

# TNAU NEWS



## TAMILNADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY NEWS LETTER

Patron : Dr. P. MURUGESA BOOPATHI - Vice Chancellor

Editor : Dr. P. SIVASUBRAMANIAN - Director, Planning and Monitoring

### Scientific Workers' Conference – 2009 >>>



The combined Scientific Workers' conference was held on 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> August, 2009 at Anna Auditorium, TNAU Coimbatore. The conference was presided over by Dr.P.Murugesha Boopathi, Vice-Chancellor, TNAU, Coimbatore. Th. K. Nanda Kishore, I.A.S., Agricultural Production Commissioner & Principal Secretary to Government, Agriculture department, Chennai delivered inaugural address and released the

book on medicinal plants in Nilgiris. Th. S. Kosalaraman, I.A.S., Commissioner of Agriculture, Chennai; Th. Atul Anand, I.A.S., Commissioner of Agri. Marketing and Agri Business; Th. R. K. Ojha, I.F.S., Chief conservation of Forests, Forestry Research; Th.A.Karmugian, B.Sc. (Ag), Director of Seed Certification (i/c), Coimbatore, Th. N. D. Thiagalesan, B.E. (Ag.), M.B.A., Superintendent Engineer and Th. K.

Periasamy, M.Sc (Ag.), Joint Director of Horticulture, Chennai delivered special address. The University Officers, Scientists of TNAU, Development Executives from various line / sister Departments of Tamil Nadu have participated in the conference. The new varieties, farm implements and management technologies approved for release during 2009 were displayed in the exhibition for the benefit of Department Officials and visiting dignitaries. The research highlights on crop management, crop production, Bt Brinjal / GM crops, mechanization in agriculture, Horticulture, Seed production activities, price forecasting and dissemination, TNAU Agri. business incubator and Flexible learning at TNAU were presented by the concerned Directors of TNAU. A brain storming session on the management of papaya mealy bug was held and action plan drawn. Th. Harmander Singh, I.A.S., Commissioner of Sericulture and Dr. P. Umanath, I.A.S., District Collector, Coimbatore participated as special guests. Dr. M. Paramathma, Director of Research, TNAU welcomed the gathering and Dr. T. Jayaraj, Director, TRRI, Aduthurai proposed vote of thanks.

### Agri minister visits SWMRI, Thanjavur

Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture Th. Veerapandi S. Arumugam has visited Soil



and Water Management Research Institute, on 25.08.2009 and inaugurated various events of the day and distributed tree seedlings, vegetable seeds, and green manure seeds to the farmers. More than 200 farmers have participated. He released pamphlets on drought management. The program was attended by Dr. M.Paramathma, Director of Research; Dr.T.Jayaraj, Director, Tamil Nadu Rice Research Institute, Aduthurai; Joint Director of Agriculture, Thanjavur and officials of various sister departments. Dr.B.Chandrasekaran, Professor & Head and his staff made all the arrangements.

### Independence Day celebration

The 62<sup>nd</sup> Independence Day was celebrated in a grand and fitting manner at Agricultural College & Research Institute,



Coimbatore on 15.08.2009. Our Vice-Chancellor Dr.P.Murugesha Bhoopathi was welcomed by Dr.C.Udayasuriyan, Dean, School of post graduate studies. The Vice-Chancellor hoisted the National Flag and delivered the special address. Dr. S. Manonmani, and Dr. K. M. Sellamuthu, NCC Officers presented an impressive guard of honour by the NCC cadets and NSS volunteers. The Vice-Chancellor distributed sweets to the participants. All University Officers, Heads of Departments, Teaching and Non-Teaching staff members enthusiastically participated in the Independence Day celebration.

**Incentive distribution function**

The incentive distribution function was held on 17.07.2009. Dr.P.Muthukrishnan, Professor and



Head, Department of Agronomy welcomed the gathering. Dr.K.Siddeswaran, Professor (Agronomy) and course teacher briefed about the details of the experimental learning programme. Dr.V.Jayabal, Dean (Agriculture) and Dr.S.Jeyaraman, Director (CSCMS) appreciated the students for their involvement in this endeavors. Our Vice-Chancellor gave away the incentives to all the students.

**Experimental learning programme**



The experimental learning programme (students plot cultivation) was inaugurated by our Vice-Chancellor on 27.7.2009 at wetlands. The Registrar, Dean (Agri), Director (CSCMS) and Director of Extension Education were participated besides, Professor and Head and faculty members of

Department of Agronomy.

**Students' club inauguration**



A function to inaugurate the Students' Club for the academic year 2009 – 2010 was organized at Agricultural College & Research Institute, Killikulam on 17.8.2009. Dr. A. Raja Rajan, Dean, presided over the function. Dr. J. Sundersingh Rajapandian, Staff Advisor, welcomed the gathering. Dr. K. Vairavan, Dean, Agricultural College & Research Institute, Madurai inaugurated the Students' Club. A team of 42 new office-bearers was installed. The Heads of Departments felicitated the office-bearers. Th. A. Silambarasan, Club Secretary, detailed the club activities envisaged for the academic year. The inaugural session culminated in a gala cultural programme. Ms. J. Anitha Rukmani, Co-Club Secretary, proposed

**Memorable events of Centenary Celebration of RI Building >>>**

A glorious function to commemorate 100 years of RI building was organized on 14.07.2009 at TNAU, Coimbatore. A photographic exhibition highlighting the genesis and related events of RI Building memories were arranged in the RI building lobby during that occasion.

A meeting was organized in Anna Auditorium. Dr.P.Murugesha Boopathi, Vice-Chancellor chaired the meeting and delivered the presidential address. While stressing the need for maintaining the Research Institute building, the Vice – Chancellor has mentioned that appropriate steps are to be initiated to preserve the beauty of Research Institute building as historical monument by providing special corpus fund. The Members of Board of Management, Thiru. K.P.Ramalingam, Thiru. O.V.R.Somasundaram, Thiru. P.S.Anbu participated and delivered felicitation address. The Members



elucidated the significance and importance of Research Institute building. They appreciated the contributions of the university in the development of agriculture and the upliftment of farming community. Thiru.P.S.Anbu presented a "Brave Sword" as a symbol of courage to the Vice-Chancellor.

The former Vice-Chancellor Dr.C.Ramasamy, former Deans, Directors and several alumni of TNAU participated in the function. Earlier, Dr.V.Jayabal, Dean (Agriculture) welcomed the gathering. Dr.K.Ilamurugu, Professor (Education) proposed a vote of thanks.

## USA Scientist in TNAU for knowledge sharing with ODL learners >>>



A four days lecture cum hands on training session was organized by the Directorate of Open and Distance Learning from 20.7.2009 to 23.7.2009, which was aimed to share the knowledge on newly evolved e-learning tools for the benefit of ODL learners and content writers. Dr. Sabine Grunwald, Distance Education Coordinator,

University of Florida, USA visited TNAU to conduct the training to enrich the skill on the Reusable Learning Objects (RLO), a user-friendly tool to educate learners as well as teachers of distance education.

Our Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Murugesu Boopathi clung to tele-

conferencing with Dr. Sabine Grunwald in which they evolved strategic thinking for educational and research collaboration for knowledge sharing between TNAU & University of Florida for the symbiotic benefits.

In the valedictory ceremony, Dr. V. Valluvaparidasan, Director, Open and Distance Learning, exhorted the significance of e-mode of content delivery and also outlined the achievements of the Directorate in terms of large scale enrollment and subsequent benefits out of this outreach programme.

In his special address Dr. P. Kalaiselvan, Director of Extension Education reiterated, how the globalized education of this kind is a good sign to enhance the knowledge among larger chunk of populace. About fifty scientists participated in the training. Dr. P. Santhy, Professor, Open Distance Learning proposed a vote of thanks.

a vote of thanks.

### Inauguration of e-learning lab at HC&RI, TNAU

Dr. P. Murugesu Boopathi, Vice-Chancellor, TNAU inaugurated the **e-learning lab** on 7<sup>th</sup> of Aug, 2009. All the University officers of the main campus, Staff and Students of the Horticultural College & Research Institute participated in the inaugural function. The Co-Principal Investigators, Mr. R. Venkatachalam and Dr. T.N. Balamohan of the scheme explained the impact and deliverables of the project to the participants.

### VC inaugurates the Students' Club activities in AEC & RI, Kumulur



Dr. P. Murugesu Boopathi, Vice Chancellor of TNAU inaugurated the Students' Club activities in AEC & RI, Kumulur on 18.8.2009. He stressed the importance of widening the mental horizon of students with various co curricular and extra curricular activities. Dr. A. Tajuddin, Dean of AEC&RI, Kumulur delivered the presidential address. Vikas Shringi, Club Secretary has listed out the plan of action for the year 2009 – 10. Dr. K. Annadurai, Staff Advisor welcomed the gathering. R. Madhana Supriya, Joint Club Secretary proposed the vote of thanks.

### Orientation day at AEC& RI, Kumulur

Orientation Day was conducted in AEC & RI, Kumulur on 19.8.2009. Dr. P. Subbian, Registrar of TNAU felicitated the function as a chief guest. Dr. A. Tajuddin, Dean of AEC&RI, Kumulur presided over the function. Dr. K. Annadurai, Staff Advisor welcomed the gathering and vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. Naina Mohammed, Professor (Education). Cultural Programmes were also conducted by the students as a part of the



orientation day programme.

### Ecofest – 2009

The National level symposium '**Ecofest 09**' was organized at the Agricultural Engineering College and Research Institute, TNAU, Coimbatore on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2009 with the theme "**Green Future Begins**". About 300 students from various colleges across the country



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participated.

Our Vice Chancellor Dr. P. Murugesha Boopathi, inaugurated the function and delivered the inaugural address. He spoke on the depleting natural resources and the rising carbon levels in the atmosphere. Finally he concluded with the strong message that **“Man's greed cannot be satisfied by the abundant natural resources of the environment”**. The special address was delivered by Dr. Venkatesh Balan, Michigan state University, U.S.A. Dr. S. Santhana Bosu, Dean, Agricultural engineering College & Research Institute, Coimbatore delivered the presidential address.

Students from various college presented papers and displayed posters on Energy and Environment aspects. Ecoquiz was also part of the programme in which participants' knowledge on Energy and environment was also tested.

**NSS Special Camp 2009**

National Service Scheme special camp of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University was conducted at Devarayapuram village of Coimbatore district recently. A programme on Green House Horticulture was conducted at Vanniampalayam of Vedapatty village and also demonstrations on laying out kitchen garden were done. Programmes



on First Aid Training and Yoga by Dr. Bharathi of PSG Institute of Medical Science and Colonel Thangavelu of Art of living were special features. Eco drive by 85 students to Narasipuram forest range along with environmentalists led by Mr. Sadasivam of 'Osai' an NGO organization and forest officials, an awareness programme on man-animal conflicts and collection of polythene wastes from forest areas by students signified the Environment conservation day. Dental screening and Special medical diagnosis by a team of doctors treated about 220 rural people and school children.

**Career guidance workshop, 2009**

The Directorate of Students' Welfare has conducted a **“Career Guidance Workshop 2009”** recently in order to facilitate the out-going undergraduate students to get themselves prepared for immediate placement or provide opportunity for students to choose their career options. The workshop

comprised of motivational talks, soft skill development, higher education abroad, banking sector and agricultural entrepreneurship. The program was designed to suit the current need in the context of changing scenario in job market for farm graduates. The workshop was inaugurated by Mr. R. Ravichandran, Commissioner of Income Tax, Salem. About 400 fourth year students of all disciplines in agricultural sciences from ten constituent colleges of TNAU participated.

**Inplant training exhibition**



Inplant training exhibition has been organized by the final B.Sc (H.Sc) students on 22.7.2009 at H.Sc & RI, Madurai. Dr. P. Banumathi, Dean (H.Sc) has inaugurated the exhibition. The main objective of inplant training course is to develop the entrepreneurial skills among the students. It has also provided an opportunity to learn the practical aspects of establishing and running a food

**ISWS National Symposium >>>**



Indian society of Weed Science has organized a National Symposium on **“Weed threat to environment,**

**biodiversity and agricultural productivity”** during August 2 - 3, 2009 at TNAU, Coimbatore.

The symposium was inaugurated by Dr. P. Subbian, Registrar, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore. Dr. S. Jeyaraman, Director, CSCMS welcomed the gathering. He requested the Director, DWSR to open up new centres for weed sciences research to have wide coverage in the state. Dr. Jay G. Varshney, Director, DWSR, Jabalpur delivered a special address. Dr. S. Sankaran, former Vice-Chancellor, TNAU, Coimbatore has highlighted the ills and wells of weeds and their management in a fitting manner. Dr. P. Muthukrisnan, Professor and Head, Dept. of Agronomy has proposed a vote of thanks. Nearly 250 scientists and students from all over the country have participated in the National Symposium.

## TNAU launches Agri-Business Incubator >>>



The Agri-Business Incubator-TNAU (ABI-TNAU) was officially launched during the function organized at the University on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2009. ABI-TNAU, established in association with the Agri-Business Incubator-ICRISAT

will be the first of its kind among all the Agricultural Universities in the country.

Dr. P. Subbian, Registrar, TNAU welcomed the gathering. Dr. Annuar Mohd Saffar, President, Asian

Association of Business Incubation, inaugurated the agri-business incubator. Dr. Kiran K Sharma, the Head of Agri Business Incubator in ICRISAT, Hyderabad highlighted the uniqueness of agri-business incubation and the importance of co-business incubation in addressing the challenges of agriculture by benefiting all. Dr. P. Murugesu Boopathi, Vice Chancellor, TNAU said that the incubator at the university will offer this platform for the farmers and entrepreneurs to study the potential of technologies developed in the University and also check for its market relevance.

Dr. Julian Webb, Info Dev Asia Facilitator, World Bank, delivered the key note address. Mr. RMP. Jawahar, President of ISBA congratulated ICRISAT and TNAU on this initiative. Dr. R. Ganesan, Director-Agri-Business Development proposed the vote of thanks.

processing based business unit. In this program, the students have been placed in 15 firms viz., food processing firms, medicinal product firms, bakeries and marketing units. All the Heads of Departments, staff members and students have also visited the exhibition and encouraged the Inplant trainees.

### Independence Day celebration at AC&RI, Madurai

The Independence Day was celebrated at Agricultural College and Research Institute, Madurai. Dr.K.Vairavan, Dean, AC&RI, hoisted the National flag and delivered the Independence Day address. NCC cadets of AC&RI, Madurai gave Guard of honour to the Dean. The Dean congratulated the students and distributed certificates to the NCC Cadets, who passed the B and



C certificates. Children from outside campus also participated in different sports events. The Dean distributed prizes to the winners.

### National symposium on nuclear and space technologies

A National Symposium on the "Application of Nuclear and Space technologies for the benefit of farmers" was organized by the consortium of Indian Farmers Association (CIFA) in collaboration



with Tamil Nadu Agricultural University on 24.08.2009 at TNAU, Coimbatore. Dr.Y.V.N. Krishnamurthy, Director, Regional Remote Sensing Service Centre, ISRO, Bangalore inaugurated the symposium. Dr.P.Murugesu Boopathi, Vice-chancellor, TNAU presided the symposium and released the

proceedings on National Symposium on the Application of Nuclear Space technologies for the benefit of farmers. Shri.G. Ajeethan, Technical Secretary, CIFA, Tamil Nadu welcomed the gathering and Shri.R.V. Giri, General Secretary, CIFA, Tamil Nadu, proposed the vote of thanks.

### Papaya mealy bug Awareness Campaign

A state level papaya mealy bug campaign was organized by the Department of Agricultural Entomology, TNAU, Coimbatore on 18.08.2009. The Agricultural Officers, Assistant Directors, Deputy Directors and Joint Directors of the Department of Agriculture, Forestry, Sericulture and Horticulture belonging to Tiruppur, Coimbatore, Erode and Salem Districts



participated. Scientists and extension officials discussed the issues and seriousness of the spread of the mealy bug in agricultural and horticultural crops and the ways and means to contain the spread.

**State development commissioner visits TRRI**

The State Development Commissioner Th. R. Sellamuthu, I.A.S visited TRRI, Aduthurai on 24.08.09. He discussed the cropping pattern and emerging productivity levels with the scientists of TRRI, Aduthurai, State Department Officials and Revenue Officers. He also



visited the Tissue Culture Lab, Insect Pheromone Referral Lab, Bio-Control Lab and Soil Science Lab of TRRI and appreciated the scientists.

**Vice Chancellor's review at TRRI**



Our Vice Chancellor, Dr. P. Murugesha Boopathi visited Tamil Nadu Rice Research Institute, Aduthurai on 20.08.09 and declared open the newly constructed Tissue Culture lab, Insect Pheromone Referral Lab, upgraded Permanent Exhibition Hall and Labourers' Lunch shed. A booklet on System of Rice Intensification (SRI) and TRRI brochure in English were released by the Vice Chancellor. In the review meeting Vice - Chancellor sensitized the scientists to concentrate more on research and also to release hybrid rice as early as possible. Dr. M. Paramathma, Director of Research and Dr.P.Kalaiselvan, Director of Extension Education were also present in the review meeting.

**Vice-chancellor's visit to NPRC and KVK, Vamban**

Dr. P. Murugesha Boopathi, Vice-Chancellor, TNAU, visited the National Pulses Research Centre and Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Vamban on 19.08.2009 along with Director of Research, Director of Extension Education and Director, TRRI, Aduthurai. The Vice-Chancellor declared open a greenhouse, labour shed and threshing floor on this occasion and released a book on "Flower Cultivation".

**Awareness campaign on mealy bug**

An 'Awareness campaign on mealy bug' was organized at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Needamangalam on 20.08.2009



**Training on palmyrah >>>**

Under the DBT funded scheme entitled "Entrepreneurship development on edible and non edible products formulation, value addition and marketing of palmyrah (*Borassus flabellifer*) palm" a hands on training on value addition of palmyrah products was organized at Uthamacholapuram, Salem District on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2009. The training programme was inaugurated by Thiru. Veerapandi S.Arumugam, Honourable Minister for Agriculture, Government of Tamil Nadu and presided by Dr.P.Murugesha Boopathi, Vice-Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore. He highlighted about ancient tradition of palmyrah in Dravidan culture, value addition and uses of palmyrah products, constraints and scope in palmyrah cultivation.

In the training programme, Dr.V.Ponnuswami, Dean (Hort.), HC&RI, Periyakulam and Principal Investigator of Palmyrah schemes



highlighted the importance of neera as a chemical residue free natural health refreshing nutritious drink and this can be promoted across the world. Dr.N.Kumar, Dean (Horticulture), HC & RI, Coimbatore welcomed the gathering. Dr.M.Paramathma, Director of research, Tamil Nadu

Agricultural University, Coimbatore proposed vote of thanks. The local body representatives, officials from government departments, 800 palmyrah tappers, women self group members, local artisans from Salem, Dharmapuri, Namakkal, Krishnagiri have participated in the training program.

## Training on coconut >>>



Tapioca and Castor Research Station, Yethapur in collaboration with Department of Biotechnology-Government of India, New Delhi organized a training on **“Upliftment of Rural Women through dissemination of improved technologies in coconut**

**cultivation and employment generation activities”** at Horticultural Research Station, Yercaud on 22.08.2009. Hon'ble Agricultural Minister of Tamil Nadu, Th. Veerapandi S. Arumugam inaugurated the training programme. Our Vice Chancellor, Dr. P.

Murugesha Boopathi presided over the function. Dr.N.Kumar, Dean (Horticulture) welcomed the delegates. A book on **“Upliftment of coconut farm rural women training guide”** in Tamil was released during the programme.

Dr. V. Palanisamy, Professor and Head, Tapioca and Castor Research Station, Yethapur briefed the various activities being carried out under this scheme. Dr. M.K. Kalarani, Associate Professor (Crop Physiology) and Principal Investigator of this scheme explained the improved technologies for enhancing coconut productivity.

More than 300 farmers and 100 rural women from Mookkanoor, Denispet and K.N.Pudhur villages of Kadayampatty block of Salem district were actively participated and benefited.

to sensitize the Thiruvarur district farmers about the fastly spreading newer pest namely Papaya mealy bug.

The Vice-Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore, who was here to review the activities of KVK presided over and inaugurated the campaign. The Vice-Chancellor in his inaugural address pointed out the threat posed by the newer insect pest called 'Papaya Mealy bug' and its extent of damage in Coimbatore, Erode, Salem, Tiruppur and Namakkal districts, besides the eco-biological characters and management strategies taken by the various sectors to contain the pest from spreading to other districts.

Earlier, Dr. P. Kalaiselvan, Director of Extension Education; Dr. M. Paramathma, Director of Research; Dr. T. Jayaraj, Director, Tamil Nadu Rice Research Institute, and Th. S. Anbazhagan, Joint Director of Agriculture, Thiruvarur had delivered special addresses.

### Technology for managing soil-borne diseases

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), Coimbatore in collaboration



with AVRDC – The World vegetable centre, Taiwan, USAID supported IPM CRSP, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, USA and State Department of Horticulture, Tamil Nadu jointly organized a training on **“Integrated vegetable grafting technology for managing soil-borne diseases and increasing tolerance to flooding in the hot-wet season”** at Thondamuthur block, Coimbatore district on 25.08.2009. Dr. E.A. Heinrichs, IPM CRSP Consultant, Virginia State University, USA and Dr. R. Srinivasan, Entomologist, AVRDC gave special addresses emphasizing the needs of vegetable grafting and prospects achieved with the training in different countries. Dr. A. Chandrasekaran, Director (i/c), CPPS and scientists participated in the programme.

The participants were explained

regarding construction of tunnel-type grafting chamber, which is the pre-requisite for establishment of vegetable grafted seedlings using locally available materials. Grafting technique was explained and a hands on training was imparted using pro-tray raised seedlings of tomato, brinjal and chillies.

### Pact signed with Roots Industries

A Cooperation Agreement was signed recently between TNAU and Roots Industries India Ltd., Coimbatore for the Joint Implementation of the project **“Indo-German Development of an Innovative and cost-efficient Biogas plant by applying the strategies of frugal Engineering”** in Tamil Nadu



Agricultural University. The Agreement was signed by Dr. S. Santhana Bosu, Dean, Agricultural Engineering College and Research institute on behalf on

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TNAU and K. Ramasamy, Chairman, Vice-Chancellor, Tamil Nadu University and representatives from the Roots Group of Companies in the Agricultural University. Dr.P.Subbian, German institute and Industries were present of Dr. P. Murugesu Bhoopathi, Registrar, Tamil Nadu Agricultural also present in the function.

## Seminar on cocoa production technology and coconut cultivation training at HRS, Yercaud >>>



The Honorable minister of Agriculture Thiru. Veerapandi S Arumugam inaugurated the Seminar on **“Cocoa Production Technology and coconut cultivation training”** at Horticultural

Research Station, Yercaud on 22.8.2009 and released a booklet and CD on cocoa cultivation. The minister also opened the sale counter at the Research Station. Our Vice-

Chancellor Dr. P. Murugesu Bhoopathi presided over the function. Dr. N. Kumar, Dean, Horticulture College and Research Institute, Coimbatore welcomed the farmers. Th.C.Thamizhselvan, MLA, Yercaud delivered a special address to the cocoa growers. Th.T.Bellie, Cadbury India Pvt. Ltd and Dr.K.Rajamani, Professor and Head, Species and Plantation crops highlighted the details on the area and production of cocoa. The vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. M. Paramathma, Director of Research. Cocoa growers numbering 234 were the beneficiaries.

More than 300 farmers and 100 rural women from Mookkanoor, Denispet and K.N.Pudhur villages of Kadayampatty block of Salem district were actively participated and benefited.

### IMPORTANT VISITORS

- Dr. Saha Deva Singh, Deputy Commissioner, Ministry of Agriculture, NRAA, New Delhi, between 1.8.09 and 3.8.09.
- Dr. Brain Gouse, Manager, Student Recruitment Awards, Nova Scotia, Agrl. College, NSAC, Canada between 3.8.09 and 5.8.09.
- Dr. L.S.Rathore, Deputy Director General IMD, New Delhi between 6.8.09 and 7.8.09.
- Th. Atul Anand, I.A.S., Commissioner of Agriculture Marketing and Agri Business, Chennai on 11.8.09.
- Dr. Rayapati A. Naidu, Plant Virologist, IAREC, Prosser, Washington State University, USA, visited on 20.8.09.
- Dr. Y. V. N. Krishnamurthy, Director, RRSSC on 24.8.09.
- Dr. E.A. Heinrichs, IPM CRSP Consultant, Virginia State University, USA and Dr. R. Srinivasan, Entomologist, AVRDC, Taiwan, visited on 25.08.2009

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