

# TNAU News

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University  
Coimbatore - 641 003



December  
2019

**Patron : Dr. N. Kumar**  
Vice-Chancellor

**Editor : Dr. J. Venkata Pirabu**  
Director, Planning & Monitoring



**From the VC's desk...**

December is the month which bridges the passing century and forthcoming century - A mix of past successes and future promises. TNAU was conferred with the Best Red Ribbon Club Award 2019 by the National AIDS control society (NACO), GOI, New Delhi on 01.12.2019.

To promote linkage with Malaysia in agricultural education, research and transfer of technology, a High level Workshop on Smart Agriculture and Pilot Project organized at Seremban, Negeri Sembilan, Malaysia was attended on 02.12.2019.

Under the Dalhousie University - TNAU Joint training programme, Officials from Uganda and Ethiopia were trained on Evaluation of germination in various crops on 04.12.2019 in the Department of Seed Science and Technology, TNAU, Coimbatore.

Community Science College and Research Institute, Madurai celebrated Women in Agriculture day on 04.12.2019 to share their views and experiences of being successful women in Agriculture.

World Soil day was celebrated on 05.12.2019. A skill demonstration on use of Citrus Special Micro Nutrient in acid lime was conducted by Citrus Research Station (CRS), Sankarankoil on 05.12.2019.

Discussions were held with Shri. Sanjay Agarwal, IAS, Secretary (Agriculture), Govt. of India and Shri. Gagandeep Singh Bedi, IAS, APC&PS to Government of Tamil Nadu during their visit to TNAU on 07.12.2019.



A six month certificate course on Mushroom Production under Distance Learning Mode was inaugurated on 07.12.2019. Another commendable initiative by the Directorate of Planning and Monitoring is the launch of Faculty Development Cell on 11.12.2019 besides the conduct of Innovative Teaching Methodologies training under this ambit.

On-campus training on Integrated Farming System in rainfed horticulture was organized at AC& RI, Vazhavachanur in Thiruvannamalai district on 11.12.2019. As a token of appreciation, new recruits of 152 Forest Range Officers of B.Sc (Forestry) graduates and 21 Assistant Inspector of Sericulture of B.Sc (Sericulture) graduates were felicitated at FC&RI, Mettupalayam on 12.12.2019. Exposure visit cum field day on Blackgram KKM 1 was organized at AC&RI, Killikulam on 12.12.2019. Endowment Lecture on IOT in Agriculture was organized by AEC&RI, Coimbatore on 13.12.2019.

TNAU conducted the Agricultural Education day at Rathina Higher Secondary School at Pettavaithalai in Tiruchirappalli district in remembrance of Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the first Union Agriculture Minister on 13.12.2019 besides other events. National Symposium on Potential Crops for Food and Nutritional Security was organized by the CPBG at TNAU, Coimbatore during 14-15<sup>th</sup> December, 2019 as a joint event with IARI - RS, Wellington.

The Director General of ICAR visited TNAU on 15.12.2019 to take stock of the progress and achievements of the University and appreciated the efforts taken to reach global standards. As an extracurricular activity, AEC&RI, Kumulur conducted trekking to Kumulur hillock on 15.12.2019 for 50 students and staff. Symposium on Mitigation of emerging plant diseases under changing climate scenario was organized at Department of Plant Pathology, TNAU, Coimbatore during 16-17<sup>th</sup> December, 2019.

TNAU has added another feather to its cap as the India Meteorological Department conferred the Excellence Award at the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Review Meeting held at RVSKVV, Gwalior on 18.12.2019 for outstanding dissemination and outreach of Agromet Advisories by ACRC, Coimbatore.

To formulate futuristic plan for the University, attended the discussion meeting of the Chancellor's Vision 2030 held at Raj Bhavan, Ooty organized by Indian Institute of Management, Tiruchirappalli during 19-20<sup>th</sup> December, 2019.

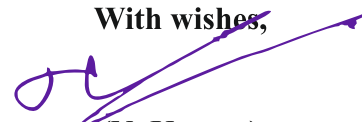
Attended the National Conference of Plant Physiology: Plant productivity and stress management organized by the Indian Society for Plant Physiology, New Delhi and Kerala Agricultural University (KAU), Thrissur during December 19-21, 2019 at KAU, Thrissur as Chief Guest of the Valedictory function.

National Conference on Doubling farmer's income through scientific approaches was organized at AEC&RI, Kumulur during 20-21<sup>st</sup> December 2019.

Inter Collegiate Tournament (ICT) was conducted during 20-24<sup>th</sup> December, 2019 at TNAU, Coimbatore in which students from 14 constituent colleges and 28 private colleges participated. Muthamizh vizha 2019 was organized at AEC&RI, Kumulur during 29-30<sup>th</sup> December 2019.

This month had its milestones achieved to mark the era with happy endings.

**With wishes,**



**(N. Kumar)**

**EVENTS ORGANIZED**

**High Level Workshop on Smart Agriculture in Malaysia**

High level Workshop on Smart Agriculture and Pilot Project was organized at Seremban, Negeri Sembilan, Malaysia on 02.12.2019. Mr. YB Tuan Haji Bakri Bin Sawir, Minister for Agriculture of Negeri Sembilan State graced the function and greeted the participants. He expressed his special thanks to TNAU and AustAgri for signing MoU with InAgMa (Integrated



Agriculture Co-Operative Malaysia), Selangor, Malaysia for Smart Farming and Pilot Project. Ms. Puan Azilna, Special Officer (Economic) for Chief Minister of Negeri Sembilan, Malaysia offered the key note address. Dr.N.Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, TNAU, Coimbatore was the guest-of-honour at this meet and gave a talk on the status of Indian Agriculture and Malaysian Agriculture and narrated the areas of importance for cooperation. He staged a slogan 'Smart Agriculture for Smart Malaysia' emphasizing the smart farming as a revolutionary concept and assured that the TNAU-InAgMa Agro-Park Project will be a befitting model for Smart Farming in Malaysia. Mr. Philip Pryor, Chairman, AustAgri Pvt Ltd. Australia, Mr. Paul Selvam Devadoss, Chairman, InAgMa, Malaysia and other invited speakers addressed the gathering. Dr.M.Jawaharlal, Director of Extension Education who is also the Project Executive Director for TNAU-InAgMa Agro-Park Project and Dr. K.S. Subramanian, Director of Research, TNAU attended the workshop. Prof. Dr. S. Raguraman, the Project Co-ordinator of TNAU-InAgMa project acted as Panel Member.

**Visit of Secretary (Agriculture), Government of India to TNAU**

Shri.Sanjay Agarwal, IAS, Secretary (Agriculture), Govt. of India and Shri.Gagandeep Singh Bedi, IAS, Agricultural Production Commissioner and Principal Secretary to Government of Tamil Nadu visited TNAU on



07.12.2019. Dignitaries visited the Insect Museum, Department of Nano Science and Technology and the Directorate of Agri Business Development wherein they were exposed on the recent advancements.

**Certificate Course in Mushroom Production**

A six month certificate course on Mushroom Production under Distance Learning Mode was inaugurated on 07.12.2019. The Director, Open and Distance Learning (ODL) welcomed the gathering. Dr. N. Kumar, Vice-Chancellor presided over the function. In his presidential address, the Vice-Chancellor emphasized the need for skill oriented courses like mushroom production which can help the youth and women in starting their own mushroom



production unit for income generation and entrepreneurship. Dr. A.S. Krishnamoorthy, Registrar, TNAU felicitated the participants and stressed the importance of mushrooms in human diet. Dr. K. Prabakar, Director, Centre for Plant Protection Studies and Dr. G. Karthikeyan, Professor and Head, Department of Plant Pathology, TNAU, Coimbatore offered their felicitations. Dr. K. Selvarasu, Professor, ODL proposed a vote of thanks.

**Endowment Lecture on IoT Applications in Agriculture**

An endowment lecture on IoT Applications in Agriculture was organized by Agricultural College and Research Institute (AEC&RI), Coimbatore in collaboration with Dean, School of Post Graduate Studies (SPGS), TNAU, Coimbatore on 13.12.2019 at



TNAU, Coimbatore. The lecture was delivered by Dr. Syed Ismail, Director, SIFA Sanpra Systems Pvt. Limited, Mumbai, an Alumnus of TNAU. Dr. B. Shridar, Dean, AEC&RI, TNAU, Coimbatore welcomed the gathering. Dr. N. Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, TNAU delivered the presidential address during the programme. Around 400 UG, PG students and staff of TNAU attended the lecture. Dr. K. Prabakar, Dean (SPGS) i/c, TNAU, Coimbatore delivered the vote of thanks.

**National Symposium on Potential Crops**

Two days National Symposium on Potential Crops for Food and Nutritional Security was organized on behalf of the Indian Society of Genetics and Plant Breeding (ISGPB), New Delhi, Southern Chapter in



collaboration with ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute Regional Station, Wellington, Indian Society of Plant Breeders and TNAU, Coimbatore during 14-15<sup>th</sup> December, 2019. Dr. N. Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, TNAU inaugurated the symposium and stressed that under the changing climate, the cultivable areas are shrinking where we have huge responsibility of ensuring food security and nutritional security through new potential crops. Dr. S.A. Patil, Former Director, IARI, Dr.H.K.Chaudhary and Dr.Tara Satyavathi, Vice-President, ISGPB felicitated the inaugural ceremony. Dr. T. Mohapatra, Secretary, DARE & Director General, ICAR, graced the valedictory function on 15.12.2019. Dr. R. Chandra Babu, Vice-Chancellor, Kerala Agricultural University, Dr. Bakshiram, Director, Sugarcane Breeding Institute, Coimbatore and Dr. A.S. Krishnamoorthy, Registrar, TNAU felicitated the valedictory function. Dr. S. Geetha, Director, CPBG proposed vote of thanks. More than 300 participants from all over India participated and deliberated on the various potential crops for the future of Indian food basket. Dr. M. Sivasamy, Principal Scientist, Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), Regional Station, Wellington, the Organizing secretary for this National Symposium co-ordinated the arrangements with the CPBG.

**ICAR Director General Visited TNAU**

The Director General of ICAR visited TNAU on 15.12.2019 to monitor the education and research activities of the University. He also interacted with the students to take stock of the problems and issues faced by them. Under graduate students opined that the



credit load was high and hence can be reduced to the already existing level to which he replied that after a thorough scrutiny of the existing system, suitable action will be initiated.

**National Symposium on Mitigation of Emerging Plant Diseases**

Two day symposium on Mitigation of emerging plant diseases under changing climate scenario was organized by Department of Plant Pathology, TNAU, Coimbatore jointly with Indian Society of Plant Pathologists (INSOPP) at TNAU, Coimbatore during 16-



17, December, 2019. Dr. K. Prabakar, Director, Centre for Plant Protection Studies delivered the welcome note. Dr. K. Naresh Mehta, President and Dr. Jaspal Kaur, Secretary, INSOPP offered the felicitations. All the retired veteran scientists of the Department of Plant Pathology, TNAU were honoured by the society. Dr. PK. Chakrabarthy (Member, ASRB) and Dr. Bushan L.Jalali, Former Director of Research, Haryana Agricultural University were the guest of honour. Key note address for the programme was given by

Dr. S.S. Chahal, Former Vice-Chancellor, Maharana Pratap University of Agriculture and Technology, Rajasthan. The Presidential address was delivered by Dr. N. Kumar, Vice- Chancellor, TNAU who stressed the need for devising new technologies for management of emerging plant pathogens. Dr. G. Karthikeyan, Professor and Head, Department of Plant Pathology, TNAU, Coimbatore proposed the vote of thanks.

**Discussion Meeting on Chancellor's Vision 2030**

Dr.N.Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, TNAU, Coimbatore participated in the discussion meeting of the Chancellor's Vision 2030: Innovating Education in



the Era of Industry of 4.0 at Raj Bhavan, Ooty organized by Indian Institute of Management, Tiruchirapalli during 19-20, December, 2019.

**National Conference at AEC&RI, Kumulur**

National Conference on Doubling farmers income through scientific approaches was organized at Agricultural Engineering College & Research Institute (AEC&RI), Kumulur during 20-21, December 2019. Dr. V. Thirupathi, Dean, AEC&RI, Kumulur



welcomed the gathering and Dr. B. Shridar, Dean, AEC&RI, Coimbatore presided over the function. Shri Prabhat Saxena, India Tactical Marketing Manager, M/s. John Deere India Private limited, Pune delivered special address. Dr. C.Anandamakrishnan, Director, Indian Institute of Food Processing Technology, Thanjavur delivered the inaugural address. Scientists from TNAU, ICAR and other SAU's, young professionals, entrepreneurs, stake holders and students from TNAU, ICAR and other engineering colleges participated and presented around 90 oral presentations and 119 poster presentations under six themes.

**ACRC bags award in Weather Forecast**

The 13th Annual Review Meeting of the Gramin Kisan Mausam Seva (GKMS) scheme was held at



Rajmata Vijayaraje Scindia Krishi Vishwas Vidyalaya (RVSKVV), Gwalior during 18-20, December, 2019. The Agro Climate Research Centre (ACRC), TNAU, Coimbatore received the Excellence Award for outstanding dissemination and outreach of Agromet Advisories from India Meteorological Department (IMD) during the Annual Review Meeting. Dr.Mohapatra, Director General, IMD presented the award to Dr.SP.Ramanathan, Professor and Head cum Principal Nodal Officer of Gramin Krishi Sewa Mausam (GKMS) scheme and Dr. Ga. Dheebakaran, Assistant Professor of ACRC during the inaugural function. A book entitled Agro Advisories for weather induced pests and diseases authored by the Scientists of ACRC was also released during the occasion.

**AWARDS OBTAINED**

**TNAU received the Best Red Ribbon Club Award**

TNAU bagged the Best Red Ribbon Club (RRC) Award 2019 by National AIDS Control Society (NACO) under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, New Delhi. The award was presented on 01.12.2019 on the eve of World AIDS Day



at Kedarnath Sahani Auditorium, New Delhi. At National level, TNAU played an important role in the AIDS Control by conducting various awareness programmes throughout Tamil Nadu under eight different units functioning in different constituent colleges of TNAU. Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Minister for Health and Family Welfare and other dignitaries participated. On behalf of TNAU, Dr.M.R.Backiyavathy, RRC Coordinator, TNAU received the award.

**CELEBRATIONS ORGANIZED**

**Agricultural Education Day celebrated**

The Agricultural Education Day was celebrated at Rathina Higher Secondary School, Pettavaithalai on 03.12.2019. Dr. Noorjahan, Programme Coordinator, KVK, Sirugamani inaugurated the function and highlighted the importance of agricultural education. On this special day, Dr. Rajendra Prasad (Bharat Ratna), the first Union Minister of Agriculture was remembered for his experiences in agriculture and those were shared among the students. Awareness on agricultural



education was created among the students. Essay competition was also conducted on Agriculture and its role in our society and prizes were distributed. A total of 90 students, seven school staff, headmistress and KVK staff participated in the function.

**Women in Agriculture Day celebrated**

Community Science College and Research Institute (CSC&RI), Madurai celebrated Women in



Agriculture day on 04.12.2019 in the village Periyailanthaikulam in Alanganallur Block of Madurai District. Dr. S. Amutha, Dean (CSC&RI) presided over the function. Senior Scientists and staff of the college participated. During the session, the women farmers shared their views and experiences and discussed about the constraints being faced in farming. Fifty farm women practising agriculture as their major occupation participated and benefitted.

**World Soil Day celebrated**

The World soil day programme was organized by the Department of Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry (SS&AC) on 05.12.2019. The theme of the



year is Stop soil Erosion, Save our Future. The programme was presided over by Dr. A.S. Krishna moorthy, Registrar, TNAU, Coimbatore. Dr. J.S. Kennedy, Dean, School of PG studies, Dr. B. Shridar, Dean, Agricultural Engineering, Dr. K.R. Ashok, Director, Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development Studies (CARDS), Dr. R. Santhi, Director, Natural Resource Management and Dr K.S. Subramanian, Director, of Research addressed the gathering. Various competitions were conducted. The guests of the function distributed certificates to the prize winners. Dr. P. Santhy, Professor (SS&AC) proposed vote of thanks.

**TRAININGS AND FIELD DAYS**

**Training on Seed Technology to African Officials**

Training programme on Evaluation of germination in various crops was conducted on 04.12.2019 in the Department of Seed Science and Technology, TNAU, Coimbatore to the officials from Uganda and Ethiopia during the Dalhousie University - TNAU Joint training programme. The staff members in



the Department coordinated with the lead resource person Dr. Rajasekaran. R. Lada, Dalhousie University, Canada during the training programme. The participants were demonstrated about the various methods of conducting the germination test and tetrazolium viability test. They also practised the methods and evaluated the test results during the training programme.

**Skill Demonstration on Citrus Micro Nutrient**

Skill demonstration on use of IIHR (Indian Institute of Horticultural Research) Citrus Special Micro Nutrient in acid lime was conducted by Citrus Research Station (CRS), Sankarankoil at Farmer`s field in Vannkikonenthal village on 05.12.2019. Significance of micro nutrients and their deficiency symptoms in acid lime were explained with live plant samples



exhibiting iron, zinc and boron deficiency symptoms. Awareness on the micro nutrient mixture developed by IIHR, Bengaluru exclusively for citrus was taken up and the preparation of micro nutrient spray mixture was demonstrated. Research Station also conducted an awareness training on Citrus Greening Disease at Villisery village of Kovilpatti taluk on 11.12.2019 as a part of Farm school on Acid lime cultivation.

**Training on Innovative Teaching Methodologies**

The Faculty Development Cell (FDC), the first of its kind, was launched at TNAU on 11.12.2019 at the Directorate of Planning and Monitoring (DPM). Under this ambit, an orientation training programme on Innovative Teaching methodologies for enhancing academic proficiency was organized during 11-13<sup>th</sup> December 2019. Nearly 30 Teaching Faculty



participated in the 3 days training programme, representing colleges, KVKs and research stations. Dr. J. Venkata Pirabu, Director (Planning and Monitoring) welcomed the gathering. Dr. A.S. Krishnamoorthy, Registrar, TNAU, Coimbatore launched the FDC and highlighted its significance to emulate the qualities of great teacher to become a full-fledged faculty. Dr. K. Soorianathasundaram, Controller of Examinations and Dr. J.S. Kennedy, Dean, School of PG studies addressed the gathering. All the FDC members, University Officers and Professors attended the function. Dr.S.Murali Krishnasamy, Professor, DPM proposed a formal vote of thanks.

**Training on IFS in Rainfed Horticulture**

On campus training on Integrated Farming System (IFS) in rainfed horticulture and good agricultural practices was conducted to the farmers of Thiruvannamalai, Thandrapattu and Kalasapakkam blocks of Thiruvannamalai on 11.12.2019 at Agricultural College and Research Institute (AC&RI), Vazhavachanur. This training was conducted in collaboration with the Department of Horticulture,





Thiruvannamalai district. Dr. M. Pandiyan, Dean, AC&RI, Vazhavachanur and staff addressed the gathering. Totally, 100 farmers participated in the training programme.

**Exposure visit cum Field Day on blackgram**

Department of Plant Breeding and Genetics, Agricultural College and Research Institute (AC&RI), Killikulam organized an exposure visit cum field day on Blackgram KKM 1 on 12.12.2019. District officials from Agriculture Department besides the extension functionaries participated in the field day programme. Dr. K. Eraivan Arutkani Aiyathan, Dean (AC & RI),



Killikulam detailed about blackgram KKM 1 variety and Dr. M. Arumugam Pillai, Professor and Head (PBG) briefed the varietal characteristics and significance of the variety.

**STUDENTS' ACTIVITIES**

**RAWE – Students Exhibition**

The Rural Agricultural Work Experience Programme (RAWE) was organized for a period of 90 days from 2, September to 2, December 2019. Totally, 115 B.Sc. (Agri.) students underwent the programme. Exhibition was held on 02.12.2019 at RI Building of TNAU, Coimbatore wherein all the groups displayed their learning outcomes, activities conducted, models, farm and village development plans which were evaluated by a team of Scientists. Dr. M. Kalyanasundaram, Dean (Agriculture), Agricultural College and Research Institute and Dr. K.R. Ashok, Director, Centre for Agricultural and



Rural Development Studies, TNAU, Coimbatore inaugurated the exhibition and interacted with the students. Dr. P. Balasubramaniam, Professor and Head, Department of Agricultural Extension and Rural Sociology, Course Teacher, Group Facilitators, other staff members and students visited the exhibition and interacted with the students.

**Felicitation to budding Forest Officers**

Felicitation function was organized for the newly recruited 152 Forest Range Officers of B.Sc (Forestry) graduates and 21 Assistant Inspectors of Sericulture of B.Sc (Sericulture) graduates on 12.12.2019 at Forest College and Research Institute, Mettupalayam. Dr. I. Sekar, Professor (Forestry) and



Placement Officer welcomed the gathering. Dr. T. Raguchander, Dean, Students Welfare, Dr. P. Subbian, Former Registrar, Dr. K.K. Suresh, Former Dean and Dr. K.T. Parthiban, Dean (Forestry) felicitated the newly recruited Officers. Dr. N. Kumar, Vice-Chancellor congratulated all the newly recruited Forestry and Sericulture Officers and indicated that their success brought laurels to the University.

Mr. Praveen Raj, Joint Club Secretary of the Placement Cell delivered the vote of thanks.

**Hiking Society organized Trekking**

Under Hiking Society, Students Club of Agricultural Engineering College and Research Institute (AEC&RI), Kumulur trekking to Kumulur



Karatu Malai was performed on 15.12.2019. Student secretaries lead the activity and Staff Associate and Staff Advisor arranged the event and participated along with 21 boys, 25 girls students and 4 staff volunteers.

**State Level Inter Collegiate Tournament - 2019**

Inter Collegiate Tournament (ICT) was conducted during 20-24<sup>th</sup> December, 2019 at TNAU, Coimbatore. Students from 14 constituent colleges



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and 28 private colleges (affiliated to TNAU) participated in the ICT 2019-2020. The chief guest of the inaugural function was Th. A. V. Venkatachalam I.F.S., Chairman, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Chennai. Dr. N. Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, TNAU presided over the function. The events viz Badminton, Ball Badminton, Basket Ball, Foot Ball, Kabadi, Table Tennis, Volley Ball, Hockey, Chess and Kho-Kho were conducted in this tournament. The chief guest of the Valedictory function was Tmt. Vanjula Valli Karthik, I.F.S., Deputy Conservator of Forests.

**Muthamizh vizha organized at AEC&RI, Kumulur**

Muthamizh-2019 was organized at Agricultural Engineering College and Research Institute (AEC&RI), Kumulur during 29-30<sup>th</sup> December 2019. Various events representing literature, music drama were organized



to kindle the cultural aspirations of the students. Noted and famous contemporary modern literature writer of Tamil, Thiru. B. Jeyamohan was the Chief Guest of the function. Dr. V. Thirupathi, Dean, AEC&RI, Kumulur, Dr. J. John Gunasekar, Professor and Head (Renewable Energy Engineering), and Dr. S.S. Sivakumar, Staff Advisor coordinated the conduct of event.

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