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# TNAU News

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## From the VC's desk...



Tamil Nadu Agricultural University ever think in maintaining its standards to achieve the goals in sustaining the production and productivity of the State of Tamil Nadu. It spearheads its research activities to meet the challenges and has the pride to support the Government in achieving the Krishi Karman Award for the fifth time for enhanced production in oil seed crops. Education is in alpha priority besides research and extension education in developing scientific human resource required for the society. TNAU conducted the 84<sup>th</sup> Scientific Workers' Conference with the dynamic participation of

Thiru.Gagandeep Singh Bedi, IAS, Agricultural Production Commissioner and Principal Secretary, Government of Tamil Nadu along with the cooperation and participation of State Department Officials and Joint Directors of Agriculture from all the districts across the state of Tamil Nadu. Deliberations were focused on the various challenges faced by the farmers and means to resolve them. The latest findings were discussed threadbare for their suitability prior to prescribing to the farmers. The efforts taken by the Department of Nano Science Technology, Directorate of Natural Resource Management were appreciated for involving various stakeholders during the one day workshop which was organized to show case the advanced nano products developed for the farming community.

ஊருக்கெல்லாம் உணவளிக்கும் உத்தம உழவர்களுக்கு  
உதவிக்கரம் நீட்டும் பல்கலைக்கழகம்

Maize Fall Armyworm devastated much of the maize area and created a nightmare among the maize cultivators. Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore in collaboration with the South Asia Biotechnology Centre (SABC), New Delhi and Department of Agriculture, Government of Tamil Nadu jointly organized one day workshop on Maize Fall Armyworm and advised Technology Capsule. A programme for the commencement of Post Graduate courses for the academic session 2019–2020 was organized in which Dr. S.D. Shikhamany, Former Vice-Chancellor, Dr. YSR Horticultural University, Andhra Pradesh was the chief guest. The freshers of 33 Masters and 29 Doctoral programs were extended a warm welcome.

All the Projects under the Tamil Nadu Innovation Initiatives (TANII) and National Agricultural Development Programme (NADP) were reviewed and suggestions were made for the improvement in conducting and upscaling the projects. The Grapes seminar cum field day was organized at Grapes Research Station, Anaimalayanpatty of Theni district for the benefit of farmers, scientists, entrepreneurs and students. Avacado Seminar was organized by Horticultural Research Station, Thadiyankudisai to address the serious problem of wilt and root rot in avocado at Lower Palani hills.

Video Conferencing with Dr. Pierrick Fraval, Sahel Irrigation Initiative Project Team Leader and his team members was conducted to sort out researchable issues in Micro Irrigation and water saving technology research and for entering into MoU between TNAU and Committee against Drought in the Sahel (CILSS).

To improve the quality of performance of ongoing teaching and research activities, review was taken up at the Centre for Plant Breeding and Genetics, TNAU, Coimbatore, Community Science College and Research Institute, Madurai and Maize Research Station, Vagarai and suggestions were offered for improvement.

Independence Day was celebrated with jingoistic spirit and patriotic fervour. As a part of the programme, nearly 100 tree saplings were planted around the University stadium. A capsule of events that happened in TNAU during August 2019 is narrated.

With wishes,



(N. Kumar)

### 84<sup>th</sup> Scientific Workers' Conference

The 84<sup>th</sup> Scientific Workers' Conference was held on 19.08.2019 at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore. Thiru. Gagandeep Singh Bedi, IAS, Agricultural Production Commissioner and Principal Secretary, Government of Tamil Nadu and Dr. N. Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, TNAU, Coimbatore, chaired the Conference. Dr. K.S. Subramanian, Director of Research, TNAU, welcomed the gathering and presented the Action Taken Report of the 83<sup>rd</sup> Scientific Workers' Conference. The action taken by both the Department of Agriculture and the University on the issues related to Agriculture, Horticulture,



TNAU also presented their research highlights. The Vice-Chancellor offered concluding remarks narrating the importance of focused SWC to derive suitable solution for the field problems while evolving roadmap for research priorities. The Agricultural Production Commissioner presented the current status of adoption rate of varieties and technologies and highlighted the need to abridge the gap between the advocated and adopted. The revised Crop Production Guide 2019 (Agriculture & Horticulture), Research Agenda (2019-2023), CD and App of Crop Management Directorate were released. The dignitaries also participated in a woodlot planting programme adjacent to the University hospital in which twenty two native tree species were planted.



Agricultural Marketing, Agricultural Engineering besides general issues was presented. Thiru V. Dakshinamoorthy, IAS, Director (Agriculture), Dr. N. Subbaiyan, IAS, Director (Horticulture), Thiru S.J. Chiru, IAS, Commissioner of Agricultural Marketing & Agri-Business, Er. R. Murugesan, Chief Engineer, Department of Agricultural Engineering, Thiru. N. Nedunchezhiyan, Director of Seed Certification & Organic Certification (i/c), Smt. A. Anusuya, Managing Director, Kallakuruchi Co-operative Sugar Mills Unit, Moongilthuraipattu and Thiru. P. Murugan, Assistant Director of Sericulture, Salem, presented the problems confronted in their Departments. The Technical Directors of

### Grapes Seminar cum Field Day

The grapes seminar cum field day was organized by Tamil Nadu Agricultural University





on 08.08.2019 at Grapes Research Station, Anaimalayanpatty of Theni district. Dr. T.Arumugam, Dean, Horticultural College and Research Institute, Periyakulam welcomed the gathering. Thiru. N.K.S. Murugesh Babu, President, Cumbum Valley Grapes Growers Federation, Thiru. PRM. Ravichandran, TNAU Board Member, Thiru. A. Arumugam, Deputy Director of Horticulture, Theni and Thiru. R. Agilan, Lead Bank Divisional Manager, Canara Bank, Theni felicitated the occasion. Dr. G.S. Prakash, Principal Scientist & Head (Retd.), Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, Bengaluru, Dr. P. Selvaraj, Dean (Retd.), PAJANCOA, Karaikkal and Dr. Boopathi Kumar, Winery Expert, France delivered guest lectures on grapes cultivation.

### Avocado Seminar

Horticulture Research Station, Thadiyan -kudisai organized the Avocado seminar on 09.08.2019 in association with Tamil Nadu Hill Banana Grower's Federation to address the problem of *Fusarium* wilt and *Phytophthora* root rot in avocado at Lower Palani hills. The programme was presided over by Dr. N. Kumar, the Vice-Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore. Seminar was attended by over 150 progressive planters, TNAU scientists, Agri-Business representatives, officials and extension workers from coffee board and State Horticulture

Department. The Hill Banana Growers Federation honoured the Vice-Chancellor TNAU, Coimbatore with a Lifetime achievement award for his significant achievements in Research and Development in the field of Horticulture and contributions to the farming community. They also conferred Best Avocado Scientist award to Dr. M. Ananthan, Director, Open Distance Learning, TNAU, Coimbatore. A booklet on Avocado cultivation was released by the Vice-Chancellor for the benefit of avocado growers and the progressive avocado planters received the booklets. The Vice-Chancellor addressed the avocado growers and assured that *Phytophthora* resistant root stock will be imported from avocado growing countries as per procedure.

### Stakeholders' Workshop to Commercialize Nano Products

To enlighten the farming community, agro industries and other stakeholders on the significance of various advanced nano products, a one day workshop was organized by the Department of Nano Science Technology, Directorate of Natural Resource Management (DNRM) on 13.08.2019 at TNAU, Coimbatore. Stakeholders representing seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, agro-chemicals and polymer industries besides farmers and fruit exporters participated. Dr.A.Lakshmanan, Professor and





Head, Department of Nano Science and Technology offered the introductory address. Dr.K.S.Subramanian, Director of Research presented the inventory of products that are ready for use by farmers. Dr. N.P. Mohapatra, Chief General Manager, NABARD, Mumbai delivered the inaugural address. Dr.N.Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, TNAU offered his presidential address and stressed the need for the industries to work in tandem with Nano Centre of TNAU to commercialize the technologies. Dr. R. Santhi, Director (DNRM), Mr. M. Nageswara Rao, DGM, NABARD, Dr. A.S. Krishnamoorthy, Registrar and University officers participated and shared their suggestions in commercializing the nano products.

**One day Workshop on Maize Fall Armyworm**

The South Asia Biotechnology Centre (SABC), New Delhi along with Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore and Department of Agriculture, Government of Tamil Nadu jointly organized a one day workshop on Maize Fall Armyworm and Technology Capsule on 21.08.2019 to sensitize the progressive maize farmers and agricultural input dealers of Coimbatore district. The workshop was inaugurated by Dr. C.D. Mayee, President, SABC and Vice President, National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS). Dr. N. Kumar, Vice-Chancellor of TNAU in his presidential

address highlighted the dedicated efforts taken up by TNAU for effective management of the invasive pest. Dr. K. Prabakar, Director (CPPS) in his introductory remarks assured the farmers that this pest can be managed by following IPM measures at the early crop stages. Dr. N. Sathiah, Professor and Head, Department of Agricultural Entomology offered the welcome address. Dr. K.S. Subramanian, Director of Research in his special address informed that TNAU is closely watching the pest situation in the state by setting up District Level Taskforce Entomologists. Dr. R.J. Rabindra, Former Director, National Bureau of Agricultural Insect Resources (NBAIR), Bengaluru appreciated the efforts taken by the Task force entomologists for the management of the invasive pest. Dr. Bhagirath Choudhary, Director, SABC informed the gathering that due to the collective efforts of Government and Agricultural Departments of various states, the situation is put under control. Dr. Sain Dass, Former Director, Indian Institute of Maize Research and Dr. P. Balasubramanian, Scientific Director, SABC were also present. Dr. N. Muthu krishnan, Nodal Officer delivered the vote of thanks. About 300 farmers and 100 agri-input dealers attended and benefited.

**Workshop on Drudgery Reducing Tools**

A one day workshop for KVK Scientists on Drudgery reducing tools for farm women was organized on 28.08.2019 by the Department of Family Resource Management and Consumer Science (FRM&CS), Community Science College and Research Institute (CSC & RI), Madurai under the State Planning Commission sponsored TANII (Tamil Nadu Innovation Initiatives) project entitled Mitigating occupational drudgery of farm women through ergonomic interventions. Scientists and Farm managers from 14 Krishi





Vigyan Kendras attended the workshop. Dr. P. Parimalam, Professor and Head, (FRM&CS) and Principal Investigator of the project welcomed the gathering. The workshop was inaugurated by Dr. J. Venkata Pirabu, Director, Planning and Monitoring, TNAU, Coimbatore. Dr. S. Amutha, Dean (CSC & RI) stressed on the need for dissemination of the innovative technologies to the stakeholders.

given by the Vice-Chancellor for improving their research programme. Vice-Chancellor was appraised about the available infrastructure facilities and the additional requirements needed. He also visited the Department of Plant Genetic Resources and advised to strengthen the collection of valuable genetic resources besides a visit to wild species garden of Department of Cotton.

**b. Maize Research Station, Vagarai**

The Vice-Chancellor visited Maize Research Station, Vagarai on 29.08.2019 and reviewed the ongoing research schemes and work done at Maize Research Station. He inspected all



the field trials and experimental plots and offered suggestions for the improvement of the farm.

**c. Dryland Agricultural Research Station, Chettinad**

The Vice-Chancellor, TNAU and Director of Research, TNAU visited the Dryland Agricultural Research Station (DARS), Chettinad on 31.08.2019. They visited the Centre of Excellence in Dry Farming, Dryland technology model plots, TANII-Silvipasture fields, solar powered drip irrigation unit, Farm machineries Unit, Food Processing Research and Training Centre and reviewed the TANII – Palmyrah scheme activities. The Professor and Head, DARS explained the

**FIELD VISITS**

**Vice Chancellor's Field Visit**

**a. Centre for Plant Breeding and Genetics**

The Vice-Chancellor made a thorough annual review of Centre for Plant Breeding and Genetics during 26–28<sup>th</sup> August 2019. He visited various Departments and the experimental fields under this Directorate and conducted project-wise review. All the scientists explained about their research activities and suitable suggestions were







ongoing research activities and measures to improve the station were discussed.

**Director, Seeds Centre visited Vegetable Research Station, Palur**

Dr. S. Sundaraswaran, Director, Seeds Centre, TNAU, Coimbatore visited the Vegetable Research Station, Palur, Cuddalore district on 21.08.2019. He reviewed the progress of work in



NADP seed project on Farmers Participatory Demonstration of MGR 100 Rice in Tamil Nadu wherein four hectares were covered in Cuddalore district. Under the popularization of MGR 100 Rice programme, seeds were distributed to 389 farmers.

sustainable fuel and organic manure was organized during 6-9<sup>th</sup> August 2019 by Biogas Development Training Centre (BDTC), Department of Renewable Energy Engineering, Agricultural Engineering College and Research Institute, TNAU, Coimbatore jointly with the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, New Delhi at TNAU, Coimbatore for the staff of Agricultural Engineering Department, Tamil Nadu. Dr. S. Pugalendhi, Professor and Head cum Coordinator, BDTC, Department of Renewable Energy Engineering, TNAU, Coimbatore delivered



the welcome address. Dr. B. Shridar, Dean, AEC&RI, TNAU, Coimbatore offered the presidential address in which he stated that TNAU is the pioneer in biogas technology. Dr. A.S. Krishnamoorthy, Registrar, TNAU, Coimbatore delivered the inaugural address. He insisted that India has high potential and tremendous scope in renewable energy sources. Dr. R. Mahendiran, Associate Professor, Department of Renewable Energy Engineering, TNAU, Coimbatore proposed a formal vote of thanks.

**Training on Post harvest and value addition**

A two days training on Disseminating post harvest and value addition technologies of agri produce for the livelihood of farm women after cyclone disaster at Cauvery delta region funded

**TRAININGS**

**Training Programme on Biogas Technology**

The staff training programme on Renewable Energy: Biogas Technology for

by the Tamil Nadu State Council for Science and Technology (TNSCST) was conducted between 7-8<sup>th</sup> August 2019 by the Department of Agricultural Allied Sciences at Agricultural



College and Research Institute, Eachangkottai, Thanjavur. The training program was inaugurated by Mr. M. Shiva, Project Director, Mahalir Thittam, Thanjavur. Dr. R. Rajendran, Dean delivered the presidential address. Dr. K.R. Jahanmohan, Professor and Head, Department of Agricultural Allied Sciences delivered the special address.

### **Training Programme on Good Agricultural Practices and Innovations**

The Directorate of Extension Education, TNAU, Coimbatore and the MANAGE, Hyderabad combinedly organized a Collaborative training program on Good Agricultural Practices and Innovations in Agricultural Extension during 26- 30<sup>th</sup> August, 2019. Twenty four participants



including Scientists from SAUs, KVKs, NGOs, Department of Agriculture, Horticulture and Sericulture of Tamil Nadu, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Uttarakhand participated in the training program. The resource persons from various ICAR institutes, TNAU and KVKs conducted the sessions. A field visit was organized to FPO as a part of training to get hands on experience.

### **Training on Fodder Production and Preservation Techniques**

Training on Fodder production and preservation techniques was imparted to the Scientists and farmers under DBT sponsored scheme on the Establishment of Biotech KISAN hub by the Department of Forage Crops at TNAU, Coimbatore between 26-30<sup>th</sup> August, 2019. Dr. S. Geetha, Director, Centre for Plant Breeding



and Genetics offered the inaugural address. The Scientists trained included Co-Principal Investigators of the DBT scheme working in Partnering institutes such as Indian Institute of Soil and Water Conservation, Ooty and Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (TANUVAS), Chennai. Silage making in polybags and hydroponic cultivation of fodder crops were demonstrated. As a part of the training, the trainees were taken on an exposure visit to Dhoni farm under Kerala Livestock Development Board at Palakkad.



**FIELD DAYS AND OTHER PROGRAMMES**

**Popularization of Hybrid Castor**

Field day cum Farmers' interactive meeting for the introduction of castor hybrids in non-traditional areas of Tamil Nadu was organized under the AICRP-Castor Seed Hub and Mega Seed Project on Castor hybrid Seed Production on 06.08.2019 at Kolakanatham village of Alathur Block of Perambalur District. About 200 progressive farmers including extension officials from Perambalur District participated. The programme was inaugurated by Dr. S. Geetha, Director, CPBG, TNAU, Coimbatore. Th.P.M.Subramanian and Th.Mahendra M.Manivaasan, Members, Board of Management of TNAU, Coimbatore emphasized the importance

Parthenium awareness week was observed between 16<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2019 by the AICRP Weed Management Unit, Department of Agronomy, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore. In this connection, Parthenium quiz and Essay competition among the Under



Graduate Students of TNAU Main campus, Parthenium awareness demonstrations, exhibitions and awareness meetings were conducted. Dr. V. Geethalakshmi, Director, Crop Management, Dr.C.R.Chinnamuthu, Professor and Head, Department of Agronomy, NSS Programme officers, faculties of TNAU participated. Similar programme was conducted by KVK Sirugamani in Thiruchirappalli district between 19-22<sup>nd</sup> August 2019 in which several school students and farmers participated.



of castor crop under changing climatic condition. Dr. P.L.Viswanathan, Professor and Head, Department of Oilseeds, TNAU, Coimbatore, Dr. S.R. Venkatachalam, Professor and Head, Tapioca and castor Research Station, Yethapur and Th. K.Ganesan, Joint Director of Agriculture, Perambalur participated.

**Parthenium Awareness Week 2019**

To create awareness amongst the general public, farmers, students, policy makers and planners about the impact of the obnoxious parthenium weed and how to manage this weed,

**Field day cum Training on STCR**

A Field day cum Training Programme was conducted under the Tribal Sub Plan of AICRP-STCR, Department of Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry, TNAU, Coimbatore at Pethakurichi tribal village in Kalrayan Hills of Eastern Ghats in Peddanaickenpalayam block of Salem district on 21.08.2019. Dr.R.Santhi, Director, Directorate of Natural Resource Management distributed Soil Health Cards to the farmers. Totally, 87 tribal farmers participated.



Dr.J.Balamurugan, Assistant Professor (SS&AC) welcomed the gathering. Dr. P.Malarvizhi, Professor and Head, (SS&AC) offered the special address. Dr.S.Maragatham, Associate Professor (SS&AC), Dr.S.R.Venkatachalam, Professor and Head, Tapioca and Castor Research Station, Yethapur, Salem, Dr.N.Sriram, Programme Coordinator, KVK, Sandhiyur, Salem addressed the gathering. Dr.M.Gopalakrishnan, Assistant Professor (SS&AC) proposed vote of thanks.

**Jal Sakthi Abhiyan Kisan Mela**

Jal Sakthi Abhiyan Kisan Mela was organized at KVK, Villupuram in collaboration with Department of Agriculture on 22.08.2019. Mr. Surendra Singh, Joint Secretary and Central Nodal Officer, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment emphasized the importance of water harvesting structures and its management. He distributed the micro-irrigation kits and



palmyra seeds to the farmers. Similar program was organized at Agricultural Research Station, Bhavanisagar as well.

**Skill Oriented Training on Tractor Driving and Maintenance**

Agricultural Engineering College and Research Institute, Kumulur organized two days skill oriented training on Tractor driving and maintenance of tractor attachments for the



empowerment of TNAU tractor drivers during 26-27<sup>th</sup> August 2019. Dr.V.Thirupathi, Dean, AEC&RI, Kumulur highlighted the services of the Institute towards mechanisation for the farming community. Trainees appreciated both the efforts of the Institute as well as the trainers for imparting skill on tractor repairs and maintenance.

**On campus Training on Fall Army Worm**





A one day training programme on Fall Army Worm management in maize was organized at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Tindivanam on 28.08.2019 with the aim of enriching knowledge on management of fall army worm among the farmers. The training programme provided a platform for the farmers to gain the knowledge about the symptoms of fall army worm damage in maize, insect life cycle and its integrated management practices. Totally, 40 farmers participated.

**EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES**

**TNAU celebrated the 73<sup>rd</sup> Independence Day**

The 73<sup>rd</sup> Independence Day was celebrated at TNAU, Coimbatore on 15.08.2019. Dr. N. Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, TNAU hoisted the National flag and delivered the Independence day address. The Vice-Chancellor inspected the Independence day parade by NCC cadets along with Capt. Dr. S. Manonmani and Dr. Santosh Patil, NCC Officers of the University. He gave away the prizes and certificates to the



cadets who participated in various NCC activities and Combined Annual Training Camp. Subsequently, the Vice-Chancellor hoisted the National flag at Century old Madras Agricultural Students' Union. A Mass tree planting was carried out by the NCC and NSS volunteers. The event was successfully organized by Centre for students

welfare. The University Officers, Scientists, Staff, Students, NCC cadets, NSS volunteers and school children of TNAU campus participated in the celebration.

**Commencement of Post Graduate Academic Session 2019-20**

A meeting was organized by the School of Post Graduate Studies, Coimbatore for the inauguration of Post Graduate courses for the academic session 2019–2020 on 16.08.2019. Dr. J.S. Kennedy, Dean, School of Post Graduate Studies, TNAU, Coimbatore extended a warm welcome to the freshers of 33 Masters and



29 Doctoral programs. Dr. M. Kalyanasundram, Dean (Agri.) and Dr. K. Soorianathasundaram, Controller of Examinations felicitated the gathering. Dr. N. Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, TNAU, Coimbatore delivered the Presidential address. He highlighted the steps taken by the School of Post Graduate Studies in re-introducing the semester system of education from the academic year 2019-20 and for re-orienting the curricula and syllabi for semester system within a short span of time. He also praised the entire TNAU fraternity for obtaining accreditation of PG programs with a high score. Dr. S.D. Shikhamany, Former Vice-Chancellor, Dr. YSR Horticultural University, Andhra Pradesh delivered the inaugural address. Vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. N.O. Gopal, Professor (Education).

**Fit India Movement by NSS Volunteers**

Fit India Movement was held on 29.08.2019 for encouraging students to give utmost priority to sports and fitness. Under National Service Scheme (NSS) of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore, the programme was organized with



10,000 steps walk set out from RI Building, TNAU, Coimbatore. Dr.M.Kalyanasundaram, Dean (Agriculture), Dr. L. Pugalendi, Dean (Horticulture), Dr. B. Sridhar, Dean (Agricultural Engineering), Dr. M.R. Backiyavathy, NSS Programme Co-ordinator, NSS Programme Officers, Director of Physical Education, Year Co-ordinators, Staff Advisors, Faculty and 800 undergraduate students of all the degree programmes participated in the programme. Subsequently, the Honourable Prime Minister's Fit India Launch programme was live telecasted by the Doordharshan Kendra at Anna Auditorium

besides the fitness pledge of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India which was seen by all the students.

**Vice-Chancellor reviewed CSC&RI, Madurai**

Vice- Chancellor, TNAU, Coimbatore visited and reviewed the academic and related activities of Community Science College and Research Institute (CSC &RI), Madurai on



30.08.2019. He insisted to establish a unit on Food Toxicology laboratory in the Department of Food Science and Nutrition and advised for effective maintenance of labs. He also stressed to focus on research and product development for commercialization and in participating actively in exhibitions with innovative products or process and showcasing the accomplishment of the institute.

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