

# TNAU NEWS



## TAMILNADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY NEWS LETTER

Patron : Dr. P. MURUGESA BOOPATHI- Vice Chancellor

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### Outreach Meet on Gram Panchayat Plans



The Directorate of CARDS under National Agricultural Development Programme attempted the preparation of Gram (village) Panchayat Plans for Dindigul, Dharmapuri, Perambalur, Thanjavur and Thoothukudi districts as the first

phase of the programme under NADP. An outreach meet of the village Panchayat Presidents of aforesaid districts was held on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2010 at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore and it was inaugurated by Dr.P.Murugesha Boopathi,

Vice-Chancellor.

In the felicitation address, Dr.K.Palanidurai, Professor, Political Science and Development Administration of Gandhigram University informed that 58 Departments are involved in the development of Agriculture and requested the village Panchayat Presidents to make use of the efforts taken by the different departments. He also outlined the need for understanding the development plans that are being operated for the development of agriculture and make use of them effectively.

Dr.N.Ajjan, Director, CARDS welcomed the gathering and Dr.R.Venkatram, Professor and Head, Department of Agricultural and Rural Management proposed the vote of thanks.

### NSS Celebration

The NSS Day celebration was conducted on 29<sup>th</sup> Sep 2010 at the TNAU Campus with the Registrar, TNAU, Dr.P.Subbian as the chief guest. The Dean (Agriculture) Dr.V.Jayabal welcomed the gathering and Dr.M.R.Srinivasan, NSS programme Officer (AC &RI unit) presented the achievements during 2009-10. Dr.T.Rathakrishnan, Director, Students Welfare, Dr.S.

Santhana Bosu, Dean (Agrl. Engineering) and Dr.N.Kumar, Dean (Horticulture) felicitated the role of NSS volunteers. The Registrar,

presented memorabilia to supporters of social service and NSS namely Mr. M Ramakrishnan, MD of Thulasi Pharmacy, Dr Sumitha, Rootz and Clipz Dental Clinic, R.S.Puram, Dr.Jai Karthick, Sakthi Dental Clinic, Vadavalli and V.Vijayakumar, Saibaba Ashram, Theethipalayam. The Registrar also presented certificates to the best NSS volunteers of 2008-10 and winners of prizes of NSS Day competitions and delivered chief guest address. Dr.A.S. Krishnamoorthy, NSS Programme



Coordinator of TNAU delivered vote of thanks.

**Blood grouping for UG students**



The blood grouping for 327 students of I year undergraduate programme comprising B.Sc (Ag.), B.Tech (Hort.), B.Tech (Biotech), B.Tech (Bio-informatics), B.Tech (EEE), B.Tech (FPE) and B.S. (ABM) was conducted on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Oct 2010 at the University Stadium. M/s Thulasi Pharmacy, Vadavalli did the blood grouping at a concessional rate for the benefit of students. Blood group cards were given to students immediately after the programme. The staff & Dean (Agriculture) along with the NSS Unit has attended AC & RI, Coimbatore organized the blood grouping programme.

**RuHWEP by HSC&RI students**

Students of Home Science College and Research Institute, Madurai have been placed for Rural Home Science Work Experience programme (RuHWEP) in Siddireddipatti and Rengapalayam villages of Madurai District for the period of one month starting from 23 July 2010. Students were instructed to provide hands on training to the villagers about preparation of nutritious food from minor millets. Students created awareness among the rural households about the importance of food preservation and food

safety through demonstration. The villagers opined that RuHWE programme has given more information about training facilities available and it will be more useful for Self Help Group Women and aspiring entrepreneurs.

**Yoga for Modern age – demonstration**

The importance of Yoga, physical exercise and meditation was explained by Dr. G. Rajendran, Professor and Head (Retd.) Dept. of Nematology to 550 NSS volunteers of TNAU. Dr.Rajendran, presently a teacher and also a practitioner in yoga gave practical demonstration of the skill. He also gave a talk on the importance of maintaining good health by following these



techniques. The physical exercise and meditation was practically demonstrated to the students. The students were clarified their doubts.

**Capacity Building Programme on Soft Skills**

As desired by the Vice-Chancellor, capacity building programme is organized for the students of Diploma programme in agriculture; to create awareness related to soft skills viz., personality development, interview and group discussion skills for building self confidence to face interview. Dr. T.Rathakrishanan, Director, (Students Welfare) with his team imparts this capacity building programme. In the first phase of the

programme capacity building programme was organized in ARS, Bhavanisagar and at C.Subramaniam Institute of Agriculture, Thindivanam.

In the second phase of the programme Dr.T.Rathakrishanan, Director, (Students Welfare) with his team visited four Diploma Centers viz., HRS, Pechiparai, RRS, Ambasamudram, ARS, Kovilpatti and RRS, Aruppukottai to impart interview and group discussion skills from 13<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> October 2010.

In the course of the training, the diploma students were given exposure to the different types of interview viz., group discussion, panel interview, telephone interview, stress interview and on-site interview. The students were given adequate exposure in resume preparation, dress code and the procedures to be followed before, during and after the interview. The group discussion techniques viz., initiation techniques, body of group discussion and summarization were dealt. Mock interview and group discussion were conducted. The students participated actively.

**NSS Volunteers' visit to Wildlife photography exhibition**

Wildlife photography exhibition called Uyir Nizhal 2010 organized by OSAI environmental organization at VOC park was visited by 25 NSS Volunteers of



AC & RI, Coimbatore Unit on 9<sup>th</sup> Oct 2010. The programme was inaugurated by Coimbatore District Collector. In the photography exhibition consisted a large collection of photographs of wild plants, insects and animals were exhibited. The exhibition was useful to the NSS volunteers to get awareness on wildlife protection. Our NSS volunteers also assisted in the arrangements of the exhibition on 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Oct which was conducted for a duration of 10 days. Our students have received the certificates for organizing the programme.

### AEC&RI, Kumulur student got national award

Mr. Antony Arul Valan, G., Final year

student of B.Tech, (Agrl. Engg.), Agricultural Engineering Collage & Research Institute, Kumulur has won the second prize in the national level "Annual Essay competition – 2010" organized the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA), New Delhi. A cash award of Rs.3000/- was awarded during the Annual General Body Meeting of the IIPA on 29<sup>th</sup> October, 2010 at Indraprastha Estate Campus in New Delhi. The topic chosen by the student was "Issues on Climate Change- problems and policies for India – after Copenhagen Summit". Titled "Combat Climate Change : A Youth-led Eco-crusade". The essay comprised of roughly 4750 words.

### TNAU Inter-collegiate Elocution Competition on Co-operation

An inter-collegiate debate and essay competition on Co-operation was organized during October 2010, by the Directorate of Students Welfare to select the candidates for the national level competition organized by the National Council for Cooperative Training, New Delhi, during the month of December 2010.

The essay competition was conducted in the constituent colleges of the university on the topics (i) Co-operatives in sustaining the livelihood of real population and (ii) Co-operative movement - a myth or reality. The

### Training cum Seminar and Field visit on Roundup Ready Flex Cotton Technology

One day Training cum Seminar and Field visit on "Roundup Ready Flex Cotton Technology" was organized on 28.10.2010 by the Department of Agronomy, Directorate of Crop Management, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore.

Dr. P. Murugesu Boopathi, Vice Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University inaugurated the Training cum Seminar.



He informed the gathering that, before 1990's the cotton production was 56.41 lakh bales, and the same increased to 117 lakh bales during 1990-91 due to cultivation of high yielding varieties developed by agricultural scientists during 1970's. He also observed that after introduction of Bt Cotton during 2002, the production increased to 290 lakh bales ranking second position in the World cotton production. Nearly 90% of the cotton area in India is occupied by Bt cotton. He stressed that the

battle against weeds has been more successful with the use of the new variety, which reduced the cost of production by 50% and increased the cotton productivity to 2,985 kg per hectare as against 2,200 kgs of normal Bt Cotton.

The Bollgard II Roundup Ready Flex Cotton technology has not only herbicide tolerance in the cotton plant for effective weed management but also in built protection from insects like bollworms and the spodoptera caterpillar.

One hundred scientists and 100 research scholars from Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, 40 State Department Agricultural Officers, 20 KVK scientists and 120 farmers attended the programme.

In the afternoon session, all the participants visited ongoing experimental trial on Roundup Ready Flex Cotton Technology and made good interactions with TNAU scientists. The programme was financially supported by Mahyco Monsanto Biotech (India) Ltd, Mumbai.

best two essays from the constituent colleges were received by the Directorate of Students Welfare for selecting the best three essays at inter-collegiate level. The winners of the essay competition will be given cash prize of Rs. 1000/- and Rs.800/- respectively. The prize winners of the essay writing competition were as follows: Raga Sudha, R. I Prize, Agrl. College and Research Institute, Coimbatore, Surya Prakash, II Prize Anbil Dharmalingam Agrl. College and Research Institute, Trichy.

The debating competition was conducted in the Directorate of Students Welfare on 08.10.2010, where thirteen students from the constituent colleges participated and debated on the topic "Cooperatives in India have more prospects than problems Vs Cooperatives in India have more problems than prospects". The winners of the debating competition were given cash prize of Rs.1000/- and Rs.800/- respectively in a brief function. The prize winners of the debate were as follows: Amreena Jan, N. I Prize, Agrl. Engineering College & Res. Institute, Coimbatore, Rajesh Kumar, II Prize Anbil Dharmalingam Agrl. College and Research Institute, Trichy.

The winners of essay and debate competition will represent Tamil Nadu Agricultural University at National level competition to be organized from 6th to 9th January, 2011 at Indira Gandhi Institute of Cooperative Management, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

**National training in Canopy Management in Mango**

A two days training on "Canopy Management in Mango" was



conducted on 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> September 2010 under the NAIP Scheme on 'A value chain on Mango and Guava for domestic and export markets'. The training was attended by 50 extension workers of the Department of Horticulture, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, 60 mango growers from various districts and 20 scientists from TNAU. A demo on mango canopy management was conducted using pruners, power chain saw and hydraulic fruit picking platform.

**Training on Water Management Technologies**

Four one week training programmes from 27.08.2010 to 02.09.2010, 13.09.2010 to 19.09.2010, 17.09.2010 to 23.09.2010 and 25.09.2010 to 01.10.2010 on "Water Management Technologies" were given to 50 farmers at Sundakkampalayam, Senbagapudur, Sanarpalayam and Erumakkaranpalayam. The farmers were exposed to different aspects of water management, drip irrigation design and layout, fertigation techniques through lectures cum demonstrations. The farmers were also taken to ARS,



Bhavanisagar to see the field experiments on water management as exposure visit.

**Message of guest lecture on personality development for adolescents**

The guest lecture by Dr.G.Ranganathan, Education and Human Resource Development Consultant, on "Personality development for adolescents" was conducted by the Department of Human Development, Home Science College and Research Institute Madurai on 11.10.2010.

**Training on value addition in amla for empowering tribal women**



An intensive training programme on value addition from amla and honey was organized in post harvest technology centre under the NAIP in collaboration with the Department of Agricultural Entomology. The special skill upgradation training was imparted to five selected women folk. Hands on training was given for upgrading their skill for the production of value added amla products at home scale level and also on commercial basis.

**Training on Value addition in Guava**

A training on "Value addition in Guava" was conducted on 30.09.2010 and 01.10.2010

## Inauguration of Post Graduate programme at AC&RI, Killikulam



Our Vice Chancellor Dr. P. Murugesu Boopathi, Ph. D, visited Agricultural College and Research Institute, Killikulam on 01.09.2010 and inaugurated the Post Graduate

Programme in Agronomy, Plant Breeding and Genetics, Soil Science and Entomology.

During this occasion, he visited the

fields and inaugurated the shade net and poly home at the orchard. At the Central Instrumentation Lab, he initiated HPLC and atomic absorption spectra photometer. At the Department of Plant Breeding and Genetics. He opened the Molecular Lab. He inaugurated Students Club 2010 and an ATM of State Bank of India in the college premises. The inaugural function was presided over by Dr. A. Raja Rajan, Ph. D., the Dean of the College. On this occasion a special address was given by Thiru R. Viswanathan, Regional Manager, SBI, Tirunelveli. Felicitations were offered by Thiru. T. Ramraj, Manager, SBI, ADB, Vannarpettai, and Thiru S. Paul Peter Manickam, Chief Manager (Admn.) SBI, Tirunelveli.

under the NAIP Scheme on “A value chain on Mango and Guava for Domestic and Export Markets” inviting eight guava beneficiary farmers from the project site (Old Ayakudi) under this scheme. The training was organized by the Department of Fruit crops and conducted by the Department of Post Harvest Technology Centre, TamilNadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore. During the training programme, participants were given hands on experience on jam, jelly, guava cheese, candy, sweet guava slices, RTS and bar preparation.



### Training on Rajarajan 1000 (SRI)



One day On Campus Training on ‘Rajarajan 1000’ was organized at Cotton Research Station, Srivilliputtur on 23.10.10 under TN-IAMWARM scheme for Sevalaperiyar sub basin farmers. A total of fifty farmers participated in the training. Dr.R.Vimala, Associate Professor (Plant Pathology) welcomed the gathering. Dr.N.Murugesan, Professor and Head, Cotton Research Station, Srivilliputtur inaugurated the training and highlighted the importance of cultivating paddy by adopting the technique of

‘Rajarajan 1000’ to get increased paddy yield.

Dr.N.Shunmugavalli, Professor (PB & G) explained about Pai Nursery and its advantages over conventional nursery. Dr.R.Vimala, Associate Professor (Plant Pathology) briefed plant protection measures in paddy. Finally the trainees were taken to field and given hands on training to prepare Pai nursery.

### One day training on tapioca cultivation

State Bank of India, Rural Branch Officer (RBO), Salem in collaboration with Tapioca and



Castor Research Station, Yethapur jointly organized one day training programme on “Tapioca cultivation and management of mealy bug” to the farmers of Attur Taluk on 23.9.2010. Thiru P.Sathish, Regional Manager, SBI (RBO), Salem, Thiru Suresh, Branch Manager, SBI, participated in the training programme.

Dr.V. Palanisamy, Professor and Head, Tapioca and Castor Research Station, Yethapur welcomed the gathering and explained the tapioca status in Salem district and also emphasized that the farmers should have sufficient knowledge about cultivation technology of tapioca and proper pest and disease management practices to realize good yield and higher starch content. Dr. K. Nageswari, Associate Professor (Horticulture)

instructed the farmers about the tapioca cultivation technologies, proper fertilizer management techniques and time of fertilizer application for increasing the starch content. Dr. V. Rajendran, Professor (SWC) highlighted the drip fertigation techniques and advantages over conventional irrigation. In the afternoon session Dr.S. Venkatesan, Professor (Entomology) explained the farmers about the mealy bug attack on tapioca and its management practices. Dr.V. Jayalakshmi, Associate Professor (Plant Pathology) explained about the diseases and its management practices in tapioca. Then the farmers visited the TCRS farm and had the field demonstrations of power weeder, bush cutter, tapioca sett cutter and sett treatment before planting.

**One month EDP training programme on food processing and preservation**



One month training on, “Entrepreneur Development programme on Food Processing and Preservation” funded by Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Government of India, New Delhi was organized at Regional Research Station,

**National Seminar on Technological Interventions** ➡



The National Seminar on 'Technological Interventions for sustaining the Production of Commercially Viable Medicinal Crops in India' was held at TNAU, Coimbatore on 24-26, Sept, 2010. The inaugural function was held on 24.9.2010 in presence of over 300 delegates from various parts of the country. Dr.P. Murugesu Boopathi, Vice Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University inaugurated the seminar and

delivered the presidential address.

Dr.H.P.Singh, DDG (Hort), ICAR, New Delhi delivered the inaugural address and released the special issue of the South Indian Horticulture Journal on medicinal plants, Herbal Directory, books on horticulture, biotechnology, medicinal plants production and a CD Rom DVD compilation on *Gloriosa superba*.

Dr.S.B.Dandin, Vice Chancellor, University of Horticultural Sciences, Bagalkot, Karnataka delivered special address. Earlier, Dr.N.Kumar, Dean (Hort.) welcomed the gathering and Dr.K.Rajamani, Professor & Head, Department of Medicinal & Aromatic crops, Horticulture College & Research Institute, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University proposed the vote of thanks.

A Stake Holders Meet on medicinal plants was organized on 24.9.10 in which progressive farmers, representatives of leading phytochemical companies, Indian system of medicine, officials from NMPB, NABARD, horticulture department, NGOs, students and scientists participated. Scientific sessions on various topics were conducted. An exhibition on medicinal plants, technologies evolved on commercial medicinal plants was also organized.

Aruppukottai from 22.10.10 to 24.11.10 for rural youth and farming community. Twenty participants were selected for the training programme. The inaugural function was presided by Dr. P. Banumathy, the Dean, Home Science College and Research Institute, Madurai. In her presidential address, the Dean highlighted the importance of food processing and nutritional security of the rural population. Dr. N. Chellaiah, Professor and Head delivered the special address highlighting the region wise food practices and scope of the food processing. Dr. P. Vivekanandan, Professor, Plant Breeding and Genetics and Dr. V. Rajaram, Professor, Entomology of the station gave the felicitation address. Dr. V. Veeranan Arun Giridhari, EDP Training Coordinator welcomed the participants. Dr. K. Indira, Professor, Seed Technology, proposed vote of thanks. The function provided sound information about the need for food processing and preservation in the coming years to the participants.

### Training on mushroom production technology

One day training programme on button mushroom and oyster mushroom production technology was jointly organized by Horticultural Research Station, Kodaikanal and State Department of Horticulture, Kodaikanal as part of venture



capital scheme on "Production of vermicompost, honey and mushroom spawn and nutrient analysis of soil and water" which was recently approved by Directorate of Agri-business Development. About 25 women Self Help Group members of Kodaikanal participated in the training.

### NADP -Phase II

#### a) Training on Hybrid Rice Seed Production at ARS, Vaigai Dam

NADP Phase II training programme on "Hybrid Rice Seed Production" was conducted on 14.09.2010 and 15.09.2010 at ARS, Vaigai Dam. Totally 100 farmers from various villages throughout Tamilnadu participated. The farmers were trained on the Hybrid Rice seed production technologies and pests and diseases management in Hybrid Rice seed production.



#### b) Training on Improved production technology in pulses and oilseeds at ARS, Vaigai Dam

NADP Phase II training programme on "Improved production technology in pulses and oilseeds" was conducted on 17.09.2010 and 18.09.2010 at ARS, Vaigai Dam. Totally 60 officials of Department of Agriculture of Theni District participated. They were trained on the improved production technologies and pests and diseases management in pulses and oilseeds.

### Training on Post harvest technology of exotic hill fruits and vegetables



A two days training programme on "Post harvest technology of exotic hill fruits and vegetables" was conducted by Horticultural Research Station, Ooty in collaboration with UPASI, KVK at Coonoor under HADP scheme. The Professor and Head Dr. R. M. Vijayakumar, inaugurated the training programme. Totally 35 members participated in the training programme. The participants were trained in preparation of jam, jelly, squash, candy and RTS from exotic hill fruits and vegetables in KVK, UPASI and at Processing Unit, Sim's park.

### Contract seed production in Annual moringa at HC&RI, Periyakulam

Seed propagated annual moringa var. PKM 1 is being cultivated throughout Tamil Nadu in an area of 7,408 ha. Recently, it has spread to neighbouring states and cultivated in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Maharashtra. Hence, the demand for quality seeds has increased the seed requirement from 0.75 tonnes to 1.5 tonnes.



To meet out this increasing demand, Department of Vegetable Crops, Horticultural College and Research Institute, Periyakulam has involved with the moringa farmers of Tamil Nadu in producing quality seeds on contract basis. They are provided with seed material and also given adequate training on maintenance of isolation distance, rouging

operations, maturity stages for harvest, separation of seeds, cleaning and grading etc., in their field itself to produce quality seeds. After testing the seeds for its germination and purity, the collected seeds from the farmers are distributed for moringa cultivation in the ensuing season. Emphasis was given in the Scientific Workers Conference in

horticulture and further the thrust on moringa cultivation for reduction of malnutrition and medicinal properties was given by the Vice – Chancellor during the brain storming session in moringa held on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2010 at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore. Hence, this venture could increase the area under annual moringa.

**New schemes**

Name of the scheme	Principal Investigator	Amount (Lakh Rs.)	Funding Agency
Isolation and validation of salt tolerant genes in ragi	Dr. M. Raveendran	17.80	DBT
Evaluation of Rainwater Harvesting Structures by Agricultural Engineering Department	Dr.S.Santhana Bosu, Dean, (Engg.)	2.00	Agri. Engg. Department TN Govt.

**Important visitors**

- ▶ Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture Thiru. Veerapandi S. Arumugam visited DCPPS on 06.10.2010.
- ▶ Thiru. Ram Mohana Rao, IAS, Agri. Production Commissioner & Secretary to Government, Agriculture Department and Thiru.S. Kosalaraman, IAS, Commissioner of Agriculture, Chennai, visited DPMB&B on 08.10.2010.
- ▶ Dr. Karl-Heinz and other delegates from M/s. BASF visited DPMB&B on 19.10.2010.
- ▶ Dr. Howard P. Hershy, Res. Director, DuPont, USA and Dr. R. Balasubramanian, DuPont, Hyderabad visited DPMB&B on 25.10.2010.
- ▶ Th. G.S.V.Raghavan, Ms. Gill University, Canada visited P&H, PHTC from 24.10.2010 to 26.10.2010.

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