

# TNAU News

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University  
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Vice-Chancellor

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Director, Planning & Monitoring



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

To trigger the motivation of startups / entrepreneurs, a field day was organized by Centre for Plant Breeding and Genetics in co-ordination with the Directorate of Agri-business Development to muster the Venturers on 01.10.2019 to showcase the hybrids to private firms for commercialization.

A review meeting to assess the performance of Hybrid Rice Evaluation Centre, Gudalore was conducted on 02.10.2019. To honour the martyrdom of India and the Legacy of the legend, the Gandhi Jayanthi was celebrated on 02.10.2019 which also marked the beginning of 150 years of celebrating Mahatma and the culmination of Swatchta Hi Sewa event.

On 10.10.2019, attended the Foundation day of the Botanical Survey of India and the Video Conferencing for the PG Sensitization programme. The Moringa stakeholders' meet was organized on 10.10.2019 to signify the need for moving as a business traversing from farm to plate.

A visit was made to the Institute of Horticulture, Noida to oversee the recent advancements in Horticultural Research on 12.10.2019. Neem seed ball planting to the tune of 5000 have been undertaken at the rural pockets of Coimbatore on 12.10.2019.

Centre for Agricultural Rural Development Studies in association with Anna Institute of Management, Regional Training Centre, Salem organized a three days State Level Intensive Training



Programme on Soft Skill Development to the Assistant Agricultural Officers on 15.10.2019 to underscore the need for soft skills in generating quality data.

In commemoration of World Food day, Food Xplore 2019 was organized on 16.10.2019 for better exchange of innovative and creative ideas on Food processing which urged the need for artificial intelligence, drones, robotics in agriculture, horticulture and food processing. One day seminar on Approaches towards hunger free Nation was also conducted at Community Science College and Research Institute, Madurai.

Corteva sponsored Plant Science Symposia Series on Crop Genomics and Data Science was organized by Centre for Plant Molecular Biology, TNAU, Coimbatore on 18.10.2019.

A freewheeling interaction was held with the Planters' Association of Tamil Nadu on 19.10.2019. As a bonhomie gesture, Mrs.Simonetta Sommaruga, Minister for Environment, Transport and Energy and Communication, Switzerland visited TNAU on 19.10.2019 to derive information on the crop losses through satellite imaging, drone and mobile.

The 141<sup>st</sup> Academic Council Meeting was conducted on 23.10.2019 at TNAU, Coimbatore in which all the University Officers attended. The 189<sup>th</sup> Board of Management Meeting was conducted at Forest College and Research Institute, Mettupalayam on 24.10.2019 and as a special drive, one lakh native tree growing programme was started by Thiru.Banwarilal Purohit, Honourable Governor of Tamil Nadu. Stakeholders' workshop to emphasis the emergent need of security in upper Bhavani basin was organized by the Water technology Centre on 24.10.2019. The Forest College and Research Institute, also organized an International training program on Agroforestry- Policy, Practice and Impact during 20-24<sup>th</sup> October, 2019.

The 40<sup>th</sup> Convocation of the University was held on 25.10.2019 and Honourable Governor of Tamil Nadu conferred degrees on 2589 graduands of Undergraduate, Masters, Doctorate and Open Distance Learning of both constituent and affiliated colleges. A total of 70 awards were given to 44 graduands. Honourable Minister of Agriculture instituted eight new endowment awards during the occasion.

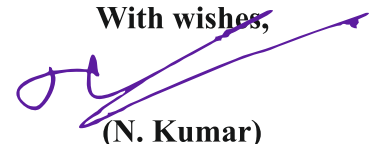
Demonstration plot on Ultra High Density Planting (UHDP) in mango was inaugurated by Thiru. Banwarilal Purohit, the Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu at College Orchard on 25.10.2019. Thiru. R. Doraikkannu, Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture and Pro-Chancellor of TNAU and Thiru. Gagandeep Singh Bedi, IAS., Agricultural Production Commissioner graced the occasion.

To enhance the doubling of farmers' income, a training on onion cultivation was organized by KVK of Tiruppur on 25.10.2019.

Internal Quality Assurance Cell under the Director of Planning and Monitoring took up its second initiative to organize a guest lecture on the key performance indicators to quantify the quality parameters on 30.10.2019.

To feel the pinch of proudest moments, TNAU students bagged medals in National and International Tournaments in the recently concluded 44<sup>th</sup> Senior National Tenni-Koit Championship.

**With wishes,**



**(N. Kumar)**

**40<sup>th</sup> Convocation function held at TNAU**

The 40<sup>th</sup> Convocation Function was held at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) on 25.10.2019. Thiru. Banwarilal Purohit, Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu and Chancellor of TNAU presided over the gathering. Thiru. R. Doraikkannu, Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture and Pro-Chancellor of TNAU graced the occasion. Dr. N. Kumar, Vice-Chancellor of TNAU delivered the welcome note. Padma Shri Dr. Baldev Singh Dhillon, Vice-Chancellor of Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana was the Chief Guest of the function and delivered the convocation address. Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu



inaugurated the Tree Growing Programme in the presence of Thiru. Gagandeep Singh Bedi, IAS., Agricultural Production Commissioner and Principal Secretary to Government, Agriculture Department, Dr. N. Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, TNAU, Coimbatore and other dignitaries. This programme is the first of its kind wherein one lakh native tree seedlings were planted inside a single institute. The tree seedlings were planted by Board of Management Members of TNAU, students and staff of FC & RI and TNAU main campus, Coimbatore. The arrangements for this programme were made by Dr. K.K. Suresh, Dean, FC & RI and his team.



conferred degrees on 2,589 gradaunds of Undergraduate, Masters, Ph.D. and ODL (Open & Distance Learning) education belonging to the constituent and affiliated colleges of TNAU. He also presented 70 awards to 44 gradaunds of Under graduate, Masters and Ph.D. education. Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture instituted eight new endowments during the Convocation. The Vice-Chancellor of TNAU in his welcome address highlighted the achievements and contributions made by TNAU during last year.

**Tree Growing Programme inaugurated by Hon'ble Governor**

One lakh Native Tree Growing Programme was held on 24.10.2019 at the Forest College and Research Institute (FC & RI), Mettupalayam. Thiru. Banwarilal Purohit, the Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu

**Demonstration plot on UHDP in mango inaugurated**

Thiru. Banwarilal Purohit, the Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu inaugurated the Demonstration plot on Ultra High Density Planting (UHDP) in mango at the College Orchard, Horticultural College and Research Institute, Coimbatore on



25.10.2019. Thiru. R. Doraikkannu, Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture and Pro-Chancellor of TNAU graced the occasion along with Thiru. Gagandeep Singh Bedi, IAS., Agricultural Production Commissioner and Principal Secretary to Government, Agriculture Department, Dr. N. Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, TNAU, Coimbatore and other dignitaries. Members of Board of Management, TNAU, students and staff were present.

### Moringa Stake Holders Meet

The Entrepreneurship Development Innovation Institute and Periyakulam Horti Business Incubation Forum (EDII-PHBIF) functioning at Horticultural College and Research Institute (HC&RI), TNAU, Periyakulam organized Moringa Stake Holders Meet on 10.10.2019. Dr. T. Arumugam, Dean, HC & RI,



Periyakulam and Nodal Officer (EDII-PHBIF) highlighted the importance of the meet and the gap in moringa business from farm to plate. Dr. M. Nachimuthu, Founder of Aavaram group and a key incubate of EDII-PHBIF addressed the gathering. In continuation, Yuvasakthi program was launched on 15.10.2019 at HC&RI, Periyakulam to give entrepreneurial training to rural youth on behalf of EDII-PHBIF. Dr. S.D. Sivakumar, Director, Directorate of Agri-Business, TNAU, Coimbatore spoke about the opportunities and various funding support schemes of both Central and State Governments. Dr. T. Arumugam, Dean (HC&RI) explained the importance about innovations and small

interventions in agricultural sectors. Smt. M. Pallavi Baldev, the District Collector of Theni launched the Yuvasakthi program, Aggreun club and released EDII-PHBIF brochure. Successful entrepreneurs namely Mr. K. Sedhumadhavan, Managing Director, Vanguard exports, Dr. P. Meivazhi Maruthamalai Murugan, Managing Director, 18 herbs, Mr. T.V.S.N. Veeraarasu, planter from Pattiveeranpatti, Mr. S. Balaji, founder, BNB organics, Mr. S. Karthik Kumar, one of the incubatee of EDII-PHBIF addressed the gathering.

### Training Programme on Soft skill development

The Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development Studies (CARDS), TNAU, Coimbatore in association with Anna Institute of Management, Regional Training Centre, Salem organized a three days State level Intensive training programme on soft



skill development for enhancing the quality of data to the Assistant Agricultural Officers (AAOs) working in the Comprehensive Scheme for studying the Cost of Cultivation of Principal Crops (CCPC) scheme in Tamil Nadu during 14 to 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2019 at TNAU, Coimbatore. Dr. N. Kumar, the Vice-Chancellor interacted with AAOs and emphasized the importance of the scheme and encouraged them to ensure accuracy in data collection. Dr. K.R. Ashok, Director (CARDS) elaborated the importance of the CCPC Scheme in formulation of price policy by the Government of India and the importance of soft skills in generating quality data. Dr. S. Panneerselvam, Director, Water Technology Centre inaugurated the

training. Th.P.Chandran, Additional Director, Anna Institute of Management, Regional Training Centre, Salem delivered the special address. Dr.D.Suresh Kumar, Professor and Head, Dept. of Agrl. Economics welcomed the gathering and Dr. K.Chandran, Professor and Scheme Officer (CCPC) proposed vote of thanks. A total of 60 AAOs working across the State of Tamil Nadu participated in the training programme.

### Endowment Lecture on prospects and opportunities in Agricultural Extension

Endowment lecture on Prospects and Opportunities in Agricultural Extension was jointly conducted by the Dean (SPGS) and Department of Agricultural Extension and Rural Sociology (AE&RS), TNAU, Coimbatore on 14.10.2019 at TNAU, Coimbatore. Dr. P. Balasubramaniam, Professor and Head, (AE&RS), TNAU, Coimbatore welcomed the gathering. Dr. J.S. Kennedy, Dean, (SPGS) presided over the function. Dr. M.J. Chandre Gowda, Director, Agricultural Technology Application Research Institute (ATARI), ICAR, Bangalore was the chief guest of the function and delivered special address.



Dr. S.D. Sivakumar, Director (In-charge), CARDS and Dr. M. Kalyanasundaram, Dean (Agriculture), AC&RI, Coimbatore addressed the gathering. PG students of Agricultural Extension from Coimbatore, Madurai, Killikulam campuses and III B.Sc. (Ag.) students from AC&RI, Coimbatore participated. Dr.R.Arunachalam, Professor (Agricultural Extension) proposed a vote of thanks.

### National Seminar - FoodXplore '19 conducted

Food Xplore'19, the one day National Seminar conducted by the students of B.Tech (Food Process Engineering) was inaugurated on 16.10.2019 at Agricultural Engineering College and Research Institute, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore. Dr. B. Shridar, Dean (Agrl. Engg.) highlighted the scope of Food Process Engineering and reiterated that the 11<sup>th</sup> FoodXplore'19 is organized to commemorate World Food Day with the core theme of Zero Hunger. Mr. V.V. Krishnan, Chief Technical Officer, SKM Egg Products, Erode insisted that both industry and academics should go hand in hand to achieve the status of Zero Hunger. Dr. K. Alagusundaram, Deputy Director General, ICAR, New Delhi presented the



keynote address. Dr. N. Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, TNAU inaugurated the seminar and delivered the inaugural address. He urged the students to improvise agriculture and work on application of latest technologies like artificial intelligence, drones, robotics in agriculture, horticulture and food processing. During the valedictory function, Dr. A. S. Krishnamoorthy, Registrar, TNAU, Coimbatore, Dr. M. Din, Director, CIAE, Bhopal, Dr. T. Raguchandar, Dean (Students' Welfare), Dr. B. Shridar, Dean, AEC&RI, TNAU, Coimbatore, Dr. V. Thirupathi, Dean, AEC&RI, Kumulur and Dr. S. Ganapathy, Professor and Head, Department of Food Process Engineering, AEC&RI, TNAU, Coimbatore felicitated.

**Seminar on Approaches towards Hunger free and Nutrition Secure Nation**

In commemoration of the World Food Day, one day seminar on Approaches towards Hunger free and Nutrition Secure Nation was conducted at Community Science College and Research Institute, Madurai on 16.10.2019. Dr. G. Hemalatha, Professor and Head (Food Science) welcomed the gathering. Mr.P Ravichandran, Member, Board of Management,



of Dr. L. Pugalendhi, Dean (Horti.), Dr. J S. Kennedy, Dean (SPGS) and Dr. S. Mohankumar, Director, CPMB&B. Totally, eight globally recognized experts delivered lectures in the two days symposium. Besides, online quiz program was also conducted by Dr. Raman Babu, Technology Deployment Lead for Asia-Pacific, Corteva Agriscience. Dr. Mithila Jugulam, Kansas State University, USA outlined the process to be taken for higher studies at USA. Dr. N. Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, TNAU, Coimbatore distributed the certificates to the award winners of the poster and oral presentations and delivered the valedictory address. Dr. S.R. Sree Rangasamy, Founder Director, CPMB, TNAU, Dr. A.S. Krishnamoorthy, Registrar, TNAU and Dr. J. S. Kennedy, Dean (SPGS), TNAU graced the occasion.



TNAU was the chief guest and inaugurated the function. Dr. V.K. Paulpandi, Dean, Agricultural College and Research Institute, Madurai offered the presidential address. Dr. S. Amutha, Dean, Community Science College and Research Institute, Madurai offered the inaugural address. Technical sessions were handled by experts from FSSAI and successful entrepreneurs. More than 300 students, scientists from various colleges participated and benefitted.

**TNAU-Corteva Plant Science symposium series organized**

TNAU-Corteva Plant Science Symposium series on Crop Genomics and Data Science: Challenges and Opportunities - 2019 sponsored by Corteva Agriscience was conducted during October 17-18, 2019 by the Centre for Plant Molecular Biology and Biotechnology (CPMB&B), TNAU, Coimbatore. The symposium was inaugurated by Dr. K. S. Subramanian, Director of Research, TNAU, Coimbatore and the proceedings of the symposium were released by Dr. M. Kalayanasundaram, Dean (Agri.) in the presence

**Agroforestry Training for Asian and African Nationals**

The Forest College and Research Institute, TNAU, Mettupalayam conducted the International training program on Agroforestry - Policy, Practice and



Impact during 20-24<sup>th</sup> October 2019. The program was funded by International agencies like Feed for the Future, United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and International Council for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF) in association with Government of India. Dr.N.Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, TNAU felicitated the delegates in the presence of Dr.S.K.Dhyani, Agroforestry Specialist of ICRAF. The training program was coordinated by Dr. K.K. Suresh, Dean (Forestry) and Dr.K.T.Parthiban Professor and Head (Agroforestry). The training programme was attended by 26 International participants representing 10 countries namely Bangladesh, Botswana, Cambodia, Myanmar, Malawi, Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

**Guest lecture organized by Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC)**

The Directorate of Planning and Monitoring, TNAU, Coimbatore organized a guest lecture under Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) on 30.10.2019. Dr. J. Venkata Pirabu, Director, Planning and Monitoring welcomed the gathering. The presidential address was delivered by Dr. A.S. Krishnamoorthy,



Registrar of TNAU. He stressed the importance of quality consciousness for institutional building and its role in elevating the standards of higher education. Dr. B. Vanitha, Professor and Head, Department of Economics, Bharathiyar University, Coimbatore spoke on the key performance indicators to quantify quality parameters. Dr. S. Muralikrishnasamy, Professor (Agronomy) offered the formal vote of thanks.

**OTHER ACTIVITIES**

**Vice Chancellor's Annual Review at HREC, Gudalore**

The Vice-Chancellor TNAU, Coimbatore visited and reviewed the activities of Hybrid Rice Evaluation Centre, Gudalore on 02.10.2019. He inspected the farm, field experiments, buildings and



seed godown. The scientists explained about the progress made so far in research activities and suitable suggestions were given by the Vice-Chancellor for improving the research programmes. Dr. S. Geetha, Director, CPBG, Dr. D. Keisar Lourdusamy, Associate Professor and Head (i/c), HREC, Gudalore, Dr. R. Saraswathy, Professor (PBG) and Dr.D.Kumaresan, Associate Professor (PBG) Department of Rice, TNAU were present.

**Connecting Colleges through Video conferencing**

School of Post Graduate studies, TNAU, Coimbatore organized a Video conferencing on



10.10.2019 with all constituent Colleges offering PG degree programmes. Dr. N. Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, TNAU, Coimbatore sensitized the Deans and PG Co-coordinators of various colleges through video conferencing about the new PG Syllabus, infrastructure facilities and PG admissions. He also stressed the need for the improvement in quality of publications and patents.

**Foundation Day of Botanical Survey of India**

Botanical Survey of India (BSI), Coimbatore under Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, New Delhi celebrated the 64<sup>th</sup> Foundation day



Gas (Government of India) signed a Memorandum of Understanding on 15.10.2019 for 3 years and proposed to conduct seminars and workshops focusing towards fuel conservation in tractors, home appliances, pumps and farm equipment. Dr. N. Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, Dr. A.S. Krishnamoorthy, Registrar, Dr. B. Shridar, Dean (Agricultural Engineering), Dr. S. Pugalendhi, Professor and Head from TNAU and Mr. S.P Selvam, Director and Chief Regional Coordinator, Mr. Cherian Joseph, Additional Director and Regional Co-ordinator and Mr. F. Sathiya Raj, Deputy Director and Sub-Regional Officer from PCRA, Southern Region were present during the event.



on 10.10.2019. The function commenced with welcome address by Dr. M.U. Sharief, Scientist-E and Head of Office, BSI, Coimbatore. The program was graced by Dr. N. Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, TNAU, Coimbatore as Chief Guest of the function. He emphasized upon the importance of basic sciences and applied aspects of modern technology in the present day era. Dr. M. Sanjappa, the former Director of BSI and Dr. A.H. Prakash, Project Co-ordinator, Central Institute of Cotton Research, Coimbatore delivered special address on the occasion. A formal vote of thanks was given by Dr. C. Murugan, Scientist-E of the Centre.

**TNAU signed MoU with Ministry of Petroleum**

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore and Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA), Ministry of Petroleum and Natural

**Swachhata Hi Seva Campaign on Plastic Waste Management**

Department of Agronomy and Department of Sustainable Organic Agriculture (SOA) of Directorate of Crop Management, (DCM) TNAU, Coimbatore organized awareness programme under Swachhata Hi Seva at Maruthamalai premises on 17.10.2019.





Dr. V. Geethalakshmi, Director (DCM), explained the importance of plastic waste management. Dr. C. R. Chinnamuthu, Professor and Head, Department of Agronomy, Dr. E. Somasundaram, Professor and Head (SOA), Dr. SP. Ramanathan, Professor and Head (ACRC), Dr. P. Jayakumar, Professor and Head (Department of Crop Physiology) and nearly seventy members, including staff, PG and Ph.D students participated in this event.

### Swiss Minister's visit to TNAU

Mrs. Simonetta Sommaruga, Minister for Environment, Transport and Energy and Communication, Switzerland visited Tamil Nadu Agricultural University on 19.10.2019 to learn about the impact of the project on Remote sensing based Information and Insurance for Crops in Emerging



economies (RIICE) funded by Swiss agency for Development and Co-operation (SDC). Dr. N. Kumar, the Vice-Chancellor informed that the project was started in 2012 with support from International Rice Research Institute and SDC to derive information about crop losses through satellite imagery, drone and mobile applications. The University officers interacted with the Swiss Delegation. Dr. S. Pazhanivelan, Professor and Head, Department of Remote Sensing and GIS, TNAU, Coimbatore explained that the information derived from the project was used for claiming the crop insurance. Farmers from Sivagangai district and Cauvery delta region gave their feedback and the officials from insurance companies shared their experience about the project.

## FIELD DAYS AND TRAININGS

### Field Day for Commercialization of TNAU Hybrids

Field Day was organized on 01.10.2019 at TNAU, Coimbatore to demonstrate the performance of high yielding varieties and hybrids to the private seed companies. The inaugural function was presided by Dr. N. Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, TNAU, Coimbatore. In his presidential address, he opined that the Field Day is organized to showcase the hybrids released by TNAU to the private companies for commercialization.



Th. S. I. Mohideen, Joint Director of Agriculture (Seed Inspection) in his special address mentioned that Department of Seed certification has certified one lakh tonnes of seeds in 2018-2019. Dr. S. Geetha, Director (CPBG), Dr. S. D. Sivakumar, Director, Agri Business Development TNAU, Coimbatore, Dr. S. Sundarewaran, Director, Seed Centre and Dr. M. Ramasami, Chairman, Rasi Seeds addressed the gathering. A total of 62 members representing 28 seed companies, officials from the Directorate of Seed Certification and Scientists from TNAU participated.

### NABARD Training on seed quality enhancement

The NABARD sponsored training programme on Dissemination of seed quality enhancement techniques to the extension functionaries and progressive farmers was conducted from 03.10.2019 - 04.10.2019 and 30.10.2019 - 31.10.2019 in the Department of Seed Science and Technology, Seed Centre, TNAU,



Mr. P. Murugesan, Forest officer, Sethumadai and Thiru.T.A.Krishnaswamy, Member, Board of Management, TNAU. Dr. K. Venkatesan, Professor (Horticulture), Department of Spices and Plantation offered the presidential address.

**Fertilizer Application Awareness Programme**

Fertilizer Application Awareness Programme was organized by ICAR KVKs of TNAU on 22.10.2019. Technical lectures regarding the importance of integrated nutrient management, soil testing, soil health improvement and crop nutrition were delivered for the benefit of the farmers. In this special programme, the address by Honourable Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare was live telecasted for the farmers and also video was played regarding

Coimbatore. The training programme was inaugurated by Dr. S. Sundareswaran, Director, Seed Centre and Dr. M. Jawaharlal, Director, Extension Education, TNAU, Coimbatore. Th. V. Esakkimuthu, District Development Manager, NABARD, Coimbatore delivered the felicitation address. Assistant Seed Officers, Assistant Agricultural Officers and farmers attended.

**Training on coconut production**

The training programme on Coconut production technology for higher income was organized by Coconut Research Station, Aliyarnagar at Pollachi on 18.10.2019 under GOI-ICAR sponsored Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP)/ Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) scheme on Technical intervention and input distribution for improving the socio economic status of coconut growing SC/ST farmers in Western Ghats of Tamil Nadu. Dr. E. Rajeswari, Associate Professor and Head appraised the objectives of the training programme. The function was graced by Mr. P.K. Mayilswamy, President, Sevalayam, Pollachi,



the fertilizer use efficiency and importance of biofertilizer on soil health management. Exhibition depicting fertilizer application was arranged.

**Training on Pulse Processing**

One day training on Pulse processing was conducted on 22.10.2019 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, Agricultural Engineering College and Research Institute (AEC&RI), Kumulur. Dr. V. Thirupathi, Dean, AEC&RI, Kumulur inaugurated the training and highlighted the importance of post harvest processing of agricultural commodities. A lecture on Government





subsidies and financial assistance for establishment of Agricultural Processing complex was delivered by Mr.PSankara Narayanan, Pandian Grama Bank. Twenty five farmers from Anthanalloor block of Tiruchirappalli District participated and benefitted by the training programme.

**Stake-holders workshop on water security**

Water Technology Centre, TNAU, Coimbatore and ITCMission Sunehra Kal (MSK) jointly organized One day stake-holder's workshop on Water Security in Upper Bhavani Basin-Issues, Challenges and Opportunities on 24.10.2019. Dr. L. Pugalendhi, Dean, Horticultural College and Research Institute, Coimbatore inaugurated the workshop and delivered the inaugural address. Special address was offered by Er. S. Sivalingam, Project Director, Athikadavu-Avinashi Scheme and SE, PWD, Coimbatore. Dr. S. Paneerselvam, Director, Water Technology Centre, TNAU delivered the presidential address. Mrs.R.Cithra Devi, Joint Director of Agriculture,



Coimbatore, Dr. P. Kumaravadivelu, Head, KVK, Karamadai and Mr. Giresh Mohan, Regional Manager-South, ITCMSK addressed the gathering. Mr. Harish Babu, HR, ITCMSK, Dr. C. Buvaneswaran, Scientist-F IFGTB, Coimbatore and Dr. A. Raviraj, Professor, WTC handled the technical sessions.

**Training on Onion cultivation**

A training programme on Onion cultivation was jointly conducted by the Department of Agricultural Extension and Rural Sociology (AE&RS), TNAU, Coimbatore and KVK, Tirupur on 25.10.2019 under the Doubling Farmers' Income programme. Dr. P. Balasubramaniam, Professor and Head, Department of AE&RS, Coimbatore welcomed the gathering. Dr. N. Anandaraja, Programme



Coordinator, KVK, Tirupur spoke on the activities of KVK and various schemes for the farmers. Farmers from various parts of Pongalur block participated.

**STUDENTS' ACTIVITIES**

**Gandhi Jayanthi celebrated at AC & RI, Madurai**

The Agricultural College and Research Institute (AC&RI) & Community Science College and Research Institute (CSC&RI), Madurai jointly celebrated Gandhi Jayanthi on 02.10.2019 which marked the beginning of 150 years of celebrating the Mahatma and the culmination of the Swachhta Hi Sewa event. The Dean, AC & RI, Madurai gave a special message emphasizing the contributions made by the



iconic leader in Indian Independence. A pledge on Jal Shakti Abhiyan with a special thrust on water saving technologies was taken up. Towards marking the celebrations, a plantation drive of nearly 200 tree saplings was done in and around the College by the Dean (Agriculture), staff and students.

**TNAU Students won medals in Tournaments**

A. Ramya, I M.Sc., Floriculture and Landscaping, TNAU participated and won Women Team Championship and Singles Open. K. Keerthana, IV B.Sc., Agriculture won Bronze medal in Women's Doubles event and Women Team Championship. Carrom Association of Maldives organized International President League Carrom championship 2019 involving India, Sri Lanka and Maldives and also



Test series with India. Mr. G. Mukesh, I B.Sc., (Hons.) Agriculture represented India in Junior Category and won the Test series 5-0 with Silver medal. The winners were appreciated by Dr. N. Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, Dr. A.S. Krishnamoorthy, Registrar, Dr. T. Raguchander, Dean (Centre for Students Welfare) and Dr. M. Kalyanasundaram, Dean (Agriculture).

**Neem seed ball planting by TNAU NSS Volunteers**

Second year NSS volunteers of TNAU main campus prepared around 5000 neem seed balls and organized a seed ball planting event at Samanayakanpalayam village, Annur block, Coimbatore on 12.10.2019. Dr.K.Raja and Dr.M.Kathiravan, NSS



programme officers participated and motivated the volunteers. Mr. K. Prabahakaran, Ex-Panchayat Councilor and Mr. R. Balasundaram, Vice-President, Co-operative Society participated in the programme and graced the occasion. A similar programme was also conducted at Horticultural College and Research Institute (HC&RI), Periyakulam on 12.10.2019. The programme was inaugurated by Thiru. S. Gowtham, IFS District Forest Officer. The seed balls preparation and arrangements were made by Dr. M. Murugesh, Professor (Forestry), Dr. A. Eswari, NSS Programme Officer and Staff of Floriculture Department, HC&RI, Periyakulam.

From  
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