



# TNAU NEWS

TAMIL NADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY NEWS LETTER

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

Editor : **Dr. S. Murali Krishnasamy**,  
Director (i/c), Planning & Monitoring

ஊருக்கெல்லாம் உணவளிக்கும் உத்தம உழவர்களுக்கு  
உதவிக்கரம் நீட்டும் பல்கலைக்கழகம்

## Sumer Memorial Award bagged for Farmer friendly Technology



Dr. G. Thiyagarajan, Assistant Professor (SWC), Water Technology Centre, Coimbatore was awarded with Sumer Memorial Award by Soil Conservation Society of India, New Delhi for his dedicated efforts and contributions in the field of Soil and Water Conservation. Thiru. Banwarilal Purohit, His Excellency the Governor of Tamil Nadu, distributed the award during the inaugural function of 28<sup>th</sup> National Conference of Soil Conservation Society of India on "Farmers' Friendly Soil and Water Conservation Technologies for Mitigating Climate Change Impact". He was also awarded with Best Poster Presentation Award during the function held at Udthagamandalam on 31.01.2019.

**22<sup>nd</sup> SAC Meeting at KVK, Vridhachalam**

The Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Vridhachalam conducted 22<sup>nd</sup> Scientific Advisory Committee Meeting on 13.02.2019. The SAC meeting was chaired by Dr. M. Jawaharlal, Director of Extension Education, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore. Dr. S. Kannan, Programme Coordinator, welcomed the dignitaries, and presented the progress report and proposed action plan for the year 2018-19. A detailed discussion was held to strengthen the existing KVK mandates. Dr. M. Jawaharlal, DEE beseeches the committee members to come forward with innovative ideas in their respective fields to formulate a pragmatic action plan for KVK. During the farmer-scientist interaction, farmers expressed that KVK was helping them a lot for solving their problems related to agriculture and allied sector. Dignitaries from various line departments, Scientists from KVK and Progressive farmers participated in the meeting. A total of 75 farmers and department officials participated in the Meeting. Dr. A. Baskaran, Principal Scientist (ATARI), in his concluding remarks assured the committee members to include their valuable suggestions in the action plan of 2018-19. Results of OFTs and FLDs under the disciplines of Agronomy, Seed Science & Technology, Horticulture, Plant Pathology, Home science and Agricultural Extension was presented by Dr. K. Venkatalakshmi, Dr. K. Natarajan, Dr. A. Rameshkumar, Dr. S. Maruthasalam and

Dr. M. Balarubini in the meeting. An exhibition was also arranged to display various technologies. Finally, Dr. K. Natarajan, Assistant Professor (Seed Science and Technology) proposed a vote of thanks.

**Field day on Integrated Pest Management in Rice**

Tamil Nadu Rice Research Institute, Aduthurai organized a field day on Integrated Pest Management in Rice on 01.02.2019 at Saliperi, Valangaiman block, Thiruvarur District. Fifty farmers of Valangaiman block participated in the programme. Dr. P. Anandhi, Assistant Professor (Agricultural Entomology) welcomed the gathering. Dr. V. Ambethgar, Director, TRRI, Aduthurai delivered the presidential address and explained the importance of Integrated Pest Management in rice. Dr. K. Rajappan, Professor and Head (Plant Pathology), Dr. M. Raju, Associate Professor (Agronomy), Dr. R. Suresh, Assistant Professor (Plant Breeding and Genetics) imparted the training and delivered the technical lessons. Farmers Mr. Ravichandran and Mr. Somasundaram highlighted on the cultivation of ADT 51 and Integrated pest management. An exhibition was arranged by the Entomology unit on pest management. Mr. M. Lakshmi kandhan, Assistant Director of Agriculture, Nannilam proposed a formal vote of thanks.

### Field day on Barnyard Millet (Kudiraivali)



Regional Research Station, Aruppukottai organized a Field Day on 01.02.2019 at Mallanginar village of Kariapatti block, Virudhunagar District under Tamil Nadu Innovation Initiatives (TANII) Scheme on Revitalization of millets for Nutritional Security and Enhanced Productivity on the cultivation of barnyard millet. Dr. S. Geetha, Director, Centre for Plant Breeding and Genetics, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore delivered the presidential address and declared open the millet processing unit established at a cost of Rs.5 lakhs for producing value added products from millets. Dr. R. Ravikesavan, Professor and Head, Dept. of Millets, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore briefed, the need for sustained and continuous supply of good quality seeds and insisted on farmers participatory seed production. Dr. D. S. Rajavel, Professor and Head, Regional Research Station, Aruppukottai explained the activities of the scheme. Dr. M. Gunasekaran Professor (PB & G) delivered a lecture on the cultivation of MDU-1 Kudiraivali variety. Dr. K.R. Rajadurai, Assistant Professor (Horticulture) welcomed the gathering. Dr. R. Durai Singh, Professor (Agronomy) proposed the vote of thanks. A total of 80 farmers participated in the field day celebrations.

### Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM - KISAN)



Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) was conducted for farmers and other stakeholders on 24.02.2019 at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Vridhachalam, Cuddalore District. Live webcast of Hon'ble Prime Minister's address to farmers, scientists, extension officials and other stakeholders in PM-KISAN Programme was organized. Before the onset of webcast, Dr. S. Kannan, programme coordinator delivered the welcome address. Th. V.T. Kalaiselvan, Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Vridhachalam appreciated the policies and efforts of the government for improving the economic status of farmers. Th. M.K. Prasanth, Deputy Collector, Vridhachalam, Dr. A. Mothilal, Professor and Head, RRS, Vridhachalam, Th. A. Ramesh, Assistant Director of Agriculture, Vridhachalam Block, Tmt. K. Premsanthi, Assistant Director of Agriculture, Kammapuram Block, Ms. T. Suganya, Agriculture Officer, Dept. of Agrl. Marketing, Dr. R. Alex, Horticulture Officer, Dr. A. Ramesh Kumar, (Horticulture), Dr. K. Venkatalakshmi, (Agronomy), Dr. K. Natrajan, (SST), Dr. S. Maruthasalam, (Plant Pathology), Dr. M. Balarubini, (Agrl. Extension) and KVK staff participated in the programme. A total number of 193 farmers from Cuddalore district were present during the programme. Dr. A. Ramesh Kumar, Assistant Professor (Horticulture), Vridhachalam proposed a vote of thanks.

**Training on Recent Advancements in Genomics and Bioinformatics**



Department of Plant Molecular Biology and Biotechnology, Centre for Plant Molecular Biology and Biotechnology organized a two days training programme on “Recent Advancements in Genomics and Bioinformatics” from 21-22, February 2019, at CPMB & B, TNAU, Coimbatore sponsored by Department of Biotechnology-Biotechnology Information System, Government of India (DBT-BTIS-GOI). Scientists from M/s. Spinco Biotech Pvt. Ltd., Chennai and M/s. Agilent Technologies, Gurgaon, two leading service providers of advanced tools of genomics and bioinformatics delivered the technical details. It enlightened the PhD scholars and young faculty on the recent advancements in genomics and bioinformatics. Totally, twenty seven participants from different disciplines participated, representing scientists / students of constituent colleges of TNAU and University Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore. Mr. Santosh Prasad, Field Application Specialist from M/s. Spinco Biotech Pvt. Ltd., Chennai delivered a technical presentation on “Pac Bio Sequel - Third Generation Sequencing – SMRT Technology” as a part of the training. He also elaborated on genome assembly and quality checking of Pac Bio reads in comparison with other illumina and Oxford Nanopore sequencing platforms.

Dr. N. Kumaravadivel, Professor & Head, DPMB & B welcomed the gathering. Inaugural address was given by Dr. S. Mohankumar, Director, CPMB & B. Dr. R. Gnanam, Professor & Head, DPB proposed a vote of thanks.

Qualitative analysis of proteins using MALDI Mass Spectrometry was delivered by Mr. Venkatesh, Senior Application Specialist from M/s. Spinco Biotech Pvt. Ltd., Chennai. This presentation was followed by Mr. A. Sankar, Associate Vice President, from M/s. Spinco Biotech Pvt. Ltd., Chennai, on Quantitative analysis of proteins using LC-MS. Dr. Nilanjan Guha, Business Development Manager from M/s. Agilent Technologies, Gurgaon delivered a technical presentation on Q-TOF, MALDI- Mass Spectrometry in proteomics / metabolomics study. Mr. Sourab from M/s. Agilent Technologies highlighted the applicability of LC / MS techniques, advantages of ESI Electrospray Ionization techniques and comparison between ESI and MALDI TOF. Valedictory session concluded with the presentation by Dr. M. Raveendran, Professor, DPB. Valedictory address was delivered by Dr. K. S. Subramanian, Director of Research and NABARD Chair Professor followed by felicitations by Dr. S. Mohankumar, Director, CPMB & B. A formal vote of thanks was delivered by Dr. N. Kumaravadivel, Professor & Head DPMB & B.

**Training on processing of pulses and millets**



Hands on training programme on “Pulses and minor millets processing” was conducted for the farmers of Tiruchirapalli District on 20.02.2019 and 21.02.2019 under the ICAR scheme on Establishing Agricultural Processing Centre on Millets, Pulses, Fruits and Vegetables under Consortia Research Platform on Secondary Agriculture in the Department of Processing and Food Engineering, AEC & RI, Kumulur. Forty participants underwent hands on training on Processing of Pulses and Millets. Dr. V. Thirupathi, Dean, AEC & RI, Kumulur inaugurated the training and highlighted on the importance of pulses and millets processing. Mr. P. Sankara Narayanan, Pandyan Grama Bank gave a special lecture on Government subsidies and loan for Agricultural Processing machinery. Training programme was organized by Dr. P. Rajkumar, Professor and Head, Dr. S. Parveen, Assistant Professor and Dr. A. Sakunthalai, Professor, Agricultural Extension of Department of Processing and Food Engineering, AEC & RI, Kumulur.

TNAU and visited the laboratories and bakery unit at Department of Processing and Food Engineering. Dr. P. Rajkumar, Professor and Head (PFE) and Dr. V. Thirupathi, Dean, AEC & RI, Kumulur organized the visit.

**Field day on MGR -100 rice**



Field day on NADP funded MGR-100 rice demonstration project at Tiruchirapalli district was jointly organized by the Seed Centre, Coimbatore and AEC & RI, Kumulur on 28.02.2019. The Dean, Dr. V. Thirupathi, presided over the function and Dr. K. Sasikala, Professor (Seed Science & Technology) explained about the scheme. About 100 progressive farmers and seed growers participated in the field day and one day training on seed production techniques. Dr. K. Shanmugasundaram P & H, (BE & AS) welcomed the gathering and Mr. N. Veeramani from the office of ADA Pullambadi explained the seed production and subsidy schemes available in the Department of Agriculture, Dr. S. Vallal Kannan, Assistant Professor (Agronomy) elaborated the crop management aspects, Dr. V. Alex Albert, Assistant Professor (Seed Science & Technology) interacted with farmers and arranged for a field visit to farmers participatory seed production plot raised by Mr. R. Gnanvel at Sembarai village of Lalgudi taluk. The arrangements were made by Dr. K. Sivasubramanian, Assistant Professor (ENS) and Dr. M. Dhandapani, Assistant Professor (PBG).

**McGill University Professor visit**



Dr. GSV Raghavan, James McGill Professor, McGill University, Canada visited AEC & RI, Kumulur on 07.02.2019. An interaction meeting was arranged to discuss on the possible collaborative projects in the frontier areas of agricultural engineering. Dr. GSV. Raghavan briefed on the Canadian International Project implementation with

**Endowment lecture on future farming**



Dr. Sharada Srinivasan, Associate Professor, International Development and Canada Research Chair in Gender, Justice and Development, University of Guelph, Canada delivered the endowment lecture organized by the Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development Studies (CARDS), TNAU, Coimbatore.

Dr. N. Kumar, Vice - Chancellor, TNAU in his inaugural address narrated how once full time farm worker cum farm owner became visiting farmers in most of the farms in Tamil Nadu. Dr. K.S. Subramanian, Director of Research introduced the speaker and welcomed the gathering. Dr. K. Mani, Professor and Head, Department of Agricultural Economics proposed a formal vote of thanks. Post graduate students, PhD scholars and staff of the Directorate of CARDS participated.

**Awareness programme on Pest and Disease management in Coconut**

An awareness programme on the management of Slug Caterpillar (*Contheyla rotunda*), Rugose Spiraling whitefly and Basal stem rot disease in coconut was jointly organized by Coconut Research Station (TNAU), Aliyar nagar and TNPL (Tamilnadu newsprint and Papers Limited) at Kagithapuram, Karur district on 01.02.2019. Mr. P. Udayakumar, Public Relations officer, TNPL welcomed the gathering and appraised the importance of the meeting emphasizing the pest infestation and disease incidence in 1400 acres of TNPL coconut plantation. Dr. K. Venkatesan, Professor and Head, Coconut Research Station, Aliyar nagar in his presidential address, briefed on the challenges faced by the coconut farmers in the management of insect pests.

Dr. K. Rajamanickam, Professor (Entomology), CRS, TNAU, Aliyar delivered the techniques of Integrated pest management of coconut slug caterpillar *C.rotunda*. Mrs. A. Yasmin, Senior Research Fellow (Entomology) explained on the management of Rugose spiraling whitefly. Dr. E. Rajeshwari, Assistant Professor (Plant Pathology), delivered the technical details on the integrated disease management with special reference to basal stem rot in coconut. About 30 farmers participated and benefitted. Mr. V. Prasad, Assistant Manager (TNPL), proposed a formal vote of thanks.

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