



Tamil Nadu Agricultural University  
Coimbatore - 641 003

# TNAU NEWS

May & June 2021



Tamil Nadu Agricultural University feels proud and privileged to render a warm welcome to Thiru. Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin as the Honourable Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, the son of diligent, hardworking, assiduous and veteran Chief Minister Late Dr. M. Karunanidhi, who has had a long term vision and mission mode approach to absolve the aggrieved farmers' fraternity. He had taken all out efforts in a war footing basis to

bring pragmatic changes by announcing an exclusive budget for agriculture, which seemed to witness a ray of hope to the scientists, policy makers and other multi stakeholders to experience a tangible benefit. This would also address the burning issues to support the farming community with the long term set goals for a decadal progression in agricultural revamping.

Our Honourable Chief Minister is composed and emotionally balanced, provided greater opportunity and responsibility to the alumni of TNAU in key positions for augmenting the Agricultural research, education and extension. Under the auspices of his dutiful regime, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, a century old institution in its golden jubilee year, would harvest more success and reach greater heights and milestones with a well defined tailor-made framework of roadmap to progress further in all its endeavours. We wish his tenure would bestow more laurels and achievements in the days to come.



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**Patron** : Dr. N. Kumar  
Vice-Chancellor  
**Chief Editor** : Dr. J. Venkata Pirabu  
Director, Planning & Monitoring  
**Editorial Committee** : Dr. R. Kalpana  
Associate Professor (Agronomy)  
Dr. M. Kumar  
Professor (Plant Breeding & Genetics)





## VC Desk...

Most part of these two months were under lockdown period and farm activities were geared up to have a continuous flow. Efforts were taken to discuss with the Programme Coordinators of KVKs, Heads of the Research Stations /Departments and Deans and Directors to finalize the cropping programme and for effective utilization of land, labour and resources. Advices were made to keep the ongoing summer trials weed free and directions were given to raise the seedlings / nurseries wherever required for Kharif season. Certain Research Stations experienced deluge (even 20 to 30 cm a day) which resulted in lodging of standing crops. Swift actions were taken to recover the crops amidst Covid 19 pandemic. Crops raised during Summer 2021 season were nurtured and harvesting of produce was attempted.



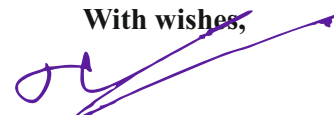
Green manure crops were raised in the fields of Research stations like RRS, Tirur, CRS, Srivilliputhur for augmenting the soil base and revenue. In majority of the units, labour strength was decreased to 50 per cent to undertake the essential farm activities like crop husbandry maintenance, milch and draught animals maintenance, upkeep of storage godowns, threshing floors, farm vehicles and drying of farm produce, field bunds maintenance, harvest of crops etc.

As indicated during the last year, advice was given to all the officers maintaining farms to have a cropping intensity of 250 per cent amidst pandemic to augment revenue. Besides, scientists were encouraged to write research articles, book chapters and books during the lockdown period besides attending the online classes. They were also informed to participate in the webinars of relevance to hone their knowledge.

In addition, circulars were also sent to sensitize the staff of TNAU to administer vaccine for Covid 19 and the details on the staff getting vaccinated were shared to the Government of Tamil Nadu. Certain Colleges like AC&RI, Coimbatore and Madurai, ADAC&RI and HC&RI (W), Trichy, Research Stations like ARS, Bhavanisagar have taken strenuous efforts by organizing special vaccination camps to get the TNAU staff vaccinated. Fear among certain staff of TNAU in getting vaccinated was cleared by counseling. Staff infected with Covid 19 both on and off campus were also suitably counseled to adopt self isolation to avert its spread.

Besides, APC reviewed the state sponsored projects on 04.06.2021. I chaired the 145<sup>th</sup> Academic Council Meeting of TNAU on 10.06.2021. I also participated in a discussion meeting as a member of the Nanaji Deshmukh ICAR Award for Outstanding Interdisciplinary Team Research in Agricultural and Allied Sciences 2020 on 15.06.2021. The Finance Committee Meeting and the Board of Management Meeting of this University were held on 16.06.2021 and 28.06.2021 respectively. I also inaugurated the International Conference on Sugarcane Research (CaneCon2021) on 19.06.2021 at Sugarcane Breeding Institute, Coimbatore. Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare, Govt. of Tamil Nadu reviewed the progress of the University on 22.06.2021. I also participated in the 253<sup>rd</sup> Governing Body Meeting of ICAR on 29.06.2021.

With wishes,



(N. Kumar)

May & June 2021

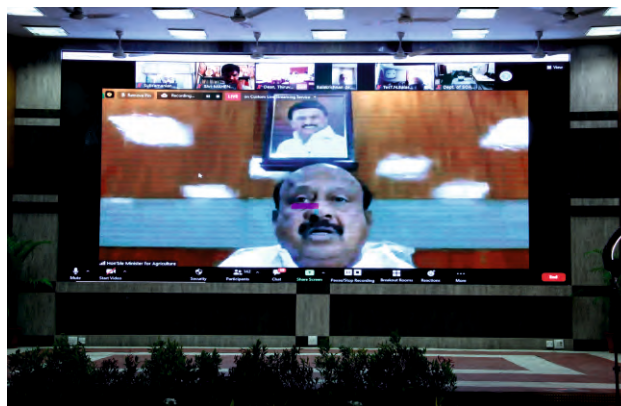
## Events Organized at TNAU Main Campus

### 50<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day and launching of Golden Jubilee Year

The 50<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day and launching of Golden Jubilee year of TNAU was held on 01.06.2021 through virtual mode. Dr.A.S.Krishnamoorthy, Registrar, TNAU welcomed the gathering. Thiru.M.R.K.Panneerselvam, Honourable Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare and Pro-Chancellor of TNAU participated as Chief Guest and launched the Golden Jubilee year celebrations. Honourable Minister in his Foundation day address emphasized the importance of TNAU in agriculture sector of the country and applauded the TNAU graduates



who are in different positions both in private and public sectors. Dr.N.Kumar, Vice-Chancellor in his address recollected the path traversed of TNAU over 50 years and its transformation as an University of Global Eminence. Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra, Secretary (DARE) & Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi appreciated TNAU's achievements in setting an example to all other agricultural institutions of the country. Thiru.C.Samayamoorthy, IAS, Agricultural Production Commissioner & Secretary to Government of Tamil Nadu in his address lauded the University's contribution to surpass the state food grain production to 100 lakh tonnes from 50 lakh tonnes during 1971. Dr.M.Ramasami, Chairman & Founder, Rasi



Seeds Pvt. Ltd, Attur felicitated the gathering and insisted on collaborative research through public private partnership mode. Dr.K.S.Subramanian, Director of Research, TNAU proposed vote of thanks.

### Scientists' Meets Organized

#### a. Agricultural Engineering Scientists' Meet

The 9<sup>th</sup> Agricultural Engineering Scientists' Meet was held during 3-4<sup>th</sup> May, 2021 through online. Dr.K.S.Subramanian, Director of Research welcomed the gathering. Dr.N.Kumar, Vice-Chancellor offered the opening remarks. He suggested that agricultural engineering plays a pivotal role in agricultural and horticultural production systems that face herculean challenge of acute labour shortage. Complete mechanization and farm automation is the order of the day and the Agricultural Engineers help in design and delivery of farm implements, machineries for food processing and simple gadgets for soil and plant health monitoring. The action taken report on the 8<sup>th</sup> Scientists' Meet was







Dr.K.R.Ashok, Director, CARDS. During the pre-review, the Director, CARDS and Heads in that Directorate reviewed the ongoing University Research Projects (39), action plan projects (54), core projects (8) besides external agency funded projects (25). The outcome of the review process was presented by the Heads of Departments. Dr.D.Sureshkumar, Professor and Head (Agrl. Economics) proposed a formal vote of thanks.

#### d. Forestry and Sericulture Scientists' Meet

The 31<sup>st</sup> Forestry and 12<sup>th</sup> Sericulture Scientists' Meet was held during 6-7<sup>th</sup> May, 2021 at TNAU, Coimbatore through online connecting all the scientists across the University Campuses. Dr.K.S.Subramanian, Director of Research welcomed the gathering and flagged off issues relating to forestry and sericulture. The action taken reports of the 30<sup>th</sup> Forestry & 12<sup>th</sup> Sericulture Scientists Meets were presented by Dr.K.T.Parthiban, Dean, FC & RI, Mettupalayam. During the pre-review, the Dean and technical Directors reviewed the on-going University Research Projects (9), action plan projects (14),



core projects (9), AICRPs (5) besides external agency funded projects (24). The outcome of the review process was presented by Heads of Departments. Dr.K.T.Parthiban, Dean, FC & RI, Mettupalayam, proposed a formal vote of thanks.

#### e. Millets & Forage Crops Scientists' Meet

The 39<sup>th</sup> Millets and Forage Crops Scientists' Meet was held virtually during 9-11<sup>th</sup> June, 2021 at TNAU, Coimbatore. Dr.K.S.Subramanian, Director of Research welcomed the gathering and delivered the opening remarks. Dr.N.Kumar, Vice-Chancellor inaugurated the event and highlighted the status of millets in the State and the country. The action taken report of the 38<sup>th</sup> Scientists' Meet was presented by Director (CPBG), Director (Crop Management) and Dr.Senthilvel, Assistant Professor (Plant Pathology). During the pre-review, the technical Directors reviewed the ongoing University Research Projects (63), action plan projects (7), core projects (12), AICRPs (5)



besides external agency funded projects (8). The outcome of the review process was presented by Dr.S.Geetha, Director (CPBG), Dr.S.Mohankumar, Director (CPMB), Dr.S.Sundareswaran, Director (Seeds), Dr.V.Geethalakshmi, Director (Crop Management), Dr.R.Santhi, Director (DNRM) and Dr.K.Prabakar, Director (CPPS). Dr.T.Kalaimagal, Professor (PBG), Department of Millets proposed a formal vote of thanks.

#### f. Allied Agriculture Scientists' Meet

The Second Allied Agriculture Scientists' Meet was held on 18.06.2021 involving 64 scientists from the disciplines of Tamil (6), English (5), Mathematics (11), Statistics (7), Physics (4), Organic Chemistry (1), Computer Science (12), Library Science (6), Physical Education (9), Agricultural Chemicals (2) and Journalism (1). Dr.N.Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, TNAU offered opening remarks and suggested that every faculty should contribute directly or indirectly towards the upliftment of the University and farmers. Dr.K.S.Subramanian, Director of Research emphasized the importance of allied faculty in undertaking research in emerging areas. He presented the action taken report as well as the outcome of the preview meeting conducted by the Research Advisory Committee members comprising of Dr.M.Kalyanasundaram, Dean, AC&RI, Coimbatore, Dr.T.Raguchander, Dean, Students' Welfare, Dr.B.Shridar, Dean AEC&RI, Coimbatore and Dr.M.Ananthan, Director, ODL under the chairmanship of the Director of Research. Dean, Students' Welfare proposed a formal vote of thanks.

#### g. Scientists' Meet on Production Oriented Projects

The 4<sup>th</sup> Scientists' Meet on Production oriented Projects was held on 18.06.2021 involving scientists handling Venture Capital Schemes (VCS), Revolving Funding Schemes and Seed Hubs. Dr.N.Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, TNAU appreciated the scientists who are involved in the revenue generation that helps the University and the Department in meeting expenditure towards recurring expenses. Dr.K.S.Subramanian, Director of Research indicated that more numbers of VCs have been implemented in the past one year and the revenue generation increased during 2020-2021 with a net gain of Rs. 85 Lakhs despite pandemic

and frequent lockdowns. Dr. SD. Sivakumar, Director, Agri-Business presented the Action taken Report. Dr.S.Geetha, Director, CPBG, Dr.S.Sundareswaran, Director, Seeds, Dr.R.Santhi, Director, DNRM, Dr.L.Pugalendi, Dean, HC&RI presented the outcome of the review. Dr.Shantha Sheela, Associate Professor (Agrl. Extension) proposed a formal vote of thanks.

#### Workshop on Emotional Intelligence

Workshop on 'Emotional Intelligence for Personal and Professional Success' was organized by the Directorate of Planning and Monitoring, TNAU, Coimbatore for the Non Teaching staff during 4-5<sup>th</sup> May, 2021. Dr.J.Venkata Pirabu, Director, Planning and Monitoring welcomed the participants and gave the introductory note. Dr.N.Kumar, Vice-



Chancellor, TNAU presided over the function and delivered the Presidential address. Dr.A.S.Krishnamoorthy, Registrar and Ms.S.Sasikala, Comptroller, TNAU, Coimbatore offered felicitations. Resource persons were Mr.Narasimha Iyengar, Freelance Corporate Trainer cum Consultant and Dr.R.Deepa, Associate Professor and Head, Faculty of Human Resources, PSG Institute of Management, Coimbatore. Dr.R.Kalpana, Associate Professor, Directorate of Planning and Monitoring proposed vote of thanks.





## Board of Studies (PG Education) conducted through Hybrid Mode

The 41<sup>st</sup> Board of Studies for the PG Education was held on 29.06.2021 through hybrid mode at TNAU, Coimbatore. Dr. M. Kalyanasundaram, Dean, AC&RI, Coimbatore cum Member (BOS) welcomed the gathering. The External Experts, Dr.M.N.Seenivasa Rao, Professor (Agricultural Microbiology), University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad and Dr. D. Girija, Former Registrar, Kerala Agricultural University, Thrissur participated online and offered their valuable comments for the agenda proposed. University Officers, Deputy Registrars, Heads of Departments in the main campus, Unit Heads of other colleges, and nominated professors also attended the meeting and offered suggestions. Dr.G.Vanitha, Assistant Professor (Computer Science) proposed vote of thanks.

### Important Visitors

#### Honourable Agricultural Minister visited KVK, Needamangalam

Thiru.M.R.K.Panneerselvam, Honourable Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare visited KVK, Needamangalam on 15.06.2021 to review the activities. The Honourable Minister and the Members of Legislative Assembly (MLA) of Thiruvarur and Mannargudi planted trees in the KVK Premises. An Exhibition was organized by the team of scientists of KVK which was witnessed by the



dignitaries. The recent crop varieties released by TNAU were put on display besides the crop boosters. Hon'ble Minister inquisitively listened to a farmer's innovation of growing black soldier fly worms in a drum to feed the poultry birds. The Minister also distributed the inputs like seeds and crop boosters to the KVK contact farmers. Dr.M.Ramasubramanian, Programme Coordinator, KVK explained about the activities of the centre. The Minister appreciated the activities of the Centre and motivated the scientists to reach more farmers of the District.

### Awards and Recognitions

#### TNAU ranked among the Top Agribusiness Management Schools

National Ranking of Agribusiness Management Schools carried out by the Concept Agrotech Consultants Limited, a Consultancy Company catering exclusively to the agribusiness and rural sector based on industry orientation of the curriculum, innovation in pedagogy, fee structure, admission selection process, sports and fitness amenities, global exposure events, students exchange program, extracurricular and co-curricular activities, industry interaction and webinars, relevant placement tie ups and scholarship facilities etc., declared TNAU's Agri Business Management as one of the top 15 Agribusiness Management schools which includes IIMs. The Department of Agricultural and Rural Management (ARM) offers Undergraduate, Postgraduate and Doctoral programmes in Agribusiness Management. The

MBA (Agribusiness) programme offered by this Department is recognized by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). The graduates from this Department are well placed in various agri business sectors including input sector, production, processing, transportation, packaging, logistics, supply chain, organized retail, banking, insurance, agri-clinics and consultancy services. Few graduates have become successful entrepreneurs in agribusiness as well. Many undergraduate students of this Department pursue higher education in nationally reputed institutions like IIM, IRMA, MANAGE, NAARM, EDI, VAMNICOM, IIPM etc.,

### TNAU received National Award for Spices Research

Government of India-Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (GOI-MIDH) scheme on 'Seed & planting material production and distribution and transfer of technology in spices' is being operated in the Department of Spices and Plantation Crops, Horticultural College and Research Institute, Periyakulam, TNAU as lead centre funded by the Directorate of Arecanut and Spices Development (DASD), Calicut, Kerala. In this scheme, a total of 14 centres of various research stations and colleges of TNAU viz., Periyakulam, Coimbatore, Bhavanisagar, Ooty, Yercaud, Palur, Trichy, Kodaikanal, Thadiyankudisai, Aruppukottai, Kovipatty, Killikulam, Thovalai,



Pechiparai are involved. Production of quality planting materials of spice crops viz., black pepper, ginger, garlic, turmeric, chilli, seed spices (coriander), nutmeg, clove, cinnamon, allspice, tamarind and curry leaf and aromatic plants are being taken up in these 16 centres of TNAU. Front Line Demonstrations (FLD) on organic farming is being conducted in spice crops. During the Annual Review Meeting of GOI-MIDH conducted during 25-26<sup>th</sup> June, 2021 through online mode, among the 45 centres participated from All India level, TNAU bagged the 'Appreciation Award' for successful completion of the assigned programme of GOI-MIDH.

### National award (First Prize) for Best Thesis in Agricultural Extension

In commemoration of the 34<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day of MANAGE, Hyderabad held online on 11.06.2021, MANAGE presented the Best Agricultural Extension Thesis award at National level to Mr.S.Aravindh Kumar (2018-2020 batch) recognizing the research work carried out by the Indian Students in Masters and Ph.D. in the area of Agricultural Extension. He did his Masters in Agricultural Extension and Communication under the guidance of Dr.C.Karthikeyan, Professor (Agrl. Extension) in the Department of Social Sciences, AC & RI, TNAU, Killikulam. The thesis entitled 'Assessment of the Utility behavior of Uzhavan app among Farmers and Extension officers in Tamil Nadu' was adjudged as the best for which citation, certificate and a cash prize of Rs. 50,000/- was awarded to the



student. Shri.Sanjay Agarwal, IAS, Secretary, Agriculture Cooperation & Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India, Dr.P.Chandra Shekara, Director General, MANAGE and other dignitaries participated in the event.

### **TNAU Ranked third position among the State Agricultural Universities**

TNAU, Coimbatore secured first position among the Agricultural Universities located in Southern States and third position among 63 State Agricultural Universities at National level and 53<sup>rd</sup> rank among all the 150 Government Universities during 2021-22, bouncing back from 72<sup>nd</sup> ranking of last year by Education World India magazine. Every year, Education World India magazine is conducting educational institutions' survey and ranks the educational institutes in India based on the faculty competence, faculty welfare & development, research and innovation, curriculum and pedagogy (digital readiness), industry interface, placements, infrastructure, internationalism, leadership/governance and range and diversity of study programmes. This quantum lead in ranking is due to the result of major efforts taken by Dr.N. Kumar, Vice-Chancellor. An intense motivational drive was given to the young scientists and the entire research fraternity spread over in various locations of the institutions in Tamil Nadu who worked tirelessly to derive high score in certain areas like research and innovation, competence of faculty and leadership quality which increased the score to 1009 during 2021 from 801 during 2020 out of total score of 1300.

#### **Vice-Chancellor's Review**

#### **Forest College and Research Institute, Mettupalayam**

Vice-Chancellor, TNAU visited Forest College and Research Institute, Mettupalayam on 16.05.2021 and 17.05.2021 to review the



ongoing activities of the Institute during the lock down period. During the review followed by field inspection, the Vice-Chancellor suggested various issues and measures to strengthen the



ongoing education, research and infrastructure development activities.

#### **ARS, Bhavanisagar**

Vice-Chancellor along with Dr.K.T.Parthiban, Dean, FC&RI, Mettupalayam and Er.S.Srinivasan, Estate officer, TNAU, Coimbatore visited Agricultural Research Station, Bhavanisagar on 17.05.2021. To overcome the damage in Breeder seed and other seed production crops due to wild animals like



elephants, wild boar, installation of solar fencing as suggested by the Professor and Head was sanctioned by the Vice-Chancellor and the work was initiated during the month of May 2021. Valuable suggestions on provision of different types of fencing like Offset, Vertical and Two line solar fencing (over the old chain link fencing) were made.

### RRS and KVK, Tiruvallur

Vice-Chancellor visited Rice Research Station and KVK, Tiruvallur on 19.05.2021. He interacted with the farm workers and enquired about their health during the pandemic period and appreciated their keen interest in carrying out the essential farm activities. He offered various suggestions to strengthen the farm fence, other essential infrastructure like cattle shed,



farm and orchard improvements. He visited Nutri-garden with different segments and emphasized the importance of pruning operation.

### Vegetable Research Station, Palur



Vice-Chancellor visited the Vegetable Research Station, Palur on 23.06.2021 and reviewed the farm and research activities. Dr.K.Shoba Thingalmaniyan, Assistant Professor and Head (i/c) presented the action taken report and progress of activities. Vice-Chancellor visited the farm and emphasized various improvements and suggestions.

### Sugarcane Research Station, Cuddalore

The Vice-Chancellor visited Sugarcane Research Station, Cuddalore on 23.06.2021 and reviewed the activities of the station. He declared open the newly constructed Central laboratory complex and also inaugurated the 'Sugarcane Varietal Cafeteria' consisting of 18 popular sugarcane varieties released from all the three sugarcane research stations and ICAR-SBI.



Dr.C.Babu, Professor and Head presented the progress of work done and action taken report for the earlier proceedings. Vice-Chancellor witnessed the performance of newly released sugarcane variety CoC 13339 and insisted to supply sugarcane setts of newly released



varieties to all the sugar mills of Tamil Nadu. He emphasized to focus on the extension and outreach of TNAU Sugarcane booster and instructed to mass produce bio-control agents and biofertilizers, trash decomposers. Dr.V.Ambethgar, Director, TRRI, Aduthurai and Dr.M.Kalyanasundaram, Dean, AC&RI, TNAU, Coimbatore were also present during the visit.

### Regional Research Station, Vriddhachalam

Vice-Chancellor visited Regional Research Station, Vriddhachalam on 24.06.2021 and reviewed the progress of the various activities of the station. Dr.M.Kalyanasundaram, Dean, AC&RI, Coimbatore and Dr.V.Ambethgar



Director, Tamil Nadu Rice Research Institute, Aduthurai were also present during the visit. Vice-Chancellor inaugurated the new infrastructure and visited ongoing field experiments at RRS and the demonstration units at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Vriddhachalam. He also reviewed the progress of research and extension activities carried out by the individual scientists. A demonstration on seed drill sowing



of groundnut with 'Hand Push Seeder' was arranged as part of mechanization in groundnut cultivation. Vice Chancellor himself operated the hand push seeder in the field. Dr.K.Subrahmaniyan, Professor and Head, RRS and Dr. N. Sriram, Programme Coordinator, KVK presented the action taken reports.



At RRS, Vriddhachalam, fencing with chain link was completed during January 2021 in the new farm to a length of 3.0 km with the major contribution from the retired staff of RRS, Vriddhachalam who contributed nearly Rs.2,00,000 as requite to TNAU. Dr.N.Kumar, Vice-Chancellor during the visit on 24.06.2021 greatly appreciated the gesture shown by the retired staff especially PUSM and instructed to keep a permanent board as a token of recognition.

### Events organized outside TNAU Main campus Mechanized Rice transplanting in ARS, Bhavanisagar

In Agricultural Research Station (ARS), Bhavanisagar, to overcome the labour shortage



in rice cultivation, importance was given to Rice transplanter from the year 2020. The 6 rows ride-on type of rice transplanter from Yanmar company is being used for rice transplanting. During the year 2021-2022, 17 acres of Foundation seed crop of rice were transplanted so far using this machine. Dr.K.S.Subramanian, Director of Research, TNAU, Coimbatore operated the Rice Transplanter during his visit on 20.05.2021.

### Inauguration of Coconut Seedlings sale

ALR(CN) 1 tall variety coconut seedlings produced at Agricultural College and Research Institute, Eachangkottai under Venture Capital



(V60 KA) scheme were distributed to the needy farmers on cost basis by Dr.A.Velayutham, Dean on 23.06.2021 in the sales counter of AC&RI, Eachangkottai. Nearly 22 farmers participated in the sales inauguration and procured 500 coconut seedlings.

### Covid 19 special vaccination drive at TNAU

Covid 19 special vaccination camps were organized as an initiative to combat the present pandemic situation created by the Novel Corona Virus (SARS CoV-2) at the Main campus, Colleges and Research Stations.

#### a. TNAU Main Campus

The University dispensary under Centre for Students Welfare at TNAU main campus organized COVID vaccine drive for the welfare of staff and their wards of main campus. A total



of 200 members in the age group of 18 to 44 and 250 pensioners were vaccinated on 25.05.2021 and 04.06.2021. So far, 1950 doses were administered in the vaccination drive in the main campus.

#### b. ARS, Bhavanisagar

A special campaign was organized at ARS, Bhavanisagar on 28.05.2021 with the help of Primary Health Care Centre, Puliampatti,



Erode District for the staff and their family in which a total of 108 members were vaccinated.

#### c. AC &RI and CSC&RI, Madurai



Covid Mass Vaccination Camp was organized on 28.05.2021 at University Dispensary with the co-operation of the Government Primary Health Centre (PHC), Kallanthari, Madurai District. A total of 290 members got vaccinated.

### Extension Activities Organized

#### A. Online

#### Mass Awareness Programme on Organic Agriculture

Regional mass awareness programme on Organic Agriculture was organized by Department of Sustainable Organic Agriculture (DSOA), TNAU, Coimbatore and ICAR-IIFRS, Modipuram on 13.05.2021 through virtual mode in commemoration of 75<sup>th</sup> year of India's Independence. Dr. N. Ravishankar, Project Co-ordinator, ICAR - NPOF, IIFSR, Modipuram



welcomed the delegates and participants. Dr.S.Bhaskar ADG-AAFCC, NRM Division, the Guest of Honour highlighted the significance of organic cultivation of fruits, vegetables and cotton which are highly remunerative crops with high demand in the International and local markets. Dr. Peyush Punia, Director In-charge, ICAR-IIFSR, Modipuram emphasized the importance of Organic Agriculture and need for strengthening of marketing sectors to protect the interest of organic farmers. Dr.V.Geethalakshmi, Director, Crop Management, TNAU, Coimbatore narrated the scope and importance of quality food materials in the present situation.

Dr.S.Manickam, Professor and Head, DSOA and Dr.Sam Ravel, Agriculture Officer, TNOCD, Coimbatore delivered technical lectures. Dr.R.Jansirani, Professor (Agrl. Extension) proposed vote of thanks. More than 285 organic farmers from all over Tamil Nadu participated in the programme.

#### Training programme on 'Immune Boosting Foods'

Online training programme on 'Immune Boosting Foods' was organized by KVK, Madurai on 28.05.2021. Dr. ChelviRamesh, Programme Co-ordinator, Krishi Vigyan Kendra highlighted the importance of healthy foods and balanced diet. Dr. S. Arokiamary, SMS (Home Science) explained about the immune boosting foods and nutrients responsible for immune boosting. Totally 47 members participated in this online training programme.

#### Training on Integrated Soil Health Management

An online training entitled 'Integrated Soil Health Management' was organized by KVK, Sandhiyur, Salem along with DAMU (District AgroMet Units) on 29.05.2021. Dr.M.Vijayakumar, Programme Coordinator, KVK, Salem welcomed the participants. Dr.M.Jawaharlal, Director of Extension Education, TNAU, Coimbatore delivered the presidential address and deliberated the importance of soil health for sustaining crop productivity. Dr.M.Malarkodi, Assistant Professor (SS&AC), KVK, Salem delivered the technical lecture. Nearly 140 farmers from Salem, Namakkal, Erode, Coimbatore, Dharmapuri, Trichy, Karur and Thanjavur districts participated in the programme.

#### Training on Nutrient Management in Sugarcane

Online training on Nutrient Management in Sugarcane was organized at KVK, Vamban on



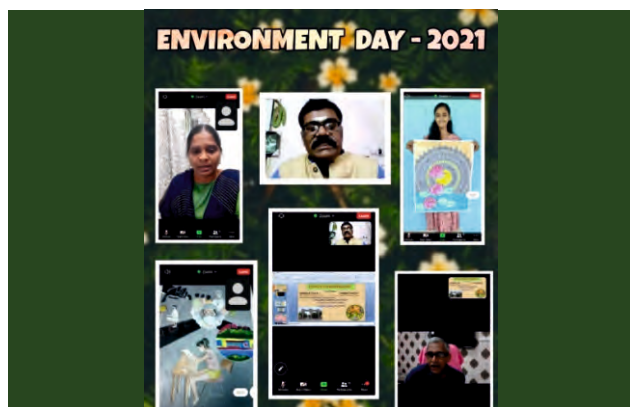




Incubation Forum (MAFBIF) operating at FC&RI organized an online programme on the theme 'Ecosystem Restoration'. Around 100 participants attended the three hour session which comprised of Agroforestry Incubation and Consortium Members and also Forestry Students. The programme was inaugurated by Dr.K.T.Parthiban, Dean, FC&RI & Nodal Officer (EDII-MAFBIF). In his inaugural address, Dean stressed the need for commercializing different Agroforestry models in order to revive the degenerated ecosystem and also for doubling the farmers' income. Mr.D.Boominathan, Landscape Coordinator, World Wide Fund, Coimbatore delivered a special talk on 'Species Conservation at Western Ghats'. The third session was handled by Dr. N. Barathi, Founder, Growmore Biotech, Hosur in which he shared his vision of creating pollution free environment by mass cultivation of Bamboo. The participants interacted with the guest speakers to understand the behavior of Elephant movement in the Nilgiris and on Oxygen parlors through Bamboo cultivation.

#### AC&RI, Killikulam

World Environment Day 2021 was organized through online mode by Agricultural College & Research Institute, Killikulam on 05.06.2021. Dr.K.Eraivan Arutkani Aiyathan, Dean, AC & RI, Killikulam inaugurated the programme and highlighted the beginning of United Nations' mission on "Ecosystem restoration". Dr.S.Kannan, Chairperson, School of Energy, Environment and National Resources



of Madurai Kamarajar University, Madurai was the chief guest of the event who delivered lecture on 'Recreating and restoring the environment for sustainable agriculture'. The UG students of the campus performed various online activities from their homes related to the awareness on environmental issues and its conservation. They displayed their posters, drawings, paintings, recited poems on environmental protection, delivered speech on climate change and its impact in agriculture and also enjoyed playing a creative song online. The day was celebrated with vigour amidst the lockdown. Dr.B. Bhakiyathu Saliha, Associate Professor (SS&AC), AC & RI, Killikulam coordinated the events and the pre final year student representative Ms. S. Karthika proposed vote of thanks.

#### World Bee Day KVK, Madurai

Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Madurai organized Bee keeping training on virtual mode during 20-22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2021 sponsored by National Bee board in view of World Honey Bee Day. Dr.Chelvi Ramessh, Programme Coordinator and Dr. B. Usharani, SMS organized the training programme and other SMS of the KVK delivered guest lectures. Two exclusive sessions on experience sharing of successful bee keepers, Mrs. Josephine Selvaraj and Mr. Gunasekaran were included in the training. There were 96 participants from 10 districts of Tamil Nadu.

#### KVK, Salem

The 'World Bee Day' was celebrated at KVK, Salem on 20.05.2021. The Programme was inaugurated by Dr.M.Vijayakumar, Programme Coordinator, KVK, Salem and Dr.S.Suganya kannan, SMS (PP) delivered the technical lecture in virtual mode on 'Importance of Honeybees in Agriculture' and emphasised the role of bees in improving the yield in various crops, maintenance of bees in farms, pesticide toxicity

