The formal inaugural function of the Camp was held on 23.5.15. Dr. K. Kumutha, NSS Program Coordinator delivered an introductory speech about the camp. Mrs. Mani Sivamurugesan, President, Mrs. Vennila

Nataraj, Vice President and Mrs. Poongodi Kandasamy, Councillor, Mrs. Velumani Muthumanickam, Ward member, Sokkanur Panchayat offered felicitations on the occasion.

Dr. C. Divakar Durairaj, Dean (i/c) (Engineering) delivered the Special Address stating that the camp is a two way process and involves learning of both the students and the people of the village. Dr. M.R. Srinivasan, Professor (Entomology) and Warden, Students' Hostel remarked that the basics learned in the camp lays the foundation for the organizational and leadership skills among students. Dr. S. Mahimairaja, Dean (Agriculture) (i/c) delivered the Presidential Address and stressed that the students must dedicate themselves according to the motto of NSS 'not me, but you'. The week long programmes organized included; demonstrations, awareness rallies, health camps, seminars and cleaning and painting of school, temple premises and personality development. Dr. M.R. Latha, Dr. K. Hema Prabha, Dr. G. Guru, Dr. Era. Pavendan, Dr. Valliammai, Dr.N.Sakthivel, and Dr. A. Thangahemavathy organized the camp.



NSS Special camp was organized by Agricultural College and Research Institute, Killikulam at Murrapanadu village. This camp was inaugurated on 25.5.2015. Various events such as; tree planting programme, Veterinary camp, health camp, rally on ill effects of the drugs and Temple cleaning were organized. Mr. C. Nellainayagam, Forest Ranger, Dr. C. Udhayasooriyan, Head of the Department (Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry), Thiru. Muthamal Kanthasamy, President of Panchayat Union, Dr. V.B. Ragavendran, Assistant Professor (Animal Husbandry), Dr. V. Subramanian, Dean (i/c), Mr. Perumal, Mr. Manikandan and Mr. Muthamal Kandhasamy the village Panchayat Board members and Dr.S.Kanaka, Assistant Professor (Agricultural Economics) participated in the camp.

District Level Seminar on COCOA



One day "District level seminar on Cocoa" was organized at Coconut Research Station, Veppankulam on 30.03.2015. This seminar benefited 150 progressive cocoa farmers of Thanjavur district. Dr. M. Jawaharlal, Special Officer (i/c), HC&RI (W), Trichy, inaugurated the seminar. Dr. R. Rajendran, Professor and Head, CRS, Veppankulam spoke on cocoa production technologies. Besides, progressive cocoa farmers of Thanjavur district shared their experience on cocoa cultivation, processing and marketing. The Cadbury's marketing executives explained the post harvest handling and marketing aspects of cocoa beans. Dr. K. Rajamanickam, Professor (Entomology) proposed a formal Vote of Thanks.

School Children Informed about Soil Basics



The 'International year of soils 2015' was celebrated by the Department of Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry, TNAU during the NSS special camp held at Muthugoundenur on 27.5.2015 to sensitize the school children the future citizens about

soil health. Twenty five children from 3rd to 11th standard of school participated in the awareness programme.

Dr. A. Vadivel, Professor, Dept. of Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry (SS&AC), TNAU, Coimbatore informed the children about the five functions of soil including anchoring crop growth and supplying nutrition, decomposing crop and animal waste, filtering water, its acts as an engineering medium and as a habitat for micro organisms. In the practical session, different types of soil like; red, black, alluvial, peat were shown to the students. Professors; Dr. D. Vasanthi, Dr. M.R. Backiyavathi, Dr. M.R. Latha and Dr.M.Gopalakrishnan, Assistant Professor participated. An awareness rally on soil health with 300 NSS volunteers was also organized.

World Environment Day observed in TNAU



The World Environment Day with the theme “Seven billion dreams – one planet – consume with care” was observed in Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) on June 5, 2015. Department of Environmental Sciences, Directorate of Natural Resource Management and NSS of TNAU jointly organized. On the occasion, a Mass Cleaning Campaign along one kilometer. distance in the Maruthamalai Road was takenup.

Dr. V.P. Duraisami, Special Officer (i/c), Directorate of Natural Resource Management during his Presidential Address, stressed that clean environment is the prerequisite for healthy nation. Dr. S. Mahimairaja, Dean (i/c) (Agriculture), inaugurated the cleaning campaign in which 200 NSS volunteers participated. Dr. N. Raghupathi, Director (i/c), Students Welfare, Dr. P. Subramanian,

Professor and Head, Department of Environmental Sciences, Dr. K. Kumutha, NSS Programme Coordinator, TNAU, Staff members and research fellows from the Department of Environmental Sciences, NSS Programme Officers and Sanitary Officer, TNAU participated.

23rd All India Mango Exhibition



23rd All India Mango exhibition was inaugurated at Krishnagiri on 05.06.2015. Thiru. T.P. Rajesh, I.A.S. District Collector and Thiru. C. Manogaran I.A.S. Director, Department of Agricultural Marketing and Agri-Business declared open the exhibition and the stall arranged by Regional Research Station, Paiyur. Dr. M.N. Budhar, Professor and Head and the scientists appraised the 16 varieties in different crops released from Regional Research Station, Paiyur and explained the importance of recently released TNAU varieties in various crops across the state along with seventy entries of mango with the Paiyur-1 which is an improved version of Neelum. The importance of off season mango varieties (October-January) and related technologies were also explained to the farmers. The District Collector appreciated the progress of selection and development of seedless mango varieties at RRS, Paiyur for getting international market value and increasing the farmers income.

The RRS Paiyur bagged lion’s share of nine prizes and certificates for displaying best exhibits as six first prizes for the varieties Paiyur-1, Dusheri, K.O.8, Peter, Nadu Paiyur selection and Arka puneet, two second prizes for the varieties Jahangir and Guddadad and one third prize for the entry on Bangalora.

Field Day on Hybrid Castor in Cauvery Delta Zone



Field day celebration sponsored by ICAR – AICRP on Castor scheme was organized by Tapioca and Castor Research Station, Yethapur along with Krish Vigyan Kendra, Needamangalam at Vellakudi village of Needamangalam Block, Thiruvarur district on 09.06.2015. Dr.S.Manickam, Professor and Head, TCRS, Yethapur welcomed the gathering Mr. M. Mathivanan, IAS, District Collector, Thiruvarur presided over the function and delivered the Special Address and stressed the importance and scope of castor cultivation with special emphasis on castor as suitable intercrop for blackgram, greengram and cotton. The intercropping system helps to earn additional income and plays pivotal role in the upliftment of socio-economic conditions of the deltaic farmers, moreover the incidence of pest and diseases can be very well managed by growing castor as intercrop in pulses and cotton ecosystem.

Dr. V. Ravi, Director (i/c), Tamil Nadu Rice Research Institute, Aduthurai highlighted the importance of castor seed and its products, which is a highly commercial, industrial raw material. He also emphasized the castor based cropping system, where castor can be cultivated in a wide range of agro-climatic conditions and soil types as a sole crop and as a mixed crop / intercrop. He advised the farmers of Cauvery delta zone to go for castor under irrigated sole cropping which is found to be highly profitable. Dr. T. Senguttuvan, Professor and Head, Soil and Water Management Research Institute, Thanjavur highlighted castor as an ideal commercial crop due to its high oil content (45% - 55%) and highly successful crop due to its high yield potential even under optimum management condition.

Dr. S.R. Venkatachalam, Professor (Plant Breeding and Genetics) explained the ICM practices and cropping system approaches in castor. Totally 120 farmers from Thiruvarur and nearby districts namely, Nagapattinam and Thanjavur attended the programme. An exhibition on castor varieties, castor based cropping system, nutrient management, pest and disease control was arranged for the benefit of the farmers. Dr.R.Baskaran, Programme co-ordinator, KVK, Thiruvarur proposed a formal Vote of Thanks.

Farm and Home Programme of AIR, Trichy



The Inaugural Function of the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of Farm and Home Programme of All India Radio (AIR), Trichy was held at TRRI, Aduthurai on June, 3, 2015.

Dr. K. Ramasamy, Vice Chancellor, TNAU, inaugurated the Golden Jubilee Celebrations and highlighted the important role played by the AIR over the years in transfer of agricultural technology. Dr. V. Ravi, Director (i/c), TRRI, Aduthurai, Tmt.M. Vasuki, Deputy Director General (Engineering), AIR, Trichy, Th.K. Mayilvahanan, JDA, Tiruvarur, Th. T. Ganesan, JDA, Nagapattinam, Th. J. Sekar, JDA, Thanjavur, Tmt. Jothimani Ilangovan, Programme Executive, AIR, Trichy, Former Farm Radio Officers, AIR, Trichy and leading Farmers attended the programme. More than 650 farmers participated in the programme and got benefited. During the occasion, an Exhibition was arranged, wherein the Research Stations and KVKs viz., RRS, Vridhachalam, NPRC, Vamban, SWMRI, Thanjavur, CRS, Veppankulam, SRS, Sirugamani, KVK, Needamangalam, KVK, Sikkal, besides Indian Institute of Crop Processing Technology (IICPT),

Thanjavur and several Private Agro firms displayed their products and services. Thiru.P.Saravanan, Programme in-charge, AIR, Trichy proposed a formal Vote of Thanks.

Lotus Puraskar Award to TNAU Scientist



Dr. M. Kannan, Professor and Head, Department of Floriculture and Landscaping, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore received the "Lotus Puraskar Award" 2015 from the Indian Society of Ornamental Horticulture, IARI, Pusa, New Delhi at the Annual General Body Meeting of "Confederation of Horticultural Associations of India" (CHAI) on 29th May 2015 during the National Conference on "Dynamics of Smart Horticulture for Livelihood and Rural Development" held on 28-31st May, 2015 at Mahatma Gandhi Gramodaya Viswavidyalaya, Chitrakoot, Satna district of Madhya Pradesh. The award included a memento, citation and a certificate.

Best Stall Award to KVK, Needamangalam



An Exhibition was conducted in the Workshop on 'Attracting and Retaining Rural Youth in Agriculture - Phase III' organized by M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) in collaboration with Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) at Horticultural College & Research Institute for women & Anbil Dharmalingam Agriculture college & Research Institute, Trichy on 06.06.2015 and 07.06.2015. An exhibition was arranged by KVK, Needamangalam. The Program Coordinator Dr.R.Baskaran along with other scientists showcased the activities with exhibits on Integrated Farming System, Goat rearing, Roof Top Garden, Polyhouse, Cocoa Plantation, Value addition of Brown rice, Rat control, etc., along with self explanatory charts. The KVK stall was adjudged as Best stall and the award was received by Dr. G.G. Kavitha Shree, Asst Professor (HS&FS) from Mr. M.J. Prabhu, Vice President (Agri), MAK groups (India & America) in the presence of Dr. P. Pandiarajan, Dean (i/c), ADAC & RI, Dr. M. Jawarhalal, Special Officer (i/c), HC & RI (W) and Dr. K. Chozhan, Professor and Head, ADAC and RI, Trichy.

Important Visitors

- Shri. Vijayakumar, I.A.S., Secretary, Ministry of Development (North Eastern Region), GOI, visited TNAU on May 28-29, 2015
- Dr. S. Balachandran, Director, Cyclone Warning Research Centre, Chennai visited TNAU on 13th May, 2015
- Hon'ble Shri. Pon. Radhakrishnan, Minister of State for Road Transport, Highways and Shipping, Govt. of India, New Delhi, Dr. N.K. Krishnakumar, DDG (Horticulture), ICAR, Dr. P. Rajendran, Vice Chancellor, Kerala Agricultural University, Dr. Sreenath Dixit, Zonal Project Director, Zone-VIII, Bengaluru, ICAR and Dr. P. Chowdappa, Director, ICAR-CPCRI, Kasaragod visited KVK, Thirupathisaram on 30.05.2015

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