



TNAU NEWS

TAMIL NADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY NEWS LETTER

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ஊருக்கெல்லாம் உணவளிக்கும் உத்தம உழவர்களுக்கு
உதவிக்கரம் நீட்டும் பல்கலைக்கழகம்

Dr. N. Kumar, 13th Vice Chancellor of TNAU



Born on 29th June 1955 and hailing from 'Kadukkarai', a non-descript village in Kanyakumari District of Tamil Nadu, Dr. N. Kumar possess excellent academic and professional track record. He began his career as Assistant Professor in Horticulture during 1979 at TNAU. By virtue of consistent and meritorious performance, he rose to occupy the position of Dean of Horticultural College and Research Institute, TNAU, Coimbatore during 2009-2013 before becoming the 13th Vice-Chancellor of the renowned Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore. He is the recipient of two fellowships, five gold medals and nine medals in his career spanning over a period of 35 years.

Endowed with passion for writing, he has contributed an array of publications including 8 text books, chapters in 14 edited books, 52 internationally acclaimed research papers, 83 research papers in Indian journals, 42 popular articles, 8 teaching and extension manual and 14 technical bulletins. The textbooks written by him are popular amongst the students and

serve most often as sources of reference by Civil Service aspirants and others appearing for competitive examinations at state and national levels. Professor Dr. N. Kumar is an inspiring teacher and mentor of research has guided 21 PG Students and 13 Ph.D. scholars so far.

He has secured 20 externally funded projects including five International ones. He played an active role in the development of 10 improved crop varieties and production technologies in Horticulture. More specifically, the standardized technologies of fertigation and high-density planting systems in banana, papaya and mango are his notable achievements which are popular among the farming community. His research contributions in drip fertigation technologies formed the basis for launching of Precision Farming Scheme by the Government of Tamil Nadu. He has also organized 17 National and 3 International seminars and symposia. His professional visits include; 15 overseas countries viz., Israel, Thailand, Germany, Brazil, UK, Malaysia, China, South Africa, Bangladesh, Kenya, Tanzania, Sri Lanka, USA, Turkey and Ethiopia. He was also actively involved in signing of MoUs with two foreign Universities; The Savannah University, Georgia, USA and the Leibniz University, Hannover, Germany for collaborative programs with TNAU. He has served as Expert Member in several committees constituted by ICAR. He is an active member in several professional bodies and academic societies in Horticultural stream and was honoured as the Fellow of Horticultural Society of India, New Delhi.

VC Visit to AC & RI, Kudumiyanmalai



Vice Chancellor, TNAU visited the Agricultural College and Research Institute,

Kudumiyanmalai on 25.11.2018. While his entourage, he witnessed the effect of Gaja cyclone, observed the campus amenities and appreciated the efforts. He was accompanied by a team of University Officers and senior faculty members.

CAFTA training programme on Frontier Technologies for Future Profitable and Sustainable Agriculture



The Department of Agronomy, Directorate of Crop Management (DCM), TNAU, Coimbatore in collaboration with Human Resource Development (HRD) Education Division, ICAR, New Delhi organized the

National Training Programme for 21 days. Scientists from various SAUs participated. The inaugural function was held on 28.11.2018. Dr. C. R. Chinnamuthu, Professor and Head (Agronomy) and CAFTA Director, welcomed the gathering.

Dr. N. Kumar, Vice - Chancellor, TNAU, Coimbatore inaugurated and presided over the function and highlighted on the importance of malnutrition and its mitigation through enhanced legume and oilseed production. A gamut of the training was explained by Dr. C. Jayanthi, Director (DCM).

Dr. C. Chinnusamy, Senior Professor of Agronomy, detailed on the technical part of the training programme and the course themes. Dr. K. Ramamoorthy, Professor (Agronomy) and CAFTA Co-ordinator proposed the formal vote of thanks.

One day Training programme on Acid lime production technology for farmers of Salem, Tirunelveli and Thoothukudi Districts



One day training programme on Acid lime production technology was organized at Citrus Research Station, Sankarankoil on 15.11.2018. Totally, 24 farmers from various districts including Salem, Namakkal, Thiruvannamalai, Tirupur, Tirunelveli and Thoothukudi participated. The event was coordinated by SPIC Farmer's Training Centre, Thoothukudi.

Dr. S. Muthulakshmi, Professor and Head, CRS, Sankarankoil, inaugurated and delivered the presidential address. An interaction session was held to offer solution for the volley of doubts raised by farmers. A reading manual comprising of Hi-tech cultivation methods on acid lime was given to the participants. Skill demonstration on `Bordeaux mixture preparation` was conducted.

One day Training programme on High Density Planting in Horticultural crops at CRS, Sankarankoil



One day training programme on `High density planting of fruit crops` under ATMA, was organized at CRS, Sankarankoil, on 27. 11. 2018. This programme was conducted by Assistant Director of Agriculture, Melaneelithanallur block. A total of 47 farmers attended the training.

Dr. P. Nainar, Professor (Hort.) CRS, narrated the details on HDP on mango and cashew while, Dr. S. Muthulakshmi, Professor and Head, delivered the information on HDP on banana and citrus.

An exhibition was also organized as a part of the programme depicting the HDP practices in mango and banana. A discussion session was held before winding up the training and barrage of questions raised by the farmers were also suitably clarified.

Off campus training on Bio-intensive pests and diseases management in paddy eco-system



FLD on Bio-intensive module for the management of leaf folder in rice was conducted at Thiruvarur District. As a part of FLD programme, an off campus training on Bio-intensive pests and diseases management in paddy ecosystem was conducted at Udhayamarthandapuram village of Muthupettai block on 01.11.2018. The training was organized by Dr. R. Ramesh, Assistant Professor (Ag.Entomology). Th. Raveendiran, Assistant Director of Agriculture, Muthupettai block chaired the programme and delivered the special address on Pest and Disease Management in paddy. Totally, 45 numbers of farmers from Udhayamarthandapuram and adjacent villages participated.

Sensitization on organic farming under NADP



With the objective of promoting organic farming a series of training programmes on 'Capacity Building of Organic Farming to extension officials / farmers of Southern

districts viz., Thoothukudi, Tirunelveli and Kanyakumari were organized by the Department of Agronomy, Agricultural College and Research Institute, Killikulam under NADP Project on 'Diversified Agricultural Cafeteria with the state of Art Technologies for third generation. Two trainings for extension officials, 6 trainings for farmers and 4 field days were conducted in Thoothukudi, Tirunelveli and Kanyakumari districts during October 2018. Totally, 92 extension officials and 560 farmers were benefitted through the capacity building programme.

A training for extension officials was held at AC & RI, Killikulam on 09.10.2018. During the inaugural function Dr. S.P. Ramanathan, Professor and Head, Department of Agronomy welcomed the gathering and Dr. A. Ramalingam, Dean, AC & RI, Killikulam inaugurated the training. The technical sessions on Overview of Organic farming, Organic farming production technology, Plant protection in organic farming were handled by scientists of AC & RI, Killikulam. Organic seed certification and marketing of organic produces was handled by Thiru. Narayanamoorthy, Organic Certification Officer of Madurai region.

10th Scientific Advisory Committee Meeting



KVK, Tirur organised the 10th Scientific Advisory Committee Meeting on 22.11.2018. Dr. H. Philip, Director of Extension Education, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore



presided over the Meeting. Dr. A. Bhaskaran, Ph.D., Principal Scientist, ATARI, Zone-X, Hyderabad, Dr. N. K. Sudeep Kumar, Ph.D., Director of Extension Education, TANUVAS, Chennai, Line Department officials, Officials from Central Government Institute Scientific Advisory Committee members, Progressive farmers, Professor and Head and Scientists from Rice Research Station, Tirur, and TNAU-Information and Training Centre, Chennai, Programme Co-ordinator and all Subject Matter Specialists of Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Tirur attended the meeting. Backyard poultry unit at KVK was opened by Dr. A. Bhaskaran, Ph.D., Principal Scientist, ATARI. Director of Extension Education and other line department officials released the booklets and pamphlets on IPDM in Rice and ICM in Groundnut.

Training programmes at KVK, Tirur



A slew of training programmes were conducted at KVK, Tirur during November 2018 in which ICM in Watermelon, ICM in Paddy CO 52, Demonstration on IIHR Arka

Banana special, ICM in Maize were organized between 02.11.2018 to 15.11.2018. Nearly, 25 farmers participated.



ICAR - Winter School on New Vistas in Seed Technology





The ICAR Winter School on New Vistas in seed production, Processing, Seed Enhancement and Marketing was organized for 21 days from 14th November to 4th December, 2018 at Seed Centre, TNAU, Coimbatore. Dr. P. Selvaraju, Director, Seed Centre was the Course Director. Dr. R. Jerlin, Professor & Head, DSST, Dr. K. Sundaralingam, Professor (SST), Dr. M. Kathiravan, Asst. Prof. (SST) Dr. V. Vakeswaran, Asst. Prof. (SST) and Dr. K. Nelson Navamaniraj, Asst. Prof. (SST) were the Co-Course Directors.

Twenty five Scientists from Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu participated.

Dr. K. Ramasamy, former Vice-Chancellor inaugurated the Winter School and released the training manual and emphasized the importance of quality seed production.

Dr. M. Bhaskaran, Vice-Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Open University offered the presidential address and highlighted that the quality seeds produced should reach the farmers in-time. Dr. A. Vijayakumar, Dean, Students Welfare delivered the felicitation address. Dr. R. Jerlin, Professor & Head, DSST offered the welcome address and Dr. K. Sundaralingam, Professor (SST) proposed a vote of thanks.

The valedictory function was held on 04. 12. 2018. Dr. N. Kumar, Vice-Chancellor,

TNAU in the Valedictory address, stressed the importance of farmers' participatory seed production, Dr. K. Ganesamurthy, Director (CPBG), delivered the Key note address. Dr. P. Selvaraju, Director, Seed Centre offered the Welcome address & briefed the outcome of the Winter School. Dr. R. Jerlin, Professor and Head, Dept. of Seed Science & Technology proposed the vote of thanks.

Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Madurai - Tenth Scientific Advisory Committee meeting



Tenth Scientific Advisory Committee meeting was conducted on 29.11.2018 at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Agricultural College and Research Institute, Madurai. Dr. Chelvi Ramesh welcomed the gathering and presented the action taken report on 9th SAC recommendations

The programme was formally inaugurated by the Vice Chancellor, TNAU, Coimbatore. In the presidential speech, he addressed that under ICAR funding 29 KVKs are functioning from 2004 and two more KVK will be established at Thiruppur and The Nilgiris. Krishi Vigyan Kendras play a key role in transferring new technologies to the farmers. In paddy and horticultural crops production self sufficiency has been attained and concentration should be given to oilseeds and millets. In his special address, Dr. H. Phillip, Director of Extension Education emphasized on conducting impact study on

trainings, strengthening of farmers' database and forming beneficiary matrix to avoid benefits reaching the same farmer.

Dr. S. Suresh, Dean, AC & RI, Madurai, Dr. S. Amutha, Dean, CSC & RI, Th. B. Kumaravadivel, Joint Director of Agriculture, Th. G. Boopathi, Deputy Director of Horticulture, Er. M. Mureshkumar, Executive Engineer, Dr. R. Rajasekaran, Regional Joint Director (Animal Husbandry), Tmt. G. Shanthi, District Social Welfare Officer, Dr. P.S. Harikrishnaraj, DDM, NABARD, Th. K. Arivalagan, Lead Bank Manager and members from fisheries, sericulture and forestry, All India Radio represented the scientific advisory committee and felicitated the meeting with valuable suggestions.

Progressive farmers and Members of Scientific Advisory Committee represented to establish a common pooling centre for collection of agricultural wastes and recycling.

Closing remarks was given by Dr. Y. G. Prasad, Director, ATARI mentioning about campaigning IFS models in order to double farmers income.

An exhibition on latest varieties and technologies was arranged so as to benefit the farming community. A booklet on "Millet production technologies and value addition" was released by the Vice chancellor, TNAU and the first copy was received by Dr. Y. G. Prasad, Director, ATARI. CDs on success stories of farmers and crop specific technologies of Madurai were also released and distributed to the participants.

Consultation workshop on Strengthening traditional rainfed integrated farming system

On-farm Research Project was initiated under the All India Coordinated Research Project on Dryland Agriculture (AICRPDA),



Agricultural Research Station, Kovilpatti on 01.04.2018 by CRIDA, Hyderabad. Under this programme, 240 farmers were surveyed from 6 villages in two blocks of Thoothukudi district to study the traditional rainfed integrated farming systems. Vadakupatti village of Kovilpatti (Taluk) of Thoothukudi (Dt) was identified to implement the On-farm Research Project on AICRPDA, ARS, Kovilpatti centre.

AICRPDA centre, ARS, Kovilpatti organized a stake holders' consultation workshop on "Strengthening traditional rainfed integrated farming system" on 02.11.2018 at Vadakupatti village in collaboration with AICRPDA, CRIDA, Hyderabad. The workshop was inaugurated by Dr.G.Ravindra Chary, Project Coordinator, AICRPDA, CRIDA, Hyderabad. Dr.E.Murugan, Professor & Head, ARS, Kovilpatti presided over the workshop. Dr.K.Baskar, Chief Scientist (AICRPDA Centre, ARS, Kovilpatti) welcomed the gathering and elaborated on the purpose of the workshop.

Thiru. S. Sivaram, Forest Range Officer, Kovilpatti, Thiru. T.Nagarajan, Deputy Director (Agri. Marketing), Tirunelveli, Thiru. M. Pandiaraj Assistant Director of Horticulture, Kovilpatti, Er. M .Palanisamy, Assistant Executive Engineer, Kovilpatti and Tmt. A. Selvamalathi, Agricultural Officer briefed on the schemes operated by the

respective line departments for the benefit of the farming community.

Dr. M. Bhakiyathu Saliha, SMS (Soil Science), KVK, Aruppukottai and Dr. V. Srinivasan, Programme Co-ordinator, SCAD-KVK, Thoothukudi explained the success stories of Integrated Farming Systems models of the respective districts.

Dr.G.Ravindra Chary, Project Co-ordinator, AICRPDA, CRIDA, Hyderabad in his Chief Guest address compared the joint family systems of olden days and their practicing of the integrated farming system earlier in dryland areas. The adoption of

integrated farming systems with different components would enhance the farmers' income, he added. Kovilpatti AICRPDA centre Scientists viz., Dr. A. Solaimalai, Agronomist, Dr. N. Anandaraj, Soil & Water Conservation Engineer, Dr. V. Sanjiv kumar, Soil Scientist and Thiru. S. Thaveedu, Young Professional were involved in the successful organizing of the workshop.

Dr. S. Manoharan, Agronomist of AICRPDA thanked line department officials, ICAR and farmers. About 50 farmers from Dharmathupatti, Vadakupatti, Pillayarnatham and Lakshmiyapuram participated.

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