

TNAU NEWS



TAMILNADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY NEWS LETTER

Patron : Dr. P. MURUGESA BOOPATHI - Vice Chancellor

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

Fourth National Conference on KVKs)))



The Fourth National Conference on KVKs was held at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University from 6-8th, November 2009. Main theme of the conference was '**KVKs as Resource and Knowledge Centre of Agricultural Technology**'.

In the inaugural session on 6th forenoon, our Vice-Chancellor, Dr.P.Murugesha Boopathi, welcomed the gathering. 'Farmers' Residency' building was inaugurated by Honourable Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. Kalaaignar M. Karunanidhi and Exhibition on Agricultural Technology was inaugurated by

Honourable Union Minister for Agriculture and Co-operation Shri Sharad Pawar. The Conference was inaugurated by Honourable Union Minister for Agriculture Shri Sharad Pawar in the presence of Honourable Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. Kalaaignar M. Karunanidhi, Shri.A.Raja, Honourable Union Minister for Information and Communication; Shri Veerapandi S. Arumugam, Honourable Minister for Agriculture, Government of Tamil Nadu; Thiru. Pongalur Palanisamy, Honourable Minister for Animal husbandry and Rural Industries, Government of Tamil Nadu;

Dr.Mangala Rai, Secretary DARE and Director General, ICAR, New Delhi; Shri T.Nanda Kumar IAS, Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Co-operation, Government of India; Dr.Kiran.D.Kokate, Deputy Director General (Ag. Extension), ICAR, New Delhi; Dr.V.Venkatasubramanian, ADG (Ag. Extension), ICAR, New Delhi have participated in the function.

The Chief Minister in his speech highlighted the progress made by Tamil Nadu in various fields of agriculture and its allied sectors and requested higher allocation to Tamil Nadu State from Central funds. The Union Minister of Agriculture, Shri Sharad Pawar praised Dr.Kalaaignar M.Karunanidhi for the progress made by the state in agriculture sector and directed that KVKs need to equip strategies to tackle risks like drought and floods. Dr.Mangala Rai asked agricultural scientists to devote more time for transferring apt and latest technologies and Shri.Nanda Kumar asked them to focus on the locally prioritized problems.

In valedictory session, various books on agricultural technology and technical bulletin and CDs were released. The Conference ended with Vote of thanks from Dr.S.Prabhu Kumar and Dr.P.Kalaiselvan.

Students Career guidance programme at AEC&RI, Kumulur

A career guidance programme has been conducted by 'Trichy plus' a reputed educational consultancy service in Trichy for the benefit of the students of AEC&RI, Kumulur on 31.10.2009. Mrs.Onita, trainer of the concern,

explained to the students regarding the importance of course to transform their life and the procedure of admission requirements in foreign universities. Mr.D.Vedandam, Managing Director of the concern explained about higher education abroad and the methods of choosing right universities in right countries. The students' queries

regarding financial aid and career opportunities were clarified by him.

Dr.A.Tajuddin, Dean, AEC&RI, Kumulur presided over the function. Dr.K.Annadurai, Staff Advisor welcomed the gathering. Mr.Vikas Shringi, club secretary proposed the vote of thanks.

Inauguration of 'Farmers' Residency'



The 'Farmers' Residency', a new facility, built with the financial assistance by ICAR, New Delhi, was opened by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu on 6.11.2009. The Residency has facility to accommodate nearly 100 trainees with kitchen facilities. In addition, a training hall with a seating capacity of 100 numbers, a cyber room and a library have been provided in the residency. The newly opened residency will facilitate conducting effective training programme and comfort in stay of the trainees.

Inauguration of business english certificate course

With an objective of developing the communication skills of our students, The British Council – sponsored Business English Certificate, popularly known as BEC, was inaugurated by the Director of Students' Welfare on 8th October 2009. In his presidential address, he advised the students to hone their soft Skills to make themselves employable in leading MNCs, Nationalized Banks etc., Dr.S.Hariharan, Professor of English gave a curtain raiser of the BEC vantage course and Dr.N.Sundararajan, Associate Professor of English proposed a vote of thanks.

Visit of IFPRI scientists to ODL, TNAU

The scientists Dr.Suresh Babu, International Food Policy Research Institute, Washington, Kwadwo

Asenso – Okyere, Director and Kristin E.Davis, Research Fellow, knowledge capacity and Innovation Division, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, visited the Directorate of Open and Distance Learning, TNAU on 19.10.2009. Dr.V.Valluvaparidasan, Director, ODL, and his staff enlightened in detail regarding the ongoing programmes, proposed programmes in future, technologies to be adopted in future for online education etc., He also discussed the possible collaborations between ODL, TNAU and IFPRI, Washington.

Earlier the scientists from IFPRI met the Vice-Chancellor, TNAU to explore the possibilities of undertaking projects in collaboration with IFPRI and TNAU. Discussions were also held on the ongoing activities regarding e-learning.

National seminar on mango



A National Seminar on “Production, Post harvest Technology and Marketing of Mango” was organized by the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University in Collaboration with National Horticulture Board, Gurgaon at Horticultural College and Research Institute, Periyakulam in the recent past. In this seminar, 183 delegates from all over the country including ICAR Institutes, State Agricultural Universities, State Government Institutes, fruit growers, private agencies, entrepreneurs and research scholars participated.

In the valedictory function, Dr. V. Ponnuswami, Dean, Horticultural College and Research Institute,

Periyakulam welcomed the gathering. Dr. N. Kumar, Dean, HC & RI, Coimbatore presented a summary of recommendations of the seminar proceedings. Our Vice Chancellor, Dr. P. Murugesha Boopathi, emphasized the need for exploring the new avenues in mango research and distributed the certificates to outstanding oral and poster presentations. Dr. S. Balasubramanyan, organizing secretary, proposed vote of thanks.

Inauguration of Students' club at AC&RI, Coimbatore

The students' club 2009-2010 was inaugurated on 12th October, 2009. The chief guest Mr. G. Balanchandran, I.A.S., Additional Secretary (Dept of Space) and Secretary to Space Commission, Government of India, Bangalore, inaugurated the students club. Our Vice - Chancellor, Dr.P.Murugesha Boopathi, in his presidential address advised the students to take over the club with confidence and good aspiration. Mr.S.Sathish, club secretary has listed out the forth coming activities.

NSS special program on “care for heart”

The National Service Scheme unit and TNAU Hospital, Coimbatore have organized a special programme “Care for Heart” – an interactive session with Dr.Rajpal K.Abhaichand, Interventional Cardiologist of Sri GKNM Hospital, Coimbatore on 7.10.09 at the University premises. Dr. V. Jayabal, Dean (Agriculture) welcomed the gathering and Dr. P. Subbian, Registrar offered his felicitations.



30th Convocation, 2009



The **thirtieth** Convocation of 2009 in a grand manner. His Excellency, the Governor of Tamil Nadu and Chancellor of TNAU, Thiru. Surjit Singh Barnala presided over the Convocation and awarded 26 prizes and medals to 22 outstanding UG, PG and Ph.D graduates. In this Convocation totally 691 students have been awarded various degrees. Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture, Government of Tamil Nadu and Pro-Chancellor, Thiru Veerapandi S. Arumugam announced Endowment prizes. Dr. Mylswamy Annadurai, Project Director, Chandrayaan, ISRO, Bangalore was the Chief Guest of the occasion and delivered the Convocation address. Dr. P. Murugesu Boopathi, Vice-Chancellor delivered the welcome address.

The programme was inaugurated by our Vice Chancellor Dr. P. Murugesu Boopathi. Dr. Rajpal, in his special address underscored the importance of preventive health care for heart. The programme was graced by University officers, staff and students of our University.

Farm students' experience on lab to land and land to lab

The final year B.Sc (Agri) students of AC&RI, Madurai were placed in villages under Rural Agricultural Work experience (RAWE) programme for a period of one month recently. The students learnt the practical experience directly from farming community in agriculture and allied fields in addition to learning about their culture, customs, indigenous agricultural practices, rural institutions and the TN-IAMWARM related activities being carried out in



the villages. As part of the programme, the students have also organized the extension activities viz., exhibition, demonstrations and campaigns etc. The students have organized an exhibition at the campus on the completion of the program to showcase their learning from farming community. The Dean, Dr. K. Vairavan, inaugurated the exhibition and evaluated the students' performance and felicitated the students.

Passport Campaign in TNAU

The Directorate of Students' Welfare organized a Passport Campaign on 14.11.2009 to facilitate students to get their passport processed rapidly. This was a maiden attempt to motivate students to opt for higher education in foreign universities through regular or dual degree programs besides, overseas employment. Thiru. B. Balamurugan, Passport Officer, Regional Passport Office, Coimbatore, provided all round support for the successful conduct of the event. About 150 students have benefited from the passport campaign. They are expected to get their passports within 2 months after the regular verification procedures.

Awareness program on swine flu



Awareness programme on "Swine flu" was conducted recently at HC&RI, Periyakulam to the NSS volunteers. In this programme, Dr. S. P. Ramamoorthy, M.D. (Gen. Med.) presented the impacts of Swine flu and distributed leaflets regarding spread and safety measures to be adopted. Finally, he conducted quiz programme to the students on the knowledge of swine flu disease.

UK International officer visits DSW

Ms. Nila Rashidova, Senior International Officer, University of East Anglia, Norwich, England, visited the Directorate of Students' Welfare, to sensitize students' interest to pursue their higher education in UK. The team discussed with Dr. T. Rathakrishnan,

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Director (SW), Dr. Hariharan, Prof. (English) and Dr. K.S. Subramanian, Prof. (SW) on various issues relating to possible educational collaborations particularly in the fields of Biotechnology, Bioinformatics and Environmental Sciences. Dr. K. Kumaravadivel, Associate Professor (Biotech) served as a facilitator of this event.

Exhibition on RAWE program

Under the Rural Agricultural Work Experience (RAWE) 2009-2010 programme, The Final year B.Sc.(Ag.) students, AC&RI, Coimbatore were placed in Coimbatore, Dindigul, Salem, Dharmapuri, Krishnagiri and Namakkal district.

Students involved and learnt the activities of Agricultural Department, attended meetings, monthly workshop and participated in the demonstrations apart from visiting the ART / MLT/ FLD fields. An exhibition regarding the RAWE programme was conducted by the students after completion of the programme at AC & RI, Coimbatore-3. Our Vice-Chancellor, Dr. P. Murugesu Boopathi, inaugurated the exhibition and appreciated the students.

TNAU commercialises solar crop drier

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University has entered into a MoU with M/s Libra Innovation Pvt Ltd, Chennai, to commercialize the Solar Crop Drier (tunnel type). The MoU was signed by Dr. P. Murugesu Boopathi, Vice-Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University and Mr. Amaranth Miranda, Director, Libra Innovations.

Talking about the utility of the solar crop drier, Dr. R. Ganesan, Director,



Agri-Business Development TNAU said, the solar crop drier has developed by Dr. R. Mahendiran, Department of Bioenergy, Agricultural Engineering College and Research Institute, TNAU can be used for drying a wide range of crops. Rosemary, Coconut, Chillies are few among them.

Signing the MoU, the Vice-Chancellor said that the technologies developed in TNAU are being commercialized under the Agri-Business Incubator-TNAU. The solar crop drier could be of great use to the farming community. This protected drying technology prevents the crop produce from dust and excessive moisture due to rains. It also ensures uniform drying.

Dr. S. Santhana Bosu, Dean,

First 'Graduation Day')))



The first batch Students of Diploma in Agriculture who have passed - out during the Year 2008-09 were awarded with degree certificates in a

grand function celebrated at the Institute of Agriculture, Regional Research Station Campus Aruppukottai on 13.11.2009.

Dr.T.Rathakrishnan, Director of Students' Welfare, presided over the function and distributed the degree certificates to the students. Earlier, in his welcome address, Dr.R.Durai Singh, Principal of the institute pointed out that 100 percent placement of students in the private sector was effected for the first batch of students. Dr.K.Balakrishnan, the Co-ordinator of the Diploma in Agriculture stated that the institute was started during the year 2008 and emulated as a model institute for other campuses, Dr. S. Murali Krishnasamy, Programme Co-ordinator KVK, Virudhunagar district, Professor Dr. P. Vivekannandan, Professor Dr. U. Solaiappan have felicitated the outgoing students. Professor Dr. K.A.Jeyakumar proposed a vote of thanks.

Agricultural Engineering College and Research Institute, TNAU noted that the maximum temperature obtained inside the solar crop drier is in the range of 57-60°C which reduce the time of drying drastically.

VC's visit to Horticultural Research Station, Thadiyankudisai



Our Vice-Chancellor, Dr.P.Murugesha Boopathi, the Dean, HC&RI, Coimbatore visited Horticultural Research Station, Thadiyankudisai recently. The Vice-Chancellor interacted with the lower pulney planters and he assured the planters that the required quantities of disease free hill banana suckers and mandarin orange grafts would be produced and supplied through Horticultural Research Station, Thadiyankudisai by 2010-2011. He further emphasized the importance of soil analysis in the lower pulney region and assured the availability of soil testing facilities. The Vice-Chancellor visited the laboratory complex, trainees hostel, experimental fields, nursery block and structures on protected cultivation at this station.

USA scientist visits SWMRI, Thanjavur



Dr. Dan Olk, Scientist, United

States, Department of Agriculture, USA visited the Soil and Water Management Research Institute, Thanjavur on 12.11.09. He discussed with the scientists about the ongoing research activities, visited on going field experiments demonstrations and extension activities of SWMRI. He also visited the on farm trials and interacted with the group of farmers about the benefits of SRI and Green manure intercropping. He also interacted with the progressive farmers of IRRI mega project about the Site Specific Nutrient Management system and their extent of adoption.

Assistant Director RCOF visits SWMRI, Thanjavur

Shri. P.Ravindranath, Assistant Director, Regional Centre of Organic Farming, Bangalore visited the Soil and Water Management Research Institute and Model Organic Farm (MOF) on 11.11.09. He monitored the progress of ongoing model Organic Farm. He discussed with the scientists of SWMRI for strengthening the Organic Farming research activities. He suggested live fencing may be established in the boundary of entire model Organic Farm.

TNAU scientists visits Bihar cane fields

As per the MoU signed between HPCL and TNAU, a team of scientists under the leadership of Dr. S. Natarajan, Professor & Nodal Officer, RS& GIS centre, Department of SS&AC, TNAU visited Bihar from 8th to 12th November, 2009 for preparing action plan for seed nursery programme and technologies for increasing sugarcane production and also to suggest on the development of model farms at mills sites and imposing modern technologies of sugarcane production. The team includes Dr.T. Jayaraj, Director, TRRI, Aduthurai; Dr.S.Jeyaraman, Director, CSCMS;

Dr.B. Rajendran, P&H. SRS, Cuddalore; Dr.D.Packiraj, P&H, SRS, Sirugamani; Dr.R.Sudagar, Asst. Professor (PB&G).

ITP-TNDRIP Inaugural function

The ITP-TNDRIP Inaugural function was held recently in main campus Coimbatore. Our Vice-Chancellor Dr.P.Murugesha Boopathi, released the ITP-WTC, TNAU *TNDRIP Initiative* project profile in the presence of Dr. R. Vijayakumar, Ph.D, I.A.S., Principal Secretary to Government, Planning and Development Department, Government of Tamil Nadu and Dr. Madar Samad, Regional Director, South Asia, IWMI, Hyderabad.

Speaking on the occasion, the Vice-Chancellor said that to match the food demand, we have to adopt novel strategies like micro irrigation to produce more food per drop of water and per unit of land.

He further said that the possibility for fertigation was another important merit of drip or micro irrigation. The drawbacks in volatilization, leaching, nutrient fixation as well as soil deterioration are overcome in fertigation and hence, the fertilizer use efficiency was increased by more than 30 percent.

Seminar on 'Role of SHG in Women Empowerment through Agribusiness Ventures'

The Department of Agricultural and



Rural Management, CARDS, TNAU has organized a two day

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seminar on "Role of SHG in Women Empowerment through Agribusiness Ventures" held during 10th and 11th November, 2009.

The inaugural function of the two days seminar was held in Coimbatore on 10th November 2009. Dr.P.Subbian, Registrar, TNAU inaugurated the seminar and Dr.N.Ajjan, Director (CARDS), TNAU presided over the function. The members of SHGs were exposed to various business opportunities that could be taken up by them as agribusiness ventures, gained knowledge about the institutions involved in giving training and guidance, role of SHGs in women empowerment, etc. 35 members from 20 self help groups participated in that event.

Training on water management

A one week training programme from 21.10.2009 to 27.10.2009 on "Water Management" was given to 50 farmers at at Punjai Thuraiyampalayam, T.N.Palayam. The farmers were exposed to different aspects on water management, drip irrigation layout and fertigation techniques through lecture cum demonstrations. The



farmers were also taken to TNAU research stations to see the field experiments and also to Coimbatore to attend Farmers day exhibition.

Training on Eco-friendly and Cost effective IPM in rice

Four days residential training programme on Eco-friendly and Cost effective IPM in rice was conducted to progressive farmers of different farmers club of 10 districts of Tamil Nadu between 11-11-09 and 14-11-09 at KVK, Needamangalam. During the inaugural function, Dr. T. Senguttuvan, Programme Coordinator welcomed the gathering. Dr. B. Chandrasekaran, Professor and Head, Soil Water Management Research Institute, Kattuthottam, Thanjavur inaugurated the training and delivered the presidential address.

Th. V.A. Ragavan, District Development Manager, NABARD, Thiruvavur delivered special address and Th. S. Anbalagan, Joint Director of Agriculture, Thiruvavur delivered key note address. Dr. V.G. Mathirajan, Assistant Professor (Entomology) and training coordinator proposed vote of thanks.

During this training programme, hands on training on various aspects viz., identification of pests and natural enemies, diagnosis of damage symptom, IPM concepts,



assessment of Economic Threshold Level and decision making on pesticide spraying, behavioral approaches in pest management, diseases and role of *Pseudomonas* in disease management, integrated rat management, agronomical and nutritional interventions in pest management, pesticide poisoning

Training on production and post harvest technology of carnation >>>



A growers training on production and post harvest technology of carnation was conducted at Director

of Horticulture, Briyant Park, from 22.10.2009 to 23.10.2009. About 40 carnation growers participated and

get benefited in this programme. Dr.J.Suresh, Associate Professor & Head, Horticultural Research Station, Kodaikanal welcomed the gathering. Dr.M.Jawaharlal, Professor and Head, Department of Floriculture and Landscaping and consortium Principal Investigator (CPI) of the Project delivered a lecture on "Latest production technologies in carnation". Video demonstration on various technologies was also organized during the training programme. All the queries raised relating to carnation production, post harvest techniques and marketing were clarified during the field visit. Finally the vote of thanks was proposed by the Assistant Director of Horticulture, Kodaikanal.

and antidote, bio-rationales in pest management were explained by different experts of our university.

Training on 'Women Empowerment through Handicrafts Making'



A training programme on 'Handicrafts making' was conducted at KVK, Needamangalam recently. A total of forty farm women from different parts of the district participated in the training programme. The training was inaugurated by Smt. Rani Sekar, District Panchayat counselor. Dr.T.Senguttuvan, Professor and Head, KVK, Needamangalam welcomed the gathering. The trainees were imparted with making fur toys, ornamental jewels, dry flower making, glass painting and embossing painting during the four days of training.

Field day on pearl millet

A field day on pearl millet was conducted at Shanmugapuram



village Karamadai block on 11.11.2009 under front line demonstration on pearl millet. It was organized by Department of Millets, CPBG, and AICPMIP, ICAR, New Delhi. In this function more than 150 farmers were participated and discussed about the production

technologies of CO (cu) 9 cumbu variety. Dr.P.Veerabhadhiran, Professor and Head, Department of Millets, CPBG, TNAU, Coimbatore chaired the function and gave a speech on the importance of nutritious aspects of pearl millet. Dr.P.Sumathi, Assoc.Professor, Department of Millets, CPBG, emphasized the special features of CO (cu) 9 cumbu variety. Dr.G.Karthikeyan, Assoc. Professor (Pathology) and Dr.K.Ponnusamy Professor, (Agronomy) explained about the production and protection technologies of the cumbu cultivation.

A booklet regarding the improved cultivation practices of Ragi and the dishes that could be prepared using Ragi was given to all the farmers as a complement. Finally Dr.S.Manoharan, Professor (Small millets) proposed vote of thanks.

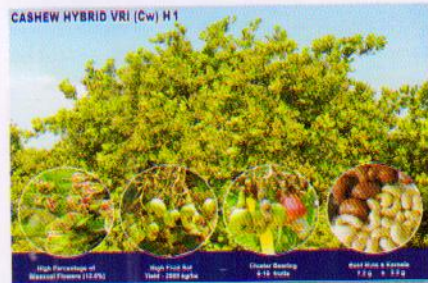
Training programme to school teachers on "Agricultural techniques"

Two one day training programme on "Agricultural techniques" was conducted to the primary and high school teachers of Ammapet block of Thanjavur district at Soil and Water Management Research Institute, Thanjavur on 23.11.2009 and 27.11.2009. Totally 120 selected teachers of various schools were participated in the two trainings. Dr. B. Chandrasekaran, Professor and Head, explained the various strategies on water management, Water recourses of Tamil Nadu, various schemes implementing under Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, System of Rice Intensification, Drum seeding techniques and integrated water management practices. Other important aspects viz., soil health management, micro irrigation systems, soil sampling method and analytical procedure of soil and water sampling, grafting of horticultural crops, tree cultivation techniques and Organic farming

were also dealt in the training programme.

Cashew hybrid as VRI (Cw) H 1

The cashew hybrid released from



Regional Research Station, Vridhachalam as VRI (Cw) H 1 during November 2009 is high yielding and suitable for cashew growing districts of Tamil Nadu. It possesses the properties of high yield, bold nut, export quality kernels and easy to peel testa. The trees can be grown as rainfed and suitable for red sandy and sandy coastal areas of Tamil Nadu. It has a yield potential of 2900 kg/ ha. The trees have tolerance to tea mosquito bug under field conditions.

Awareness campaign on mealy bug in horticultural crops

An awareness campaign against mealy bug in Horticultural Crops (Tapioca, Vegetables and Fruits) was conducted jointly by Tapioca and Castor Research Station, Yethapur



and Assistant Director of Horticulture of Vazhappadi block at Thirumanoor village recently. Dr.V.Palanisamy, Professor and Head and Dr.S.Venkatesan, Professor (Entomology) of Tapioca and castor Research Station, Yethapur presided and offered their

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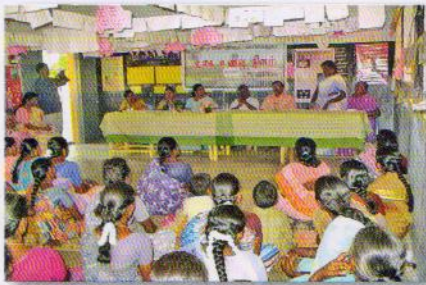
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technical suggestions as solution for the outbreak.

Salem and Namakkal District Agricultural Market Committee Chairman Thiru.K.A.Palani presided over the function and indicated about the importance of this campaign.

Celebration of world food day – 2009

Home Science College and Research Institute, Madurai



celebrated the World Food Day on the theme “Achieving food security during crisis” on 20.10.09. Dr.P. Banumathi, Dean (Home Science), presided over the function and highlighted the need to strike the balance between food production

and distribution to achieve nutrition security. Dr.K. Vairavan, Dean, Agricultural College and Research Institute, Madurai was the Chief Guest. Nearly fifty participants inclusive of scientists, students and self help group members attended the function. Earlier Dr.S. Amutha, Professor and Head, Department of Food Science and Nutrition welcomed the gathering. Dr.G. Hemalatha, Associate Professor, proposed vote of thanks.

TNAU Scientist's participation in International Seminar

Dr.I.Muthuchamy, Professor (Soil and water Conservation Engineering), Coimbatore has participated and presented a paper entitled “Mountain Hydrology and its Significance to Low land water Supply at the International Seminar on “Sustainable Management of Water and Land Resources” held at the Christian University of Indonesia and Palangka Raya University of Central Kalimantan in Indonesia from 4th to 10th October, 2009.

Awareness campaign to the Namakkal farmers

An awareness campaign on mealy bug was held at KVK, Lathivaadi on 13.11.2009. More than 200 progressive farmers involved in tapioca and mulberry cultivation from Vennandur, Rasipuram and Namakkal blocks have participated.

Scientists from Tapioca and Castor Research Station, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Yethapur, President Namakkal taluk sago and Starch Producers Association, Department of Agriculture, Horticulture, Sericulture and scientists from KVK, Lathivaadi were involved in this campaign.

Namakkal district Collector Th.U.Sagayam, I.A.S., inaugurated the awareness campaign and emphasized the preventive measures farmers should adopt in an integrated approach to control the further entry of mealy bug.

The sago serve Managing Director / special Officer, Salem Th.Harmander Singh, I.A.S., has suggested that the alternate hosts of mealy bugs including weeds (Poly phagous) have to be removed mechanically from the mealy bug infested area.

Training on 'Improved methods of rice cultivation' >>>

A sponsored residential training programme on 'Improved methods of rice cultivation' was organized for four days from 02.11.09 to 05.11.09 at KVK, Needamangalam to the rice farmers. A total of 30 farmers belonging to farmers clubs of NABARD from 15 districts have participated in the training. The training was inaugurated on 02.11.09 by Th. M. Chandrasekaran, District Collector, Thiruvarur. Th. V. A. Raghavan, DDM, NABARD, Thiruvarur and Th.Pandiyam, Lead Bank Manager, Thiruvarur delivered special address. Earlier Dr.T.Senguttuvan, Professor and Head, KVK, Needamangalam welcomed the gathering. Dr.S.Anbumani, Assistant Professor (Agronomy) proposed vote of thanks. During the



four days training programme, the farmers were taught with improved methods of rice cultivation such as SRI, direct sowing with drum seeder, mechanical transplanting

etc., besides field demonstration of preparation of mat nursery, drum seedling, cono weeding, LCC usage and preparation of nursery for transplanter.

In the technical session Dr.V.Palanisamy, Professor and Head and Dr.S.Venkatesan, Professor (Entomology) of Tapioca and Castor Research station, Yethapur emphasized on the impact of rainfall on mealy bug management (Castostrophic effect) and all the interacted approach (village concept) to contain the mealy bug in a war footing so as to eliminate and protect the Agriculture and Horticulture crops from mealy bug in the ensuing season for adoption.

Awareness campaign on mealy bug in crops

An awareness campaign against mealy bug in tapioca, papaya and mulberry crops was conducted

jointly by Tapioca and Castor Research Station, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Yethapur and department of Agriculture and Horticulture of Salem District on 14.10.2009 at Mottur and D.Perumapalayam Villages.

A team of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University scientists from Tapioca and Castor Research Station, yethapur and Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Sandhiyur and Officials of Dept. of agriculture, Salem district, inspected the fields

Dr.S.Venkatesan, Professor (Entomology) explained to the progressive growers, of tapioca, mulberry and jasmine about the



mealy bug distribution from papaya to tapioca and its spread in mulberry through wind and ant transmission and also their control measures. At the end, Dr.V.Palanisamy, Professor and Head distributed the printed leaflets for tapioca mealy bug control to all the farmers and suggested them to adopt as an integrated package of practice.

IMPORTANT VISITORS

- Deputy Director General, ICAR, New Delhi, visited Directorate of Extension Education, Coimbatore between 2.11.09 and 8.11.09.
- Dr.V.Venkatasubramanian, ADG (Ag. Extn.), ICAR, New Delhi, visited Directorate of Extension Education, Coimbatore between 3.11.09 and 8.11.09.
- Th.V.V.Sadamate, Advisor (Agri), Planning Commission, New Delhi, visited Directorate of Extension Education, Coimbatore between 7.11.09 and 8.11.09.
- Dr.Kiran D.Kokate, DDG (Ag.Extn), ICAR, New Delhi and Dr.Sadam Ate, Planning Commission Member, GOI, New Delhi visited Dept. of Biotechnology, Coimbatore on 8.11.09.
- Dr.John French, MD, In crops Enterprise Hub, UK and a team of administrators from Univ. of Essex, UK. Visited Dept. Biotechnology, Coimbatore on 16.11.09.
- Dr.P.G.Chengappa, Vice-Chancellor, UAS, GKVK, Bangalore, visited Dept. of Biotechnology, Coimbatore on 17.11.09.
- Dr.K.G.Radhakrishnan, Member Secretary, CACP, Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India, New Delhi visited Directorate of CARDS, Coimbatore between 19.11.09 and 21.11.09.
- Th.S.Mahendra, Chairman – CACP, visited Directorate of CARDS, Coimbatore between 20.11.09 and 21.11.09.
- Dr.S.Ranganathan, Chairman, Centre for Cauvery Delta, Development Studies, Thanjavur visited Office of ACRC, Coimbatore between 23.11.09 and 24.11.09.
- Dr.Cristel Munster, ICRAI-Nairobi Kenya & Dr.Iiyama Miyuki visited FC&RI, Mettupalayam between 26.11.09 and 28.11.09.
- Mohinder S.Mudahan, World Bank, Washington, Dr.Croel, NAIP-ICAR and Dr.Yeduraju, NAIP-ICAR visited Directorate of Research, Coimbatore between 28.11.09 and 29.11.09.

NEW SCHEMES

Name of the Scheme	PI	Amount (lakh Rs.)	Funding Agency
Development of ICT tools/ technology towards an interactive multimedia agricultural advisory system	Dr.E.Vadivel, Professor (Hort.)	321.54	NAIP-ICT-AAS
Project on Establishment of Business Planning and Development (BPD) unit at TNAU, Coimbatore-3	Dr.R.Ganesan, Director (ABD)	234.65	NAIP
GOI – Central Sector scheme on Quality control arrangements on seeds	Dr.K.Ramamoorthy Special Officer (Seeds)	57 .00	GOI
Pre and Post harvest technology for moringa to enhance the shelf life and value addition	Dr.N.Varadharaju, Prof. & Head, PHTC	38.51	Ministry of Food Processing Industries, New Delhi
“Utilization of fly ash as a source of silicon and potassium for mitigating the biotic and abiotic stress in rice”	Dr.P.Balasubramaniam, Associate Professor (SS&AC) AEC&RI, Kumulur	27.50	DST
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