

# TNAU NEWS



## TAMILNADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY NEWS LETTER

Patron : Dr. P. MURUGESA BOOPATHI - Vice Chancellor

Editor : Dr. R. BALASARASWATHI - Director (i/c), Planning and Monitoring

### OUR NEW VICE-CHANCELLOR )))

Prof. Dr. P. Murugesha Boopathi has assumed charge as Vice-Chancellor of TNAU on 4<sup>th</sup> of June, 2009 for a period of three years. He was born in 1950 at Thiruvandipatti, Salem. He graduated in Agriculture at the Agricultural College and Research Institute, Coimbatore in 1972.

As a Professor he has offered several courses for Undergraduate, Post Graduate and Ph.D. programmes. He has guided several M.Sc. and Ph.D. theses research. He has

motivated students by offering special coaching classes which enabled many students to win ICAR fellowships in Soil Science & Agricultural Chemistry.

Dr.P.Murugesha Boopathi is an eminent researcher, who has developed the "Decision Support System for Integration of Fertilizer Recommendation" (DSSIFER) software and also Soil Health Card. He is responsible for formulating fertilizer prescriptions for major field crops such as rice, cholam, ragi, maize, cotton tobacco, groundnut and wheat and also for horticultural crops such as potato, carrot, cabbage and cauliflower. So far he has handled 19 research projects funded by International and National funding agencies worth several crores of rupees. He has developed modern technologies for Integrated Plant

Nutrient Supply System (IPNS).He is a pioneer in Nitrate Pollution studies in the soils of intensively cultivated areas



in Coimbatore District. He has published more than 20 international and 45 national scientific articles and also compiled and published more than 25 books.

Prof. P. Murugesha Boopathi is a good Extension worker. He was responsible for extending facilities to farmers for soil and water analysis at concessional rates. He has prepared several technical bulletins/pamphlets/leaflets on Soil Test Crop Response (STCR) studies, for creating awareness among the farming community about the importance of soil health. He has prepared and distributed the TNAU Soil Health Card to the farmers at the cost of Rs.10/- per card for the past four years and so far distributed nearly 33,000 LCC (Leaf Colour Chart) to the Department of Agriculture for distribution among the farmers for Nitrogen Management in Rice.

Prof.P.Murugesha Boopathi has made invaluable contribution for Institutional Development of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University. For instance, he was instrumental for obtaining the Agricultural Research & Information System (ARIS) project funded by ICAR to the tune of Rs.50 lakhs. Further he is instrumental in establishing Soil Testing Labs in Southern Regional KVKs (Krishi Vigyan Kendras).

Until now, he was working as Director, Planning and Monitoring in TNAU and thereby served as an outstanding Liaison Officer between the Government and TNAU in making Government policies. He has served in various capacities such as State Vice-President, Tamil Nadu Agricultural Graduates Association, State General Secretary, Tamil Nadu Research Officers' Association & Tamil Nadu Agricultural University Teachers' Association; Vice-President, Indian Society of Soil Science, Coimbatore; Office bearer in Indian Society of Agricultural Resource Management and Indian Society of Soil Science. He is a life member for more than 9 Professional Societies. He has visited 11 countries viz., USA, Israel, Australia, France, Japan, Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, China and South Korea on various official assignments.



**Free dental camp by NSS unit of AC&RI, Coimbatore**



NSS programme officers, Dr. K. Bhuvaneshwari, Dr. V.K. Parthiban and Dr. J. Auxilia. Dr. K. Vanagamudi, Dean (AC&RI) appreciated the efforts and encouraged the students' participation.

**Refresher course for Assistant Agricultural Officers**

The refresher course for the newly recruited Assistant Agricultural Officers jointly organized by the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University and Department of Horticulture and Plantation Crops under NHM - HRD was conducted at Horticultural College and Research Institute, Periyakulam from 06.04.09 to 28.4.09. Dr. B. Chandramohan, I.A.S. Director of Horticulture and Plantation Crops inaugurated the programme for two batches with 64 officers from different districts of Tamil Nadu. During the refresher course,

trainings were given on advanced technologies in crop management and plant protection in horticultural crops, information and communication technology, management, extension services and schemes in the department. As part of the training programme, exposure visit to various centres of TNAU, State Departments, progressive farmers' fields and industries was also organized.

**Tree planting by TNAU students**

Thirty students of first year NSS programme participated in the tree planting programme organized in Central Jail premises on 24.04.09. The programme was presided over



by Mr. R. Nataraj, Director General of Police (Prison). Hundred coconut seedlings were planted by the

A free dental camp was organized on 21.04.2009 by the NSS unit of AC&RI, Coimbatore and Sakthi Dental Clinic, Vadavalli as student welfare programme. Two hundred and fifty first year students studying in eight different programmes of TNAU, Coimbatore have participated.

Dr. S. Jai Karthik, MDS, Dental Surgeon and Periodontist, Sakthi Dental Clinic explained students about the general dental care and health. He has given useful tips on good oral hygiene and indicated problems associated with teeth and gum. The students underwent free dental checkup by the dentists, Dr. Jai Karthik and Dr. Vijesh. The programme was organized by the

**Honourable Agriculture Minister visits wood house farm at Ooty**



The Honorable Minister of Agriculture, Th. Veerapandi S. Arumugam and Dr. B. Chandra Mohan IAS, Director of Horticulture have also visited the woodhouse farm of Institute of Commercial Horticulture on 23.05.2009 and observed the ongoing research activities in mushroom production, medicinal and aromatic plants and also temperate fruits. The Professor and Head, Institute of Commercial Horticulture explained about the establishment of ISRO project lab in woodhouse for a collaborative research with Tamil Nadu Agricultural University.



## World Bank team's visit to e-velanmai scheme >>>



The e-velanmai scheme operated at Aliyar sub basin under TN-IAMWARM project was visited by Dr.Anju Gaur, World Bank expert on

2nd April 2009 in the presence of Dr.M.V.Ranghaswamy, Director, WTC and all Heads of the Line Departments of Agriculture.

The expert team availed discussion with the project scientist Dr.C.Karthikeyan, Associate Professor, Department of Agricultural and Rural Management, TNAU about the functioning of the e-velanmai model of technology transfer. The farmers who have benefited by the scheme gave their feedback and revealed that they were able to practice scientific farming and establish direct linkages with the TNAU scientists for technical advice through the e-velanmai model of extension. Farmers also felt that they were able to control the crop pests effectively and achieve relatively higher returns in terms of yield and quality. The expert team suggested to have a website for documenting the technology transfer activities so as to upscale the benefits to a larger number of farmers.

students. The programme was organized by Mr.M.Yoganathan, an eco-warrior with the support of Mr. P. Govindarajan, Superintendent, Central Jail, Coimbatore. Dr.K.Bhuvanewari and Dr.V.K.Parthiban the NSS programme officers organized the student activities and participated in the programme.

### Open and Distance Learning on medicinal crops

The Open and Distance Learning course on Medicinal crops was organized for the first time at Horticultural Research Station, Pechiparai for a period of six months and the valedictory function was held at Rotary Community Centre, Nagercoil. A total of 78 candidates of college students, self help groups, farmers and herbal dealers, traditional healers and herbal enthusiasts have successfully completed the course and obtained certificates. During the function, the course completion certificates for the qualified candidates were distributed.

Dr.Chella Kumar Rose, Principal,

Scott Christian College, presided Research Station, Pechiparai spoke on job opportunities for the Open and Distance Learning course seekers.



over the function and delivered the presidential address. Dr.G.Selvarj, Director, Open and Distance Learning, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University was the Chief Guest and graced the function with guest address and also issued certificates to the candidates. Dr.K.Selvaraj, Associate Professor, Open and Distance Learning introduced the course to the audience. Dr.M.Jayasekhara, Professor and Head, Horti

The participants during their feed back requested the Director to start a diploma course on Medicinal Crops to continue their studies and it was favourably considered by the Director. The course coordinator Dr.R.Richard Kennedy, Associate Professor (Hort.) welcomed the gathering, while Mr.A.Michael, representative of the batch proposed vote of thanks.

### CSISA Launching Programme

IRRI-TNAU-TRRI Collaborative





Mega Project on "Cereal Systems Initiatives for South Asia" (CSISA) funded by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and USAID was launched at New Delhi on 29.04.09, which is going to be operated at Tamil Nadu Rice Research Institute, Aduthurai representing the rice-rice system of South India. CSISA is a IRRI (Philippines) –CIMMYT (Mexico)-TNAU (India) collaborative project involving India and Bangladesh.

Dr.S.Jebaraj, Director, TRRI, Aduthurai attended the launching programme at New Delhi and also participated in the discussion of Objectives 1, 2 & 3 from 23rd to 28th April, 2009.

**Winter school by Department of ARM**

ICAR had sanctioned an amount of Rs 1.75 lakh for the conduct of the Winter School training programme

on "Methodological Issues in Impact Analysis of Agricultural and Rural Development Project" at the Department of Agricultural and Rural Management, CARDS, TNAU likely to be held during Dec 2 -22, 2009. Dr. C.Sekhar, Professor and Head, Department of Agricultural and Rural Management is the Course Director for the Training Program and Dr.K.Uma, Dr.C.Karthikeyan, Th. P.Balaji and C.Muralidharan, faculties of ARM are the Course Co-directors for the 21 days winter school training programme. It focuses mainly on various concepts, principles and methodological issues related to impact assessment of Agricultural and Rural Development projects. The major projects covered are National Horticulture Mission, IAMWARM, Watershed

Development and other major agricultural projects and its Impact and evaluation methods, Statistical and mathematical tools for evaluation, Design and models of evaluation etc., It will be offered to 25 scientists selected from the State Agricultural Universities/ Deemed Universities/ ICAR institutes for their recent technological and career upgradation.

**TNAU inks MoU with IRRI**

A Memorandum of Understanding was executed between the Director



**Empowerment of farm women in maize hybrid seed production >>>**

A field day was organized in the village of A.Kumarapuram, Vilathikulam block, Thoothukudi district on 29-04-09 to celebrate the success of maize hybrid seed production by the farm women folk. In view of the importance of maize crop in dryland tracts, a training programme on maize hybrid seed production was conducted in four

villages of Thoothukudi district recently as a joint venture by Agricultural College & Research Institute, Killikulam and Dept. of Biotechnology, New Delhi in support with the Dept. of Agriculture, Tamil Nadu. The parental seeds of TNAU released hybrid maize CoH(M) 5 were supplied to selected farm women

along with inputs for conducting demonstration trial. Dr. B.Selvi, principal investigator of this programme welcomed the gathering and appreciated the farm women for their cooperation and hard work which made this transfer of technology fruitful. Mrs. Vijayalakshmi, a successful farmer in raising maize hybrid seeds shared her field experience encouraging the other farmers to take up hybrid seed production. Dr. P.Vivekanandan, the Dean, Agricultural College and Research Institute, Killikulam, presided over the function.. Mr.S.Srinivasan, Assistant Director of Agriculture, Vilathikulam expressed his note of appreciation on the keen learning skills of farm women and also ensured that technical help and marketing guidance would be given to interested farmers regarding maize hybrid seed production. Ms.T.Bharathi Meena, Senior Research Fellow proposed the vote of thanks.





## ICH, TNAU won prize in flower carnival at Ooty )))

Ooty's most fabulous flower carnival, 113<sup>th</sup> flower show was organized from 22-24<sup>th</sup> May 2009 at the Botanical gardens, Ooty, wherein, the Institute of Commercial Horticulture of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University has exhibited a stall in order to disseminate their research activities and cut flower arrangement techniques to the visitors from various places. The research outputs from various disciplines of Horticulture like vegetables, fruits, cut flowers, medicinal, aromatic and mushroom besides organic farming techniques have been showcased in the stall with perfect blending in an aesthetic way. The Honorable minister of Agriculture Th. Veerapandi S. Arumugam, Honorable minister of Khadi Th. K. Ramachandran, Chief Secretary of Tamil Nadu Th. K.S. Sripathi IAS, Agricultural Production Commissioner and Secretary Th. K. Nanda Kishore IAS, Dr. B. Chandra Mohan, IAS Director of Horticulture



along with other bureaucrats have visited the stall and Dr. N. Selvaraj Professor and Head, Institute of Commercial Horticulture has explained the concept of stall arrangements and ongoing research activities in different arena of horticulture especially about cut flower production and trade. The stall of the Institute of Commercial

Horticulture, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University was adjudged as the best stall and given with first prize for its excellent display. The Professor and Head, Institute of Commercial Horticulture and his crew received the first prize from the Honorable minister of Khadi Th.K. Ramachandran.

for Program Planning and Communications, IRRI, Philippines and the Registrar, TNAU, Coimbatore on 25.05.09 to carry out research activities on Crop and Resource management practices for sustainable future cereal based systems of the project, Cereal System Initiative for South Asia (CSISA) at TRRI, Aduthurai.

### Cash award for CRS, Srivilliputtur

Cotton Research Station, Srivilliputtur has been selected as one of the Best Ten Centres in India to receive a Citation and a Cash Award of Rs.10,000/- as a token of appreciation and gratitude to the hard working scientists by the Project Coordinator, All India Coordinated Cotton Improvement Project.

### ADG visits Forage fields of TNAU

Dr. S.N. Shukla, Assistant Director



General (Food and Fodder Crops), Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi has visited the Forage fields on 26.04.2009. He is very much fascinated by the holy alliance of longer, broader and softer leaves contemplated in the recently released Guinea grass CO(GG)3. He has also given laudatory references to the elite cultures of Cumbu Napier Hybrid Grass and Lucerne evolved out of poly cross nursery. The poly net house erected amidst the forage fields has attracted him and he expressed that this is first the of its kind in India.

### Training programs by Centre of Excellence in Bio fuels

As a part of technology transfer, the centre has organized training to the stakeholders like farmers, entrepreneurs, biodiesel companies and scientists. The training Programme was inaugurated by Dr.Santha Krishnan, Registrar, TNAU recently. It was presided by Dr.A.Sampathrajan, Dean, AEC&RI, TNAU, Coimbatore. Nearly 225 farmers have participated in the training program from different parts of Tamil Nadu. During the training program, the farmers were highlighted about the Jatropha cultivation, management and Biodiesel production technologies.

The centre also has organized two trainers training of two days

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duration in the recent past at Centre of Excellence in Biofuels. Totally 33 trainees were benefited in this

scientists were brought into industrial visit to KTK Enterprises, Pollachi. They were exposed to seed

training programme. The trainees were exposed to nursery and Biodiesel production technology also. Further three day duration of scientist training has also been organized from 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> March 2009. Nine scientists from different institutes have participated. The

and nursery technologies and oil estimation techniques using High Profile Liquid Chromatography (HPLC). They were given hands on training in Biodiesel production using 5 litres and 250 litres transesterification units.

Under the Tamil Nadu Government project "Promotion and Cultivation of Jatropha in Tamil Nadu", the centre also organized seven farmers training, one AAO/AO training and one NGO's training at different locations.

**NEW SCHEMES**

Name of the Scheme	PI	Amount (lakh Rs.)	Funding Agency
Evaluation and optimization of the specialty water soluble fertilizers 28:28:0 and Gromore Sulphur for higher productivity in Sugarcane, Banana and Maize crops under drip fertigation system	Dr.S.Mahendran Chief Scientist	4.98	M/s.Coromandal Fertilizers Limited
Field Evaluation of Alwin Wonder and Alwin Top in Rice	Dr.S.Vincent Assoc. Prof. (Crop Physio)	2.00	M/s. Sree Ramcides Chemicals Private Limited, Chennai
ICAR fully financed scheme for regular voluntary center for conducting Plant pathology trials at AC&RI, Killikulam	Dr.E.G.Ebenezar Professor (Plant Pathology)	0.10	ICAR

**IMPORTANT VISITORS**

- Dr.Raj Gupta, Coordinator Delivery, CIMMYT- India on 15.05.09 to TRRI, Aduthurai
- Dr. Ken D Sayre, Agronomist, CIMMYT-Mexico on 15.05.09 to TRRI, Aduthurai
- Dr.Balasubramanian Ramani, Scientist & Advisor, Leibniz University of Hannover, Germany between 17.5.09 and 19.5.09.
- Dr.B.Prithiviraj, Professor, Nova Scotia Agrl. College, Canada between 25.5.09 to 26.5.09.
- Dr.V.Balaji, ICRISAT, Hyderabad between 26.5.09 to 27.5.09.
- Dr.Jana Janakiram, Guelph, Canada between 26.5.09 to 29.5.09.

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