



TNAU NEWS

Patron: **Dr. K. Ramasamy**, Vice Chancellor
Editor : **Dr. S. Murali Krishnasamy**,
Director (i/c), Planning & Monitoring

TAMIL NADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY NEWS LETTER

ஊருக்கெல்லாம் உணவளிக்கும் உத்தம உழவர்களுக்கு
உதவிக்கரம் நீட்டும் பல்கலைக்கழகம்

International conference on Invigorating transformation of farm extension towards sustainable development (INTFES-18)



Tamil Nadu Agricultural University and Extension Education Society, Coimbatore jointly organized an 'International Conference on Invigorating Transformation of Farm Extension towards Sustainable Development: Futuristic Challenges and Prospects (INTFES-18)' on 09 & 10 March, 2018 at TNAU, Coimbatore. Dr. K. Ramasamy, Vice-Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University gave the inaugural address and launched the online version of the Open Access Journal of Extension Education (JEE), published by Extension Education Society in the presence of Dr.S.N.A. Jinnah, Chief General Manager, NABARD, Chennai, Dr.V.V.Sadamate, Former Advisor (Agriculture), Planning Commission, Govt. of India, Dr.V.S. Sidhakaran, Principal Advisory Officer, Tea Research Institute, Sri Lanka, Dr.J.Paul Mansingh, Professor (Agrl. Extension), Ambo University, Ethiopia, Dr. Nageeb Ibrahim-Bakheit, Al-Neelain University, Sudan, Dr.N.K.Sudeep Kumar, Director of Extension Education, Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (TANUVAS), Chennai, Dr. Y.G.Prasad, Director, ICAR, (ATARI), Hyderabad. Dr. H. Philip, President, Extension Education Society (EES), Director of Extension Education and the Organizing Secretary of the Conference delivered the valedictory address.

Field day on sesame - VRI 3 and Seed production techniques



Regional Research Station and Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Vridhachalam, conducted a field day to sensitize the seed growers on the new sesame variety VRI 3 and Seed production techniques on 20.03.2018. Dr.P.Selvaraju, Special Officer (Seeds), TNAU, presided over and delivered the special address. Dr. R. Ushakumari, Professor & Head, Regional Research Station, Vridhachalam explained the activities of the station. Dr.S.Kannan, Programme Co-ordinator, KVK, Vridhachalam, Mr.S.Ramesh, Assistant Director of Agriculture, Vridhachalam and Mr.T.Radhakrishnan, Seed Certification Officer, Vridhachalam attended and gave special lectures. A total quantity of 58 kg of sesame (VRI 3) seeds were distributed to 50 farmers of Kurinjipadi and Cuddalore blocks for sowing during the Maasipattam.

District level seminar on cashew



At Regional Research Station, Vridhachalam, a seminar was conducted under GOI-DCCD on 21.03.2018 to motivate the farmers about cashew production technologies. Dr .V. Ravi, Director, TRRI, Aduthurai presided

over and delivered the special address. Dr. R. Ushakumari, Professor & Head, Regional Research Station, Vridhachalam explained the activities of the station. Dr.A. Mothilal, Professor (PBG), explained on cashew production technologies. Dr. S.Vincent, Professor (CRP), spoke on economic scope of cashew cultivation. Dr. S. Velmurugan, Assistant Professor (Horticulture) welcomed the gathering and Dr.R. Jagadesan, Assistant Professor (Horticulture) proposed the vote of thanks. Totally, 66 farmers attended the programme

Training on Sesame



NMOOP sponsored training programme on recent production technologies for higher profit in sesame cultivation for extension officials and input dealers was conducted at Regional Research Station, Vridhachalam on 22.03.2018 to sensitize the farmers about cashew production aspects. Dr.R. Vaidyanathan, Professor & Head, ORS, Tindivanam presided over and delivered special address. Dr. R. Ushakumari, Professor & Head, Regional Research Station, Vridhachalam explained the activities of the station. Dr. S.Vincent, Professor (CRP), explained about economic aspects of sesame. Mr.S.Ramesh, Assistant Director of Agriculture, gave special lecture about Government programmes on sesame cultivation. Dr. B.Meena, Assistant Professor (Pathology) welcomed the gathering and Dr. C. Harisudan, Assistant Professor (Agronomy) proposed the vote of thanks. Totally, 15 Extension Officers and 5 input dealers attended the programme.

Workshop on Packhouse technology for mango held at Krishnagiri



The Department of Nano Science & Technology, TNAU, Coimbatore, organized a one day Workshop on *Post-harvest dip technology to enhance the shelf-life of mango* at Krishnagiri, on 12.03.2018, involving mango farmers, packhouse owners, traders and exporters from ten northern districts of Tamil Nadu. This is a part of the externally funded IDRC project "*Enhanced preservation of fruits using nanotechnology*" being funded by Global Affairs Canada (GAC) and International Development Research Center (IDRC), Canada.

The workshop was inaugurated by Mr. T.C. Kannan, Joint Director of Horticulture, Krishnagiri. He emphasized that the post-harvest losses were very high in mango and it was a timely event that the farmers, traders and exporters would acquire knowledge on nano technologies for post-harvest management of mango. Dr. G.J. Janavi, Professor & Head, Dept. of Nano Science & Technology explained that the pre-harvest spray and the post-harvest dip of mango in hexanal formulation could help to extend the shelf-life of mango by 2 to 3 weeks. She explained that this would enable the farmers to go for export or longterm transport to gain lucrative income. Dr. K.S. Subramanian, NABARD Chair Professor & PI of the project presented the innovative nano-stickers and nano-pellets technologies developed by the Department to minimize the losses of fruits during storage and transport. Dr N. Tamilselvan,

Professor & Head, RRS, Paiyur felicitated the gathering. Mr. L. Vijayaprakash, Co-ordinator, NGO - Myrada, proposed the formal vote of thanks. About 400 farmers, mango exporters and other stakeholders participated.

FREEDOM 2018 cultural and talent competition



An inter-collegiate cultural and talent competition "FREEDOM 2018" was organised by the students club of Anbil Dharmalingam Agricultural College and Research Institute & Horticultural College and Research Institute for Women, Tiruchirappalli during 20.04.2018 and 21.04.2018. Dr.P.Balasubramaniam, Staff Advisor (Agriculture) welcomed the gathering. Dr.R.Sridhar, Dean, Anbil Dharmalingam Agricultural College and Research Institute and Dr.D.Saraladevi, Dean, Horticultural College and Research Institute for Women, Tiruchirappalli spoke on leadership qualities and importance of cultural programmes. Mr. Sasikumar, Cine actor cum Director was the Chief Guest interacted with students on acting, direction, lyrics and role of cultural events on promoting the human values. In that programme, more than 20 events were organized to exhibit the talent of students in a competitive mode. Students from constituent and affiliated colleges of TNAU and students from TANUVAS and selected colleges in Tiruchirappalli participated. Dr. Auxillia, Staff Advisor (Horticulture) proposed the vote of thanks

Canadian scientists visit to the Department of pulses

A team of scientists from Agriculture and Agri-Food, Canada (AAFC), comprising of Dr. Joyce Boye, Director, Research Development and Technology (Agassiz, Summerland), Dr. Robert Patzer, Director, International Engagement Division and Dr. Sankaran Krishnaraj, Director, Research Development and Technology (Guelph, Saint Hyacinthe) visited the Department of Pulses, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore on 20.04.2018. Both the Director, Centre for Plant Breeding and Genetics and Professor and Head explained about the ongoing research activities and research facilities available at the Department of Pulses. The team visited the redgram seed production field and discussed on the possible areas of collaboration on pulse research. They also visited Ramiah Gene Bank at the Department of Plant Genetic Resources, Directorate of Centre for Plant Breeding and Genetics, TNAU, Coimbatore.

Demonstration on field water tube installation in paddy

A demonstration of water saving technology - Alternate wetting and drying method by using 'field water tube' ('pani pipe') to monitor the water depth on the rice field was conducted at Keelapattu village on 24.04.2018 in the farmers field to reduce irrigation water consumption without decreasing its yield. The programme was conducted under by TN-IAM project. Dr. R. Ramesh, Assistant Professor (Agricultural Entomology), KVK, Thiruvavur explained on the use of 'field water tube' in rice and the advantages of using this technique. Farmers could save water upto 25% besides increasing the yield by 15%. Usage of power and wastage of water would be reduced consequently. During this demonstration Dr. M. Dhasarathan (PBG), Dr. J. Vanithasri, Training Assistants and Mr. Suresh and Mr. Sameer Huisain, Programme Assistants from KVK and farmers participated.

Drudgery reduction with different weeders in paddy

Control of weeds in paddy fields is a major problem. Hand weeding demands more labour and causes drudgery. While weeding, they bend and squat the body posture due to which their physiological workload increases. Hence, to reduce the drudgery a study using rotary star weeder and modified conoweeder was conducted. The experiment was carried out in 20 farmers field in Tiruvallur district. With regard to weeding efficiency, the modified cono weeder had the highest weeding efficiency (88%) compared to rotary star weeder (79%) and the weeding efficiency for manual weeding was (94%). The cost of operation of different weeders revealed that, manual weeding was the costliest among all the methods. The unavailability of the labour for weeding in time during peak season added burden to the farmers. The cost of operation for modified cono weeder was Rs. 2800/ha and for rotary star weeder was Rs. 3200/ha. The pulse rates of the individuals operating rotary star weeder were more when compared to modified weeder and manual weeding.

Influence of traditional paddy varieties on Glycemic index



Traditional paddy varieties with desirable traits are being ignored and now becoming rare in cultivation. Traditional coloured rice varieties are known to be rich in dietary fibre, resistant starch, minerals, carotenoids, flavonoids and polyphenols and consumption of grains of these pigmented rice varieties help in improving human health. Hence, at KVK, Tirur traditional varieties viz., *Kattuyanam* rice and red *kavuni* rice were taken for the study. After 10 to 12 h

overnight fast, respondents were given cooked Glycemic response of rice portions, which were consumed over 10 to 15 min. Finger prick blood samples were obtained at various intervals after the ingestion of the test food. The concentration of glucose in blood was measured. The glycemic index content recorded was lower in red *kavuni* rice (5.0) followed by *kattuyanam* rice (5.2) compared to milled rice flakes (6.2). Fibre content recorded was high in red *kavuni* (3.5 g/100g) rice compared to *kattuyanam* (3.2 g/100g) rice. Traditional rice had better nutritional properties and they kept them under satiety condition for a long time.

Off campus training on backyard poultry rearing



Training on Backyard poultry rearing was given to farmers and farm women of Kilambakkam Village, Ekadu Block on 30.04.2018 by KVK, Tirur, Tiruvallur district. Dr. R. Manimekalai, Programme Co-ordinator, inaugurated the training programme and explained the KVK activities. Dr. R. Umamaheswari, TANUVAS, Madhavaram explained the role of balanced nutrition on the growth of native chicks, vaccination procedure and disease control measures to the farmers. Importance of integrated farming system components like; mushroom production, vermicomposting and backyard poultry rearing were elaborated to the farmers by Dr. P. Yogameenakshi, SMS (PBG), Dr. V.A. Vijayashanthi, SMS (Agrl. Entomology) and Dr. G. Sathish, SMS (Horticulture). One day old Aseel breed native chicks (75 birds) were supplied to interested farmers and rural youth. Vaccination of 5 - 7 days old chicks was also

done by Dr. R. Umamaheswari, TANUVAS, Madhavaram. Thirty farmers, farm women and rural youth of Kilambakkam village participated in the training programme.

Group Meet of AICRP on Forage Crops



National Group Meet of All India Coordinated Research Project on Forage crops and utilization was held at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore during 06.04.2018 and 07.04.2018. The programme was organized by the Department of Forage crops, CPBG, TNAU in co-ordination with ICAR, New Delhi. The event was presided over by Dr. K. Ramasamy, Vice Chancellor, TNAU, Coimbatore and Special address was delivered by Dr. I. S. Solanki, ADG (FFC), ICAR, New Delhi. Dr. R.V. Kumar, Director, ICAR- IGFRI, Jhansi offered remarks in the meeting. Dr. A. K. Roy, Project Co-ordinator AICRP on Forage crops and Utilization, ICAR-IGFRI, Jhansi, presented Project Co-ordinator's report for the *Kharif* 2017. Dr. K. Ramaraju, Director of Research and Dr. K. Ganesamurthy, Director, CPBG, TNAU, Coimbatore delivered the welcome address and vote of thanks, respectively.

Annual sports meet 2018 and Club day inauguration



First club day inauguration and Annual sports meet 2018 was conducted at Agricultural College and Research Institute, Eachangkottai, Thanjavur on 12.04.2018. Dr.M.Pandiyan, Dean presided over the program. Club day Inaugural address was delivered by Dr. J. Loganathan, IPS., DIG of Police, Thanjavur region. Special address was given by Dr. V. Ravi, Director, TRRI, Aduthurai. Presidential address was given by Shri. S. Nagoor Ali Jinnah, Chief General Manager (Retd.), NABARD, Tamil Nadu. Dr.T.Senguttavan, Professor (Entomology) delivered the vote of thanks. Dr.K.Chozhan, Dean, RVS Agricultural College, Thanjavur declared open the sports meet and Dr.K.Samiayyan, Dean, Mother Theresa Agricultural College, Pudukottai distributed prizes to the winners. The function was organised by the Staff advisor Dr.K.Sasikala, Dr.S.Angles, Associate Staff advisor and Dr.G.G.Kavitha Shree, Sports Co-ordinator.

Published by
Directorate of Planning and Monitoring,
TNAU, Coimbatore - 641 003.

Printed at :
TNAU Offset Printing Press,
Special Officer (Publications & Public Relations)
TNAU, Coimbatore - 641 003.

From
Directorate of Planning and Monitoring,
Tamil Nadu Agricultural University,
Coimbatore - 641 003