



# TNAU NEWS

TAMIL NADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY NEWS LETTER

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ஊருக்கெல்லாம் உணவளிக்கும் உத்தம உழவர்களுக்கு  
உதவிக்கரம் நீட்டும் பல்கலைக்கழகம்

## Inauguration of renovated Children's Park at Botanic Gardens



The Children's Park located in the Botanical Garden of TNAU, Coimbatore was inaugurated by Dr. P. Raj Kumar, Worshipful Mayor of Coimbatore City Municipal Corporation on 15.06.2016. The park has been renovated and given a facelift with installation of 18 new play equipments.

One unit of 'Namma Toilet' (Mobile toilet unit) was installed at the Children's Park premises by the Coimbatore City Municipal Corporation. During the function Dr. K. Ramasamy, Vice-Chancellor, TNAU briefed on the facelift activities done at the Children's Park. Dr. C.R. Ananda Kumar, Registrar, and Dr. S. Mariappan, Dean (Horticulture) TNAU, Coimbatore welcomed the Chief Guest. University Officers, Heads of Departments, Staff members and students attended this event. Dr. M. Kannan, Professor and Head, Department of Floriculture and Landscaping highlighted the features of the equipments added to the Children's Park to the Chief Guest.

**Training on “Sapota cultivation and value addition” at HC & RI, Periyakulam**



An one day training on “Sapota cultivation and value addition” was organized under ICAR - AICRP programme at the Department of fruit crops, Horticultural College and Research Institute, Periyakulam on 10.06.2016. Dr.T.N. Balamohan, Dean-in-charge (Horticulture) inaugurated the training programme and emphasized the commercial exploitation of sapota and need of research interventions on sapota crop improvement. Dr. J. Rajangam, Professor & Head, Department of fruit crops highlighted the importance of high density planting and canopy management to increase the production of sapota. The nutrient management and integrated pest and disease management in sapota was delivered by Dr. I. Muthuvel, Assistant professor (Horticulture), Dr. S. Irulandi, Assistant Professor (Agril. Entomology) and Dr. A. Vijayasamundeeswari, Assistant professor (Plant Pathology). Field demonstration on fruit fly control was done during this training programme. The value added products from sapota to increase the additional income of the farmers was also highlighted. Seventy fruit growers were benefitted

**Field Day on Blackgram held at Mangainallur in Nagapattinam District**

The *Chittirai pattam* Field Day on blackgram was conducted by Tamil Nadu Rice Research Institute (TRRI), Aduthurai, on 17.6.2016 at Mangainallur village of Nagapattinam District. The Field Day was attended by 300 farmers, besides



officers of the State Department of Agriculture and scientists of TRRI. As part of the programme, a field visit was arranged, wherein the farmers gained a vicarious experience on new methods of blackgram cultivation. A leading Farmer Dr. S. Arulsekhar, Retd. Scientist (Plant Breeding), University of California, Davis, USA and Former Board Member, TNAU, Coimbatore also participated.

The Meeting was Presided by Dr. V. Ravi, Director *i/c.*, TRRI, Aduthurai who in his Keynote Address encouraged the farmers to raise pulses as a commercial crop giving the same importance given for rice cultivation. Dr. K. Ganesamurthy, Director *i/c.*, Centre for Plant Breeding and Genetics, TNAU, Coimbatore in his Presidential Address explained the advantages of different blackgram varieties. Dr.J.Sekar, Joint Director of Agriculture, Nagapattinam District in his Special Address highlighted the various state government schemes, implemented for promotion of pulse cultivation. Dr. S. Arulsekhar in his Special Address narrated his experiences in raising pulses during summer. An exhibition was arranged depicting the scientific advancements and emerging trends of growing pulses.

**ICAR sponsored Short Course on “Advances in Micro Irrigation for Improving Water Use Efficiency and Productivity”**

Water Technology Centre at TNAU, organised a ten-day short course on “Advances in Micro Irrigation for Improving Water Use Efficiency and Productivity” sponsored by ICAR from 15<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>



June 2016. The major objective of the course was highlighting the need and importance of increasing Water Use Efficiency in Agriculture. The programme was inaugurated by Dr. K. Ramasamy, Vice-Chancellor, TNAU on 15.06.2016. He emphasized the need for undertaking basic studies in micro irrigation pertaining to the crop water requirement and scheduling irrigation. Thiru. J. Chandrasekhara Iyer, Chief Engineer, Central Water Commission, Coimbatore in his Key Note Address highlighted the policies of Union Government in expanding the area under micro irrigation in command areas. Dr. M. Maheswaran, Director of Research (i/c), offered felicitations. Dr. B.J. Pandian, Director (i/c), WTC cum Course Director welcomed the gathering and explained the course content and programme.

The participants were exposed to the solar operated micro irrigation systems at Thondamuthur, the water management experiments at FC & RI, Mettupalayam and ARS, Bhavanisagar during their field visits. The course was attended by 19 participants in the cadre of Scientists and Assistant Professors of State Agricultural University / Indian Council of Agricultural Research Institute, from seven states viz., Haryana, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

**Specialized summer course on “Water Resources Engineering and Soil Water Conservation”**

A specialized summer training on “Water Resources Engineering and Soil Water Conservation” was organized at the Water Technology Centre from 1.6.2016 to 30.6.2016, to



expose the B.Tech students of Sam Institute of Agriculture, Technology and Sciences (SHIATS), Allahabad on the modern concepts of irrigation water management, water resources development, management and soil water conservation practices. The course was designed as an internship programme for equipping the practical skills of 13 students who had undergone the above training. The field visits were arranged to study the soil and water conservation strategies undertaken in hilly terrains, besides farmers’ holdings at Thondamuthur village where the solar powered drip irrigation systems had been installed. The technical sessions were handled by the Scientists of all the departments in TNAU.

**Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana Awareness Programme, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Sirugamani**



The Krishi Vigyan Kendra and Sugarcane Research Station, Sirugamani, Tiruchirappalli, organized a one day Awareness Campaign on “Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana” (PMFBY) the programme about new crop insurance scheme sponsored by Indian Council of Agricultural

Research, New Delhi on 28.06.2016. Dr. R. Chandrasekaran, Professor and Head, delivered the Welcome Address. The elected representatives, stake - holders, delegates and progressive farmers numbering 945 from Trichirappalli District participated. The awareness programme was inaugurated and presided by the Hon'ble Member of Parliament Thiru. P. Kumar, who stressed the concept of plant protection through the PMFBY insurance. The theme oriented Special Address was delivered by Mr. K. Saravanan, Deputy Director of Agriculture, Tiruchirappalli who emphasized the importance of PMFBY. Mr. S.Suresh Kumar, Assistant General Manager, NABARD, informed about the premium range of 1.5 % for *Rabi* crops, 2 % for *Kharif* crops of the sum insured (cereals and oilseeds) and 5 % for annual horticultural and commercial crops like banana, sugarcane and cotton under PMFBY.

Mr. B. Krishnan of IFFCO-TOKIO, Mr. C. Saravanan of Cholamandalam Insurance and Mr. Senthil of ICICI Lombard briefed about the additional features of the scheme, insurance coverage for crop loss due to natural calamities, pest and disease outbreak and extended coverage to post harvest losses. Dr. K. Eswaran, Assistant Professor (Horticulture), HC & RI (W) indicated the role of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University in applying Remote Sensing technology in crop loss assessment to get speedy claim settlement to the farming community.

Dr. P. Suresh Kumar, Scientist, NRCB, Podavur, stressed the need for feedback by the farmers on the problems faced and conduct of client based experiments. Mr. R. Rajendran, Cane Executive - EID Parry India Ltd., explained the role of insurance in cane cultivation. Mr. Rajeswaran, Assistant Director of Agriculture, Andanallur, narrated on how, what and where of PMFBY to the farmers. The Scientist - Farmer interaction, technical sessions and exhibition for illustrating the features of new crop insurance scheme besides agriculture and allied technologies were also arranged. Dr. R. Vijyalakshmi, Programme Co-ordinator, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Sirugamani, Tiruchirappalli, proposed a formal Vote of Thanks.

### HC & RI (W), students' glorious performance at TALENTIA' 16



Nineteen students of Horticultural College and Research Institute for Women, Tiruchirappalli participated in the TALENTIA 2016, a State Level Inter Collegiate Cultural Competition conducted by Agricultural College and Research Institute & Home Science College and Research Institute, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Madurai on 19.6.2016. The aim of TALENTIA is to bring out the hidden extraordinary capacities and chic of the young student community; promote brotherhood, cross cultural learning, and organizing skill among students; and heighten the cultural integration through characteristic contests of dance, music, fine arts, quiz, and literary events. The students of HC & RI (W), Trichy bagged the Runner up position among 22 colleges in TALENTIA' 16. First prize in classical solo was won by Ms. K.Y. Ardra of II B.Sc. (Horticulture). Two second prizes for fusion dance and group dance and two third prizes for photography and short film were won by the HC & RI (W) students.

### 33<sup>rd</sup> Farewell Function for Outgoing Students (2016-2017) at HC & RI, Madurai



The 33<sup>rd</sup> farewell function of the outgoing students (2016 - 2017) of Home Science College and Research Institute, Madurai was organized on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2016. Dr. K. Ramasamy, Vice Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore lighted the lamp and delivered the Presidential Address, emphasised that the agricultural system has moved from the era of crop science to a bouquet of food safety, food security, marketing and soil health. He emphasized the students, about the need for taking up opportunities for higher learning so as to facilitate pioneering research in the area of food and nutrition.

The Vice Chancellor enumerated the opportunities available at Michigam State University, Australian University and Finland Institute of Technology in the areas of food security and food safety. Dr. S. Parvathi, Dean (*i/c*), (Home Science) administered the oath for the outgoing students. Dr. I. Muthusami, Dean (*i/c*), Agricultural College and Research Institute, Madurai delivered the Special Address and stressed the need for discharging the knowledge gained towards the holistic development of the farming community and society. The outgoing students were also facilitated by the faculty members. The Best outgoing student award was conferred on four students. The outgoing students received cash earned from Earn while you learn programme from the Honorable Vice Chancellor. Dr. P. Vennila, Staff Advisor of the Institute, welcomed the gathering. Dr. B. Nallakurumban, Assistant Professor (Food Science and Nutrition) proposed a formal Vote of Thanks.

**One day workshop at Centre of Innovation, Department of Biotechnology, Agricultural College & Research Institute, Madurai.**



An one day workshop on “Principles and Applications of PCR in Genomics Era” was organized in collaboration with M/s Eppendorf India Pvt Ltd. Chennai by Dept. of Biotechnology, Agricultural College and Research Institute, Madurai on 23.6.2016 for the benefit of Scientists, Research scholars and students. The participants (95 Numbers) from AC & RI, Madurai, scientists, lecturers of private Agricultural Colleges, Research scholars and students of constituent colleges of TNAU participated. Dr. N. Senthil, Project Director (CI) and Professor and Head, Department of Biotechnology, welcomed the participants and delivered a Special lecture on “Genome databases: A tool to unlock the secret of Genome”. He narrated how different databases could be used in genomic study and how effectively this could be used in crop breeding programmes.

Special lectures were organized and presented; Dr. R. Selvarajan, Principal Scientist, National Research Centre for Banana spoke on “Application of Polymerase Chain Reaction in Plant Disease diagnostics”; Ms. Priya, Training Manager, M/s Eppendorf India Pvt Ltd. Chennai spoke on “Basic principles of PCR”. A hands on training session at MAS lab on PCR using SSR markers & gene specific markers was arranged. Dr. C. Vanniayarajan Professor and Head, Plant Breeding and Genetics and Dr. I. Muthuchamy, Dean, AC & RI, Madurai also spoke on the occasion. During the Valedictory Session of the workshop, Participation Certificates were given to all the participants and Dr. P. Meenakshi sundaram, Assistant Professor (Biotechnology) proposed a formal Vote of Thanks.

**National Exhibition on Fruit wealth award to Department of Fruit crops, HC & RI, Periyakulam**

A National Exhibition on “Fruit wealth - An Indian Perspective 2016” was organized by Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, Bengaluru during the National Conference on “Fruit Breeding in Tropics and Sub - tropics” from 27<sup>th</sup> April to 29<sup>th</sup> April 2016. The Department of Fruit Crops, HC & RI, Periyakulam exhibited more than 70 mango germplasm and 40 commercially important and underexploited fruits and won the National level best exhibition award, for the outstanding exhibits

