



TNAU NEWS

TAMIL NADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY NEWS LETTER

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ஊருக்கெல்லாம் உணவளிக்கும் உத்தம உழவர்களுக்கு
உதவிக்கரம் நீட்டும் பல்கலைக்கழகம்

CELEBRATION OF WORLD COCONUT DAY – 2015 AT COCONUT RESEARCH STATION, ALIYARNAGAR



The World Coconut Day was celebrated on September 2, 2015 at Coconut Research Station, Aliyarnagar. Dr.K. Rajamanickam, Professor (Entomology) welcomed the gathering and stressed the importance of coconut. Dr. N. Shoba, Professor and Head, Coconut Research Station, Aliyarnagar highlighted the importance of intercropping in coconut garden and suggested it as a means to earn higher income. Dr. M. Mariappan, Dean, HC&RI, Coimbatore, delivered the Presidential Address and emphasized the importance of coconut seed nut selection, quality seedling materials and the need for improved varieties and hybrids of coconut. Dr. H.P. Maheswarappa, Project Coordinator (Palms), CPCRI, Kasaragod advised the farmers to approach the scientists of CRS, Aliyarnagar to know the recent advances in coconut production, improvement and protection aspects.

Thiru. O.V.R. Somsundaram, progressive coconut farmer, Er. Madhu Ramakrishnan, organic grower, Mr. C.M. Kamaraj, Managing Director, Sakthi Coir Exports Private Limited, Pollachi and Mr. Jayaprakash, Proprietor, Vermigold, Udumalpet also participated in the function and shared their experiences. During the function, a book on "Coconut Cultivation: Question and Answer Compilation" (In Tamil) was released by the dignitaries and the same was distributed to all the participants free of cost. An interactive session was organised in the afternoon between farmers and scientists, in which more than 140 farmers clarified their doubts regarding coconut cultivation. Dr. A. Subramanian, Assistant Professor (PBG) proposed the formal Vote of Thanks.

Field Day Cum Training Programme on Soil Test and Yield Target Based Balanced Fertilization for Crops



A Field day cum Training programme was organized under Tribal Sub Plan of AICRP - STCR at Karumandurai, Pethanaickenpalayam block, Salem district on September 15, 2015 with a view to popularize the benefits of soil test and yield target based balanced fertilisation for crops among the tribal farmers. In all, 120 farmers and 25 officials from TNAU / State Department of Agriculture / Horticulture / local bodies participated in the programme. The participants visited the field demonstrations on STCR-IPNS technology for sugarcane and rainfed tapioca at Kaikanvalavu village. Dr.R.Sanathi, Professor (SS&AC) explained the performance of the crops due to balanced fertilisation to the beneficiaries and officials. Dr. K.M. Sellamuthu, Assistant Professor (SS&AC) imparted hands on training to the farmers regarding collection of soil and irrigation water samples. An exhibition highlighting collection of soil samples, nutrient deficiency symptoms, FLDs conducted with various crops under TSP at Coimbatore, Erode and Salem districts was arranged.

Dr. V.V. Krishnamurthi, Professor and Head (SS & AC) welcomed the gathering. Dr. R. Santhi, Professor (SS & AC) and Scheme-in-charge (AICRP - STCR) narrated the activities under the scheme since 2012-13. and briefed about the fertilizer recommendations developed under the

scheme at TNAU, Coimbatore and about soil fertility status of Karumandurai area. Thiru. C.Ranganathan, Assistant Director of Horticulture, Peddanaickenpalayam Block, Salem District besides emphasising the adoption of STCR recommendations, gave information about the schemes available in the Department of Horticulture for the benefit of tribal farmers. Dr.N.Sriram, Programme Coordinator, KVK, Sandhiyur briefed about the training programmes that are being organized periodically and requested the farmers to avail the benefits. Dr.S.Manickam, Professor and Head, TCRS, Yethapur highlighted the soil test based fertilizer recommendations and the beneficial effect on soil fertility. Thiru.Parameswaran, AAO, Karumandurai Peddanaickenpalayam Block informed the farmers about the availability of farm inputs for the ensuing season.

Dr. V.P. Duraisami, Special Officer, Directorate of Natural Resource Management in his Presidential Address narrated the importance of soil health maintenance, benefits of balanced nutrition including secondary and micronutrients through soil testing. He has also recommended the use of need based application of TNAU micronutrient mixtures and biofertilisers for various crops for yield enhancement. During the interactive session, the farmers who laid field demonstrations on various crops shared their experiences and appreciated the benefits of awareness on soil sample collection, soil testing and soil test and target based fertilizer recommendations through the training programme and the field demonstrations. They thanked the scientists of TNAU for introducing the Tribal Sub Plan in their villages and for providing the technical guidance for improving their livelihood. Finally, Dr. K.M.Sellamuthu, Assistant Professor (SS & AC) proposed a formal Vote of Thanks.

Field Day on Direct Paddy Drum Seeder organized by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Madurai



Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Madurai organized field day on “Direct paddy drum seeder” for the paddy growers of Melur Taluk, Madurai district on September 18, 2015 in which 90 farmers, farm women, Assistant Agricultural Officers, Block Development officers participated. Dr. R. Ravichandran, Deputy Director of Agriculture, Madurai District, Presided over the function and advised the farmers to stay tuned with development in agriculture and take up seed production in collaboration with KVK, AC&RI, Madurai to realise more profits.

Dr. P.P. Murugan, Professor and Head, Department of Agricultural Extension and Rural Sociology, Agricultural College and Research Institute, Madurai suggested the farmers to adopt direct paddy drum seeder technologies in consultation with scientists and its advantages and to avail information of modern technologies through extension centres and take up agriculture and allied activities to enhance the income. Dr. J. Jayaraj, Professor, Department of Entomology, explained the pest management in paddy cultivation. Dr. V. Palaniselvam, Assistant Professor, Agricultural Machinery and Research Institute, TNAU, Coimbatore narrated the ergonomics and safety measures of agricultural machinery operations. Er.T. Saravana Perumal, Assistant Engineer, Department of Agricultural Engineering, Madurai discussed various schemes and subsidies available in the state Department of Agricultural Engineering.



Dr.P.K.Padmanathan, Subject Matter Specialist (Farm Machinery), KVK, Madurai explained the benefits and advantages of direct paddy drum seeder, cono weeder, fertilizer broadcaster, combine harvester and paddy straw baler. Dr.R.Veeraputhiran, Programmer Coordinator, KVK, Madurai made introductory remarks and welcomed the gathering and Dr.K.P.Vanetha, Subject Matter Specialist (Agricultural Extension) proposed a formal Vote of Thanks.

Capacity Building of Farmers on Green Manure Technologies at AC & RI, Kudumiyanmalai



The Government of Tamil Nadu sponsored training programme on “Quality Green Manure Seed Production” was organised to the farmers of Pudukkottai district. Five training programmes of one day duration were organised in different parts of the district covering 150 farmers @ 30 farmers / training. The aim of the training was to impart knowledge and

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skill to the farmers on “Improving soil organic content by promoting green manure seed production”. Agronomic practices for quality seed production, plant protection measures, seed technological approaches and storage practices for green manure crops were covered. The trainings were organised at AC&RI, Kudumiyamalai, Famer’s Training Centre, Anna Pannai, KVK, Vamban and office of ADA, Avudaiyarkovil during March – June 2015. The farmers were exposed to latest technologies in green manure seed production through lecture, field visits and exhibitions. The scientists of TNAU representing various disciplines delivered the subject matter to the participants. The training programmes were inaugurated in the presence of Mr.K.M. Shajakhan, Joint Director of Agriculture, Mr. V. S. Vellaisammy, Director (i/c) STAMIN, Pudukkottai. The trainings were organised by Dr. G. Gajendran, Special Officer, AC & RI, Kudumiyamalai and Dr.V.Vijayalakshmi, Assistant Professor (SS&T), AC&RI, Kudumiyamalai.

NSS Swachh Bharat Mission Held at AC&RI, Kudumiyamalai



Swachh Bharat Mission was organised by NSS Unit of AC&RI, Kudumiyamalai during September, 25 to October 11, 2015. A total of 119 NSS Volunteers led by NSS Programme Officer Dr. V. Vijayalakshmi were involved in the programme. The main purpose of the mission was to imbibe the attitude of cleanliness in the heart and minds of the people. In this mission, activities such as walkathon, campus cleaning and village cleaning activities were

conducted. Mass cleaning activities were carried out on October 9, 2015 at Kudumiyamalai village. The programme was inaugurated by Dr. T. Senguttuvan, Dean Incharge in the presence of Panchayat President Mrs. Dhanalakshmi Sellaiya. The panchayat ward members and staff of AC&RI, Kudumiyamalai participated in the programme. Forty students of Government High School, Kudumiyamalai also joined the NSS Volunteers in the cleaning activities. The area around the Kudumiyamalai temple, bus stand and schools were cleaned, which was welcomed and appreciated by the people of the village.

Save Neem Trees’ Campaign at AC & RI, Madurai



In the Agricultural College & Research Institute, Madurai, in the recent years, majority of the well grown, aged neem trees have been infested by a stem parasitic weed, Loranthus (Dendrophthae falcate), which attack the main trunk as well as the tree branches and slowly cause drying and finally death of neem trees. The leaves of the parasitic weed posses chlorophyll and synthesize carbohydrate constituent of their food requirement. The parasite attacks the aerial parts of the host trees by developing haustoria and obtain its nourishment directly from the vascular system of the host plant. The continuous sucking of the food material by parasite result in the host to die. The place at which host is attached and where the haustoria penetrate often swell to form tumours which vary in size according to age of the parasites.

To save the infested trees a campaign named "Save Neem Trees" has been initiated in the college under the leadership of the Dean, Dr. K. Velayudham, as a mass movement by involving all the PG and Ph.D. scholars of the college apart from farm labourers. To begin with, the Department of Agronomy initiated the mass campaign in the presence of Dean, AC & RI, Madurai and other staff members. The PG and Ph. D scholars of the Agronomy department joined hands with labourers and cleared the parasitic weed from 61 trees on a single day. Application of 2,4 D and copper oxychloride was made in the cut ends to prevent the spread of fungal infection. The work continues on every Thursday.

Eye Donation Awareness Programme at TNAU



National Service Scheme (NSS) of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) and Sankara Eye Centre jointly organized Eye Donation Awareness programme at Anna Auditorium, TNAU on 7-9-2015 as part of Eye Donation Awareness Fortnight observed worldwide every year between Aug. 20 and Sept. 8.

Dr. S. Mahimairaja, Dean (Agriculture), TNAU, Coimbatore in his Presidential Address stated that Tamil Nadu ranks first in India in eye donation and there is increasing awareness on blood, eye and organ donations. He called on NSS volunteers to be fore-runners in such activities which will be blissful.

The activity followed the Special Address by Dr. Rajath Kapoor, Ophthalmologist, Sankara Eye Centre who gave detailed description of Eye bank, removal of eyes and fixing of artificial eyes within six

hours of demise of a person. Except a few infectious conditions, the eyes of all persons from the age of four can be transplanted, he added.

NSS volunteers numbering 250, Dr. K. Kumutha, NSS Programme Coordinator, NSS Programme officers Dr. G.Guru, Dr. M.R. Latha, Dr. K.Hema Prabha, Dr.N. Sakthivel and Dr.A.Thanga Hemavathy, Mr. Vigneswaran, PRO, Sankara Eye Centre and Mr. Arunachalam, Eye Donation AC Trust participated in the programme.

NSS Orientation Day and International Day of Non Violence Observed in TNAU



National Service Scheme of TNAU and Students Club jointly organized the NSS orientation day programme and International Day of Non-violence on 2nd Oct 2015 at TNAU, Coimbatore. Dr.K. Kumutha, NSS Programme Coordinator, TNAU, welcomed the gathering. Dr.S. Mahimairaja, Dean (Agriculture) in his Presidential Address envisaged the fact that Ahimsa will help the youth in beholding moral values and revive Gandhism, which is the need of the hour. He called on the youth to abstain from immoral habits like use of drugs, addiction to alcohol and addiction to modern electronic gadgets. He insisted the NSS volunteers to be unique in their thoughts, ideas and execution of their works.

Mr. R. Mahesh Prabu, NSS coordinator, Karunya University, stressed linking the nature and technology for the upliftment of the nation and students through their innovations should find solutions to the current societal issues.

Prizes were distributed to the winners of various events like elocution, poem writing, pencil

sketching, essay writing and skit conducted to mark the occasion. Students brought alive the Gandhian values through their inspirational talks, poem and skit. Around 400 student volunteers and Dr. K. Kumutha, TNAU - NSS programme coordinator, NSS Programme Officers Dr. M.R. Latha, Dr. K. Suganya, Dr. S. Kavitha, Dr. B. Vinoth Kumar, Dr. S. Senthil Nathan and Dr. A. Thanga Hemavathy, Dr. G.J. Janavi, Staff Advisor participated in the programme. Selvi. B. Indhu, Students Club Joint Secretary proposed a formal Vote of Thanks.

Youth Renaissance Day at TNAU



National Service Scheme of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) celebrated Youth Renaissance Day on Oct. 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 a participation of 300 volunteers which started from TNAU and covering a part of the city. Students carried the placards with dreams of Dr. Kalam and role of youth in Nation building.

Inaugurating the rally, Dr. S. Mahimairaja, Dean (Agriculture), TNAU, Coimbatore told that Agriculture and food processing should be given thrust for India to develop. Dream is not what you see in sleep. It is that which does not let you sleep - he reiterated the statement of Dr. Kalam and called on young volunteers to translate his dreams into action and participate in bringing interlinking of rivers and second green revolution. Every young Indian should participate in nation building, he added.

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.

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