



# TNAU NEWS

TAMIL NADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY NEWS LETTER

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ஊருக்கெல்லாம் உணவளிக்கும் உத்தம உழவர்களுக்கு  
உதவிக்கரம் நீட்டும் பல்கலைக்கழகம்

## Dr. K. RAMASAMY ASSUMED CHARGE AS 12TH VICE CHANCELLOR

Dr. K. Ramasamy, Member (Agriculture and Irrigation), Tamil Nadu State Planning Commission took over as the 12<sup>th</sup> Vice Chancellor of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) on 16<sup>th</sup> November, 2015. He successfully completion his first term on 26<sup>th</sup> August 2015.

Dr. Ramasamy was responsible for establishing several new academic programmes viz., Bioenergy, Environmental Science, Environmental Biotechnology, Microbial Technology, Biochemical Technology, etc., in Universities of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Goa and Maharashtra. He served as National Syllabus Setter and Examiner for University Grants Commission (UGC), Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). He served as a Member in National Policy Planning of Agricultural Biotechnology, Ferti-irrigation and Biogas Development. He is presently holding position as Member (Agriculture and Irrigation) in Tamil Nadu State Planning Commission advising Tamil Nadu Government on various welfare schemes and also member in several recognized Societies and Bodies. His ideologies were well received by the different funding agencies through the operation of more than 30 external agency funded schemes. He is a recognized Environmental Biologist offering solutions on waste water recycling.



He served in managerial positions previously in TNAU as Head of Environmental Sciences Department during March 1997 to March 2000, He was Dean, Adhi Parasakthi Agricultural College, Kalavai during March 2000 to February, 2003 and Director, Centre for Plant Molecular Biology and Biotechnology during March 2003 to March 2006 and Vice-Chancellor of TNAU, Coimbatore during 2012 to 2015. He had served earlier as Vice-Chancellor, Karpagam University, Coimbatore and as Dean, School of Biosciences and Bio Engineering at SRM University, Chennai.

To his credit, he has more than 151 research publications including 8 books and 23 bulletins. He has several recognitions in his academic as well as professional career which include 21 awards, 2 medals, 6 fellowships of which two are International and four are National.

On various academic assignments, he had visited countries viz., Belgium, England, Germany, Sweden, France, Netherlands, United States of America, Japan, New Zealand, Australia and Brazil. He has served as Visiting Professor in many leading Universities in America, Australia, New Zealand and Japan.

Dr.K.Ramasamy was awarded the Best Vice-Chancellor of State Agricultural Universities (SAU) for the year 2014 by All India Agricultural Students' Association (AIASA) and recognized as the Fellow of Association of Microbiologists of India (FAMI) during 2014. He had been the source of inspiration for the establishment of three new Government Agricultural Colleges, seven Centres of Excellence, three new Research Stations and four AICRP Centres during his first term as Vice-Chancellor in TNAU. He played an active role in getting funds from the State Planning Commission for the establishment of an Insect Museum, a first of its kind in the country at the Department of Agricultural Entomology, TNAU, Coimbatore.

With his overall aim of "Improved education-Inclusive research-Informed clientele" in the domain of agriculture, reaching 4% growth rate in agriculture is expected sooner than later.

### Training Programme Conducted at Directorate of Agribusiness Development, TNAU, Coimbatore



A training programme on “Imparting knowledge on Agriculture to officers of State Bank of Travancore (SBT) in Tamil Nadu Region” was conducted in the Directorate of Agribusiness Development, TNAU, Coimbatore for five days starting from 12.10.2015 to 16.10.2015. During the Inaugural Session, Dr.R.Murugesan, Director, Agribusiness Development welcomed the gatherings and explained the importance and scope of agribusiness. Dr.M.Chandrasekaran, Director, Planning and Monitoring, TNAU, Coimbatore inaugurated the training programme and delivered the Presidential Address emphasizing the need and challenges of agriculture financing and the innovative approaches to make it happening. Mr.K.Gurusamy, Assistant General Manager, Agricultural Business Department, SBT, Thiruvananthapuram and Mr.V.Krishnamurthy, Assistant General Manager, SBT, Coimbatore felicitated and introduced the participants. A total of 25 Managers from different branches in Tamil nadu, Karnataka, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh participated.

The training programme comprised lectures and practical exposure visits to learn cultivation practices of crops, Post Harvest Technology, Food processing and other value addition processes, use of Bio control agents in crop protection, Commercial Forest products and many others.

### Entrepreneurial Initiative on Drip Irrigation System Operation and Maintenance to Rural Youth

A two day entrepreneurial programme on drip maintenance was organized at the Water Technology Centre during 14.10.2015 and 15.10.2015 in which 27 youth participants hailing from various blocks of Coimbatore and Tirupur districts attended the programme.

On the first day, the technical sessions on layout of drip system, nature of problems encountered while operating the system, fertigation, quality standards of irrigation water to be used and maintenance of various components were handled by the scientists of Water Technology Centre. The participants were taken to M/s Jain Irrigation Systems Ltd., Udumalpet and exposed to different types of micro irrigation systems, Ultra High Density Planting in Mango, production of tissue culture banana plantlet, etc.

During the valedictory session, Dr.B.J.Pandian, Director i/c, Water Technology Centre highlighted the scope of drip irrigation and the need for such entrepreneurs to serve the farming community in future. The programme could help creating potential for self-employment. The programme was co-ordinated by the Principal Investigators of the "On farm project on drip maintenance", Dr.SP. Ramanathan, Professor of Agronomy and Dr.K.Nagarajan, Professor of Soil Water Conservation Engineering.

### Tribal Sub Plan - Off Campus Training at Valichettipatti Village Vadamadurai Block, Dindigul District

Maize Research Station, Vagarai conducted an off-campus training at Valichettipatti village, Vadamadurai block, Dindigul district on 15.10.2015 under the ICAR – Tribal Sub Plan scheme 2015-16 in which 50 tribal farmers benefited. Dr.P.Thukkaiyannan, Assistant professor (Agronomy) welcomed the gathering and briefed about the training. Dr.K.Sethuraman, Professor and



Head, MRS, Vagarai Presided over the function and explained about the ICAR - Tribal Sub Plan activities to the farmers. Mr. M.Thangasamy, Deputy Director of Agriculture (State Plan), Dindigul district delivered the Special Address and explained about the importance of rain water harvesting, Maize area and importance. Mrs. Soundrammal, Agricultural Officer, Vadamadurai block felicitated.

In the technical sessions, agronomic practices in maize production, seed production technology and pest and diseases identification and control measures in maize were covered by the MRS scientists: Dr.P.Thukkaiyannan, Dr.N.Kumari Vinothana and Dr.M.Paramasivan, respectively. As part of the training, 8 kgs of TNAU Maize hybrid COMH 6 seeds was distributed to the tribal farmer Mr. Alagar. Assistant Agricultural Officers Thiru. V. Ramalingam and Thiru. M. Manikandarajan of MRS, Vagarai arranged the demonstrations. The tribal farmers were taken to the maize field of Valichettipatti village for getting practical exposure towards the maize crop production.

### Youth Renaissance Day at TNAU



National Service Scheme of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) celebrated Youth Renaissance Day on October 15, 2015 to commemorate the birthday of former President of India, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam as observed by Government.

An essay competition on the topic "Science and Environment" and Elocution competition on "Missile Architect, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam were conducted on the occasion. Later, a rally was organized with participation of 300 NSS volunteers to propagate the dreams of Dr. Kalam about the role of youth in Nation Building.



Dr. S. Mahimairaja, Dean (Agriculture), TNAU, Coimbatore Inaugurated the rally. The programmes were organized by the NSS coordinator Dr.K. Kumutha and NSS Programme Officers Dr.B.Vinoth Kumar, Dr.K.Suganya, Dr.S.Kavitha, Dr.M.R.Latha and Dr.A. Thanga Hemavathy.

### Campus Interviews at TNAU and Job Placements



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The Directorate of Students Welfare organized campus interviews for the students of TNAU. On 13th October 2015, a campus interview by ITC, Guntur was organized for the post of leaf Superintendant. Four TNAU students, one each from Agricultural Extension and Agricultural Economics and two students from Agronomy were selected.

In the interview conducted by Janalakshmi Financial services on 16.10.2015, 10 diploma students were selected. In an off- campus interview conducted by Reliance-Jio, Chennai, one Post Graduate student from Horticulture was selected.

### Innovation Education Programme



The Chief Educational Officer of Trichy District under Innovation Education Programme for the school students of 14 blocks of Trichirappalli visited AEC & RI, Kumulur. Under this programme 40 teachers and 800 students of 8th Standard participated for four days on 14.9.2015, 7.10.2015, 12.10.2015 & 14.10.2015. The mandated activities of AEC&RI, the rationality behind the modern agriculture, the difference between modern and traditional agriculture, the advantages and disadvantages of modern food and traditional food, the difference between mono cropping and mixed cropping, the advantages of mechanization in agriculture, efficient water management technologies were explained to them.

### Training On Organic Agriculture to Tribal Farmers



Two days training programme on Organic Agriculture was conducted by the Department of Sustainable Organic Agriculture during 28th - 29th October 2015 for the benefit of 25 tribal farmers of Sadivaiyal and Seengapathy villages of Coimbatore district under the Network Project on Organic Farming (NPOF) - Tribal Sub Plan. A PRA was conducted on 13.10.2015 to identify the needs of tribal farmers in organic agriculture.

Dr.E.Somasundaram, Professor & Head, welcomed the participants during the Inaugural session, where he emphasized on the nutrient and weed management in the organic farming system.

Demonstration on seed treatment using biofertilizers were explained by Dr. R. Subhashini, Assistant Professor (Agricultural Microbiology) and organic manure preparation like vermicompost and panchagavya using biological wastes was explained by Dr.A.Bharani, Assistant Professor (ENS). while the Pest and Diseases Management in Organic Agriculture was explained by Dr.K.Ganesan, Assistant Professor (Agricultural Entomology).

On the second day, the procedure for organic certification was explained by Dr.R.Jansirani, Professor (Agricultural Extension). An array of organic inputs were displayed and the organic inputs like; Biofertilizers, *Pseudomonas fluorescens*, *Trichoderma viride*, Biomineralizer, Azophos, etc., were distributed to the tribal farmers and silpauline vermiit bed units were installed at Sadivaiyal and Seengapathy villages.

### Village Level Dehusking Machine for Millet Processing



A two days training programme on millet processing was conducted under “Part - II Plan Scheme namely, Village Level Dehusking Machine for Millet Processing” at Centre of Excellence in Millets, Athiyandal on 28th and 29th September, 2015. Twenty farmers from Pandithapattu village of Tiruvannamalai District participated in the programme and got benefitted. The Programme was inaugurated by Dr. K. Ganesamurthy, Director (CPBG), TNAU and felicitated by Dr. R. Ravikesavan, Professor and Head, Department of Millets and Dr. T. Pandiarajan, Professor (FPE), Department of Food and Agricultural Processing Engineering, TNAU. Dr. M. Jayachandran, Professor and Head, welcomed the participants. During the session, the farmers learnt the cultivation practices of millets, storage mechanism, processing techniques and ways to get profit out of millet milling. Farmers were also given live demonstrations on how to prepare Idiyappam and Vermicelli from Little Millet (Samai) and other ready to cook and eat millet products like noodles.

### On Campus Training on Vermicompost Production Techniques



In order to promote Integrated Farming System and to bridge the gap between doubling the productivity and tripling the income, a one day On campus training on 'Vermicompost' was organized at KVK, Thiruvapur on 15<sup>th</sup> October, 2015. The training was inaugurated by Dr.R.Baskaran, Programme Coordinator, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Needamangalam who spoke on the success stories of Thiruvapur District farmers in vermicompost production.

The training was organized by Dr.A.Kamaraj, Assistant Professor (Agricultural Engineering), KVK, Needamangalam who trained the participants on vermicompost production techniques and he also gave tips on commercial production of Vermicompost production. The farmers were given hands on training in vermicomposting. Dr.V.Sivakumar, Assistant Professor (Horticulture) and Dr.G.G. Kavithashree gave lectures related to vermicompost. A total of 50 farmers from across Thiruvapur district attended and benefitted from the training

### On Campus Training on Tapioca Cultivation Techniques



A one day On campus training on Tapioca Cultivation Techniques was organized at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Needamangalam on 28.10.2015 to benefit 50 participants from Thiruvapur District. The training was inaugurated by Dr.R.Baskaran, Programme Coordinator. Dr. V. Sivakumar delivered lectures on Tapioca Cultivation Techniques, their nutrient contents, cultivation pattern, pest and disease management and usage of tubers. Later, sessions on value addition by Dr.G.G.Kavithashree and irrigation management by Dr.A.Kamaraj were delivered. A demonstration on the cutting and harvesting of tapioca were made by Dr. V. Sivakumar, Assistant Professor (Horticulture).

## Awareness on Laying of Nutrition Garden at Schools



A training cum awareness program on nutrition garden and maintenance of the garden for nutrition security was conducted on 19.10.2015 to benefit 80 school students and their teachers at KVK, Needamangalam. Dr.R.Baskaran, Programme Co-ordinator delivered the Special Address and Dr.G.G.Kavitha Shree, Asst Professor (Food Science) conducted the programme. All the Scientists of KVK felicitated.

Fruit saplings, vegetable seeds, greens seeds, tree guards, gardening tools and organic fertilizers were distributed to the school selected. Food Scientist explained students about the need of a healthy diet at the young age and the need for the nutrition garden at school and home, which would teach them on nutrition concepts as well in building a healthy nation. Five schools namely, Government Primary School, Erumapudyai, Government Middle School, Aravur, Government Higher Secondary School, Koradachery, Neelan Matriculation School, Needamangalam and Government Higher Secondary School, Needamangalam were selected

for Front line demonstration of nutrition gardens for motivating school children.

## Training on Processing and Value Addition on Green Leafy Vegetables and Herbs



A Training on "Processing and value addition in green leafy vegetables and herbs" was conducted at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Needamangalam on 29.10.2015 to benefit 55 Self Help Group women. Dr.R.Baskaran, Programme Co-ordinator addressed the trainees. The organizer Dr.G.G.Kavitha Shree, Assistant Professor (Food Science) explained the susceptibility of vegetables and greens to the action of, a variety of micro organisms leading to substantial decay, and losses during post harvest handling and hence need for processing. Technology of dehydration of green leafy vegetables and its incorporation in various instant mixes like instant rice mixes, instant breakfast mixes, etc., were explained to the trainees.

Moringa juice preparation as a part of value addition was taught to the trainees. An entrepreneur of KVK, Needamangalam who is the proprietor of "Avvai Food Products" who does many amla products under guidance of the Food Scientist explained the trainees the need for developing self confidence the for starting up food processing as an income generation activity.

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