

TNAU NEWS



TAMILNADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY NEWS LETTER

Patron: Dr. P. MURUGESA BOOPATHI-Vice Chancellor

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

43rd Research council meeting



The 43rd Research Council meeting was conducted on 4.3.2010. Our Vice-Chancellor, Dr. P. Murugesha Boopathi, chaired and

inaugurated the meeting. The Vice-Chancellor in his presidential address informed that, under NADP, 224 automatic weather

stations were already installed in different blocks of Tamil Nadu, and another 161 will be installed during 2010-11 to monitor meteorological changes for forecasting of weather and pest incidence and for crop insurance. He further informed that, Anna (R) 4, a short duration saline resistant variety, has been released and in biotechnology, Bt brinjal varieties have been developed and in redgram, research is going on to develop varieties resistance to pod borer. He wanted that combined essential micronutrient mixtures be supplied to farmers for different crops and sub surface drip irrigation studies should be conducted in dry areas and precision farming in redgram be developed. He also stressed that liquid formulation of bio control agents be popularized among farmers and all the new technologies developed by the TNAU should be patented.

Career guidance workshop

The Directorate of Students Welfare conducted the 5th Career Guidance Workshop and Job Fair on 12th March 2010. The workshop was inaugurated on 12.03.2010 by Mr. Jose T. Mathew, I.F.S., Chief Conservator of Forest and Principal of Central Academy for State Forest Service, Coimbatore. The Chief Guest delivered the inaugural address. Our Vice-Chancellor, Dr. P. Murugesha Boopathi, presided over the function and appreciated the TNAU graduates for their professional excellence. Mr. Shankar of Shankar I.A.S. Academy, Chennai; Dr. P. Chellidurai, Director of Youth Welfare, Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai

and the staff of DSW interacted with students on preparation for I.A.S., examination Career opinions, Higher Education Abroad, Entrepreneurship and Communicative Competence. Mr. B. Balamurugan, Passport Officer, Regional Passport Office, Coimbatore, in his Valedictory Address, emphasized the need for joint and progressive farming by agri-graduates.



TNAU job fair brings bountiful of jobs

The Directorate of Students' Welfare organized the Job Fair 2010 during March 13th-14th 2010 in order to provide job opportunities for fresh graduates of TNAU and its ten constituent colleges. About 450 graduates had participated in the event. Dr. T. Rathakrishnan, Director (Students' Welfare) inaugurated the event and welcomed all the Executives of various organizations. Dr. K. S. Subramanian, Professor & Head, (Nanotechnology) briefed the protocol to be adopted in the job fair. Fourteen companies comprising Financial institutions, sugar industries, agro-based industries, NGOs and



Government Agencies have participated in the Job Fair. The company executives short-listed about 287 fresh UG and PG graduates in the disciplines of agriculture, horticulture, forestry, home science and biotechnology. Ninety three appointment orders were received after the completion of the program.

Technology week at KVK, Tirur

Technology week was conducted at KVK, Tirur from 22.2.10 to 26.2.10. The programme was inaugurated by Zonal Project Director, Zone VII, ICAR, Bangalore and felicitated by DEE, TNAU, Coimbatore; Director TRRI, Aduthurai; Dean (Agri), TNAU, Coimbatore; JDA, Thiruvallur and Regional Manager, SBI, Chennai.

During the inauguration day, 425 farmers, SHGs and officials of line departments were participated. Special lectures and demonstration on different technologies and application of machineries were disseminated among the farmers for increasing the production. An exhibition was also arranged to show the various machineries and technologies. A total of 22 exhibition stalls were arranged.

Demonstration viz., Rice transplanter, power weeder, coconut tree climber, sugarcane sett cutter, pulse seed drill, protray nursery for vegetables, mango grafting, Pairing and prolinage in banana, root feeding of TNAU coconut tonic, mass trapping of coconut rhinoceros beetle, seed selection and seed treatment in rice and pulses, value addition from

mushroom, squash preparation from fruits, oral medication of ivermectin for control of ecto and endo parasites in sheep and goat were conducted.

40th Annual group meeting on sorghum

The 40th Annual Group Meeting of the All India Coordinated Sorghum Improvement Project was held at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore from 27th February to 1st March, 2010. About 120 participants from various SAUs, voluntary centres, private seed companies and ICRISAT participated.

The group meeting was formally inaugurated by Dr. P Subbian, Registrar, TNAU and Dr. SN Shukla, Former Assistant Director General (Food & Fodder Crops), ICAR, New Delhi in the presence of Dr. N



Seetharama, Director, Directorate of Sorghum Research, Hyderabad and Project Coordinator (AICSIP), and Dr. M Paramathma, Director of Research, TNAU, Coimbatore.

Dr. SN Shukla and Dr. P Subbian, congratulated the sorghum researchers for delivering excellent hybrids, varieties and the technologies for the sorghum growing resource poor farmers in the dryland regions of the country.

Dr. N. Seetharama while presenting the achievements in the sorghum research and development said that national sorghum programme is well geared to meet the challenges and cater to the needs of sorghum farmers and sorghum based industries. In the beginning, Dr. M Paramathma, Director of Research, TNAU, Coimbatore welcomed the guests and the delegates. Dr. K

Thiyagarajan, Director, Centre for Plant Breeding and Genetics, TNAU, Coimbatore proposed vote of thanks.

On this occasion, three books (1) Sorghum Shootfly (2) Weeds of Sorghum and (3) Delicious Sorghum Foods were released by the dignitaries, along with brochure on sorghum landraces, and a film on "Bioethanol production from sweet sorghum".

National training on seed quality

A five-day "National Training on Pre and Post Harvest Management Techniques for Seed Quality Assurance" was organised at the Agricultural Engineering College and Research Institute (AEC & RI), Kumulur. Agricultural Officers, Seed Certification/Testing Officers, Scientists, Technologists who are involved in seed production numbering around 25 from different parts of the country have attended the training. Dr. K. Kannappan, Professor and Head, Dept. of Agrl. Sciences, welcomed the gathering. A brief Introduction on the National Training was presented by the Organizing Secretary, Dr. P. Masilamani. Dr. K. Ramamoorthy, Special Officer (Seeds), TNAU, inaugurated the Training programme and released the training manual.

Dr. A. Tajuddin, Dean, AEC & RI, Kumulur, emphasized the importance of farm mechanization in seed production. Dr. M. Bhaskaran, Director, National Seed Research & Training Centre, Govt. of India, Varanasi, the chief guest of the day has delivered a special address.



In the valedictory function, Dr. J. Karamathullah, Professor (Agronomy) welcomed the gathering, Dr. P. Masilamani, Organizing Secretary presented the training report. Dr. A. Tajuddin, Dean, AEC & RI, Kumulur presented the presidential address. Dr. T. Jayaraj, Director, Tamil Nadu Rice Research Institute, Aduthurai delivered the valedictory address and issued the certificates to the trainees. Dr. K. Annadurai, Co-organizing Secretary proposed the vote of thanks.

Special lecture on HRD and leadership development

A special lecture on HRD and Leadership Development was organized on 24.02.2010 at the Department of Agricultural Extension and Rural Sociology, Coimbatore for the benefit of III B.Sc (Ag) students undergoing a course on "Human Resourcing and Public Relations".

Dr.K.Balasubramaniyan, Chief Executive Officer of Creative

Management Consultancy, Trichy delivered a lecture. In his introductory remarks, the consultant has out-lined the importance of HRD and leadership qualities by quoting appropriate examples related to various entrepreneurs dealing with electronic and automobile industries.

He also explained in detail about the role of students in developing human relations activity and leadership qualities besides serving as good citizens for the cause of development of the society.

Final year B.Tech (Horticulture), PG and Ph.D students and the scientists of the Department of Agricultural Extension and Rural Sociology also attended the session.

Training on conservation agriculture

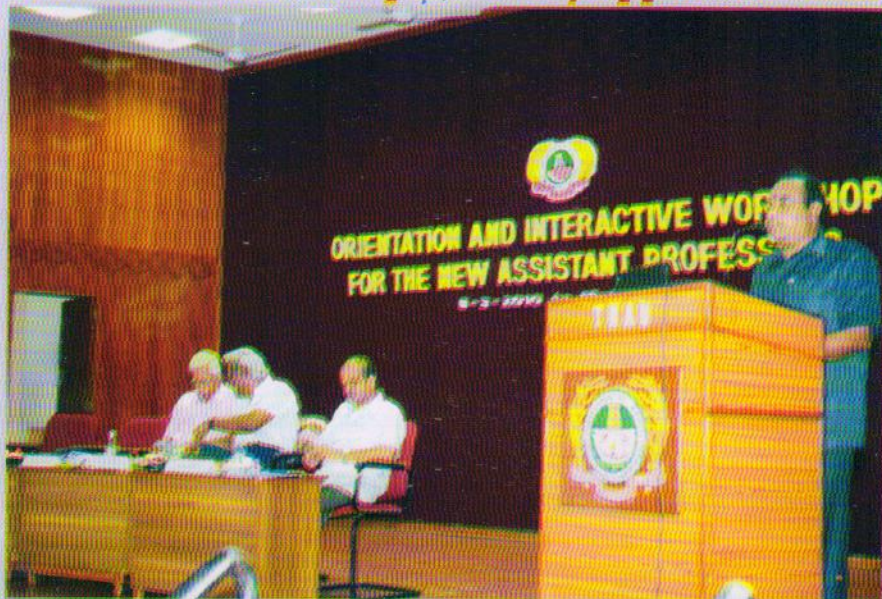
A twenty one day training programme on "**Conservation Agriculture**" was inaugurated at



Centre of Advanced Faculty Training in Agronomy (CAFTA), Centre for Soil and Crop Management Studies, Coimbatore. Eighteen scientists from various State Agricultural Universities were attended the programme from 3-23 March, 2010.

Dr. P. Subbian, Registrar, inaugurated the programme and stressed the need to conserve various resources in agriculture. Dr. S. Jeyaraman, Director, Centre for Soil and Crop Management Studies presided over the function. He highlighted the importance of conservation agriculture in the present context and also mentioned that conservation

Orientation workshop for newly appointed farm scientists



An Orientation cum training and interactive workshop for the newly recruited Assistant Professors was held from 8th to 12th March, 2010 for the 288 new Assistant Professors. The inaugural function of the Workshop was held on 8th

March, 2010. Our Vice-Chancellor, Dr. P. Murugesu Boopathi, inaugurated the event and delivered the inaugural address. Dr.G. Kumaravelu, I.F.S., Full time member, State Planning Commission, Chennai and Dr. P.P.

Ramasami, Member, Board of Management, TNAU, delivered special address. Dr. M. Paramathma, Director of Research and the Co-ordinator of the Workshop welcomed the gathering and Dr.P.Subbian, Registrar, TNAU proposed vote of thanks. In the five days programme, a total of 51 resource persons comprising various University Officers, HRD managers of the private concerns, Retired Professors of the University, International trainer and Government sector etc. had addressed the new recruits on the areas of Administration, Accounts Maintenance and Audit ; Research Methodologies and its operation ; Educational and innovative teaching methodologies ; Transfer of technology and publications ; Interpersonnel relationship and ethics and in the emerging researchable areas like biofuels, climate change, GM crops, Patents and its relevance etc.



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agriculture is different from conventional agriculture. Dr. P. Muthukrishnan, Professor and Head of Department of Agronomy welcomed the gathering and outlined the objectives of the training course and Dr. M. Mohamed Amanulla, Professor of Agronomy proposed vote of thanks.

Agri Fair 2010

The staff of the Department of Food Science and Nutrition, Home Science College and Research Institute, Madurai participated in the 'AGRI FAIR 2010', organized by the Dindigul District Administration at Dudley High School, Dindigul, recently. Charts and materials related to "Value addition of minor millets and traditional foods" were displayed. On the inaugural day Dr.S.Amutha, Professor and Head (FSN) explained the latest technologies and research project handled at Home Science College and Research Institute to the visiting dignitaries viz., Th.I.Periaswamy, Hon'ble Minister for Revenue and Housing Board; Th.N.S.V. Chithan, Hon'ble Minister of parliament affairs; Th.R.Sakkarabani, Government Chief Whip in Assembly; Th.M.Dhandabani, Member of legislative Assembly and Mr.M.Vallalar, District Collector of Dindigul.

Farmers training programme

A NABARD sponsored training programme to sericulture farmers on "Organic resources utilization for sustainable Sericulture farming" was conducted by the Department of Sericulture, CPPS at KVK, Vamban, Pudukkottai. Thirty farmers from all



over Tamil Nadu participated in the training programme. The inaugural function was presided over by Dr. P. Chinnaiyan, Professor and Head, KVK. Mr. R. Ananth, the Assistant General Manager, NABARD in his special address, suggested the farmers to utilize effectively the available natural resource in sericulture for their prosperity.

Totally 11 lectures were delivered by the scientist of TNAU, Central silk Board and extension personnel from State Department of Sericulture. The scientists of TNAU demonstrated to the trainees on utilization of various biological control agents in mulberry cultivation as well as silkworm rearing for sustainable sericulture. The trainees were taken to Arimalam and Nedungudi mulberry cluster areas to have first hand information on organic sericulture. They also interacted with the progressive farmers who shared their experience in practicing sericulture. The training certificates were distributed to the participants.

College day and club day 2010



The staff and students of Agricultural Engineering College and Research Institute, Kumulur celebrated the 'College Day and Club Day - 2010' in the college auditorium on Friday, the 26th of Feb., 2010.

The distinguished chief guest of the day was Dr. S. Santhana Bosu, Dean, Agricultural Engineering College and Research Institute, Coimbatore. The Staff Advisor, Dr. K. Annadurai, welcomed the gathering. Mr. Vikas Shringi, Students' Club Secretary

spoke of the various state level and national level achievements of the students for the year 2009-10. Dr. A. Tajuddin, Dean of the College presented the Annual College Day report and this was followed by a special address by Dr. S. Santhana Bosu. Cultural competitions for the students then commenced with fanfare. The prizes were distributed by the chief guest and the Dean of the College. Vote of thanks was proposed by the Joint Club Secretary, Ms. U. Rajeshwari.

VC visits RRS, Paiyur



Our Vice Chancellor Dr. P. Murugesu Boopathi, The Registrar Dr. P. Subbian, The Director of Research Dr. M. Paramathma, The Dean (Hort.) Dr. N. Kumar, visited the Regional Research Station, Paiyur on 25.02.2010. The Vice Chancellor reviewed the activities of the station. During the review, Vice Chancellor emphasized for location specific research projects with more attention on external funding. He also stressed on more income generation activities through profitable venture capital schemes with maximum farm mechanization. Dr. P. Subbian, Registrar insisted to develop holistic IFS models for augmenting farmers' income. The Director of Research insisted to popularize all the technologies with documentation of all the impacts. Dean (Hort.), highlighted the location specific problems on horticultural crops and instructed to increase the seeds and seedling production. Later, Vice Chancellor inaugurated NABARD funded project on vermin composting. He also inaugurated the mango ripening chamber and also two mist chambers.

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National Conference on Nematology



A three day National Conference on **"Innovations in Nematological Research for Agricultural Sustainability - Challenges and Road Map Ahead"** was held during 23rd - 25th February, 2010 at TNAU, Coimbatore. The conference was organized by the Nematological Society of India in collaboration with the Department of Nematology, Centre for Plant Protection Studies, TNAU, Coimbatore.

Our Vice-Chancellor, Dr. P. Murugesha Boopathi inaugurated the National Conference and delivered the inaugural address. During his speech, he highlighted the need for developing newer strategies to combat the phytoparasitic nematodes. He released two books **"Genesis and growth of Nematology in Tamil Nadu Agricultural University"** and **"Nematology - Fundamentals and Application"** besides the conference souvenir. The



other important speakers were Dr. R.K. Jain, Vice President and Dr. (Mrs.) Sudershan Ganguly, General Secretary, Nematological Society of India. Dr. E.I. Jonathan, Director, Centre for Plant Protection Studies, welcomed the gathering and Dr. M. Sivakumar, Professor and Head,

Department of Nematology, proposed the vote of thanks. In the Conference, 150 scientists from all parts of our Country attended and presented research papers in six technical sessions which included 24 oral presentations and 160 poster presentations.

Training on mango

A training on the **"Use of tree pruner and bagging of mango fruits for quality improvement"** was conducted under NAIP scheme on **"A Value Chain on Mango and Guava for Domestic and Export Markets"** at Regional Research Station, Paiyur, Krishnagiri district inviting 75 beneficiary farmers recently. The training was presided over by Dr.P. Subbian, Registrar. Our Vice-Chancellor, Dr.P. Murugesha Boopathi, delivered the inaugural address and also distributed the tree pruners, paper bags and a book on "Nannari

velanmai matrum maa uyar thohilnutpa sakupati". In his inaugural address, the Vice-Chancellor enlightened the need for mechanization in mango thereby achieving competitive production cost. Dr.P.Paramathma, Director of Research, welcomed the gathering and Dr.N.Kumar, Dean (Hort.), HC&RI, Coimbatore enlightened the objectives and goals of the scheme. Finally, the Vice-Chancellor, declared open the ripening chamber.

Training on advanced water management technologies

A training programme for a week was organized on **"Advanced Water Management Technologies"** under ICAR-Water Management Scheme from 17.02.2010 to 23.02.2010 at ARS, Bhavanisagar. The training was conducted at Ayyansalai village in Sathyamangalam block, Erode district. About fifty farm women



from the nearby villages of Sathyamangalam were attended the training. During the programme, various technologies on soil fertility management, system of rice intensification, newly released varieties, seed production, medicinal plants, drip fertigation, irrigation water management, organic farming, plant protection, production of important field and horticultural crops, integrated weed management, vermi-compost production, precision farming etc. were delivered by the scientists of ARS, Bhavanisagar.

As a part of the training



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programme, one day field visit was arranged to animal husbandry, vermi-compost production, bio-energy park and AMRC workshop at TNAU, Coimbatore. At the end of the training programme, training manuals and certificates were distributed to the farmers by Dr.S.Chellamuthu, Director, Water Technology Centre, TNAU, Coimbatore.

Growers' training programme on marigold

Under the ICAR-project NAIP funded scheme entitled "value chain on flowers for domestic and export markets" being implemented at the Department of floriculture and landscaping, Coimbatore, a growers' training on "production and post harvest technology of marigold" was conducted at the office of the Assistant Director of Horticulture, Sathyamangalam on 24th February, 2010. Thirty five marigold growers participated in the training programme. Mr.N. Elango, Vice-President (Agri operations) of AVT Natural Products Ltd., Sathyamangalam welcomed the farmers. Dr.M. Jawaharlal, Professor and Head of the Department of Floriculture and landscaping of TNAU, Coimbatore and Principal Investigator of the project highlighted the efforts taken under the NAIP project towards transfer of technologies to marigold growers. Dr.M. Kalyanasundaram, and Dr.P. Muthulakshmi, clarified the farmers' queries pertaining to plant protection in marigold. Dr.N. Venkatesa Palanichamy emphasized the advantages of marigold cultivation on contract basis.



Faculty training program on commodity futures market

A two days faculty training programme on Commodity Futures Market was organized by Dept. of Agrl. Economics, Centre for Agrl. And Rural Development Studies, Coimbatore at ADAC&RI, Tiruchirappalli in collaboration with Fortad Markets Commission (FMC), Mumbai and Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), Mumbai on 17-18th February 2010. TNAU scientists from ADAC&RI, AEC&RI, TRRI, SWAMRI, KVKs-Vamban, Sirugamani & Sikkal, SRS-Sirugamani, HC&RI, Periyakulam and ORS, Tindivanam have participated in this two days faculty training programme.

Mr.K.Jayanth, Director, FMC, Mumbai inaugurated the training programme on 17th February 2010. During his inaugural address he



mentioned that the volume of Commodity Futures Markets in India may touch the peak of Rs.55 lakh crores in the year 2009-10.

Dr.G. Kathiresan, Dean, ADAC&RI, Trichy presided over the programme. Dr.Rao Saeib Mohethi, Asst. Vice President, FT Knowledge Management Company Ltd., Mumbai handled the sessions as one of the resource persons and gave the participants the hands on experience in simulated Commodity Trading on MCX platform. He dealt in detail about the market Developmental efforts of Exchanges.

One day on campus training on preparation of vermi compost

One day training programme on Vermi Compost production techniques under TN-IAMWARM



project was organized at Coconut Research Station, Veppankulam on 1.3.2010. A total of fifty farmers participated in this training programme. Dr.R.Vaithilingam, Professor and Head, Coconut Research Station, Veppankulam inaugurated the training and delivered the presidential address. Dr.P.S.Subramaniam, Professor (Agronomy) insisted the farmers to use their own farm waste in production of vermin compost. Dr.S.Mohandas, Associate Professor (SS&AC), imparted the technical interventions in the production of vermin compost under different methods. In the after noon session the farmers were taken to the vermicompost units established in Coconut Research Station, Veppankulam under different methods. M.Naveen Saviour, SRF, TN-IAMWARM (Agniyar) proposed vote of thanks.

Training for farm women

A training programme on "Improved and scientific methods of storage and insect pest management" was conducted at the Department of Agricultural Entomology, Agricultural College and Research Institute, Madurai on 25.2.2010. Thirty farm women representing various villages / blocks of Madurai District were participated.

Dr.D.S.Rajavel, Professor and Head (Entomology) welcomed the gathering. Dr.K.Vairavan, Dean, Agricultural College and Research Institute, Madurai delivered presidential address and released a booklet on "Improved and scientific methods of storage and pest management". Dr.S.Mohan, Professor (Entomology), Coimbatore explained and

demonstrated the use of various gadgets for stored grain insect pest management developed at TNAU. It was followed by series of lectures and demonstrations on identification of storage insect pests and their damage, storage bins, use of botanicals, insecticides and integrated pest management methods.

An exhibition on storage insect pest management was also arranged. Dr.M.Shanthi, Associate Professor (Entomology) and the programme coordinator proposed the vote of thanks.

Farmers' training programme on fodder production technologies

A training programme on "Profitable Fodder production technologies" was organized by Department of Agronomy, Coimbatore in collaboration with NABARD for three days from



16th to 18th February, 2010. Twenty five farmers from ten districts of Tamil Nadu have participated in this program. Dr.N.Maragatham, Professor of Agronomy and training coordinator welcomed the gathering and explained the various aspects of the training program.

Dr.P.Muthukrishnan, Professor and Head, Department of Agronomy, Coimbatore inaugurated the training and delivered the inaugural address. Dr.V.Suresh, Assistant General Manager,

NABARD highlighted the various initiatives taken by NABARD for the benefit of the farmers. Dr.P.Murali Arthanari, Assistant Professor and training co-coordinator, proposed vote of thanks.

Training on bioinformatics

The Department of Plant Molecular Biology and Biotechnology, Coimbatore organized a Bioinformatics training on "Protein Structure Prediction and Docking" from February 15th - 19th, 2010. The inauguration of the training was



National seminar on tree spices



A national seminar on Tree Spices was jointly organized by the Horticultural Research Station, Pechiparai, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University and Directorate of Arecanut and Spices Development, Calicut at Vivekananda Kendra, Kanyakumari from March 5th - 7th, 2010. In the seminar, 190 delegates from all over the country including ICAR Institutes, State Agricultural

Universities, State Government Institutes, Tree spice growers, private agencies and research scholars participated.

During the inaugural function, Dr.N. Kumar, Dean (Hort.), HC&RI, Coimbatore welcomed the gathering. Dr.M. Tamilselvan, Director, DASD., Calicut appraised the objectives of the seminar. Special address was given by

Dr.P.Rethinam, Former Executive Director, APCC, Indonesia. Thiru.O.V.R. Somasundaram, Member, Board of Management, TNAU., and Dr.V.Ponnuswami, Dean, HC&RI, Periyakulam enlightened the seminar with their felicitations. The inaugural address was given by Dr.S.Sambandamoorthy, former Dean (Hort.). He also released the Souvenir of the seminar and 2 text books and 6 booklets on various aspects of Tree spices published by Hortl. Research Station, Pechiparai. Dr.J.Prem Joshua, Professor and Head, Horticultural Research Station, Pechiparai proposed vote of thanks. An exhibition on Tree spices and their value added products was organized.

In the technical session, the former Deans of Horticulture, Dr.I.Irulappan; Dr.S.Thamburaj; Dr.T.Thangaraj and Dr.D.Veeraragavathatham have attended and involved in the interactions. During the third day a field trip was organized to Maramalai the tree spices tract of Kanyakumari District.



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held on 15th February. Dr. P. Subbian, Registrar inaugurated the training and delivered the inaugural address. Dr. R. Samiyappan, Director, Centre for Plant Molecular Biology, welcomed the gathering. He opined that the training on "Protein structure prediction and Docking" is conducted to update the knowledge of research and teaching and the training is mainly related to protein analysis, micro array analysis and also the analysis related to drought tolerance, pest and disease resistance. About 15 participants attended the training programme, including staff and Ph.D. scholars from TNAU and other institutes.

Inauguration of NABARD funded project at RRS Paiyur

Our Vice Chancellor, Dr. P. Murugesha Boopathi inaugurated a 6.55 lac NABARD funded project at Regional Research Station, Paiyur on 25.2.2010. While inaugurating the project, he briefed that filling the feed tanks, taking the vermicompost to sieves

and sieving, machinery is being developed at this station mainly to reduce the labour requirement at least by 75%. Dr. P. Subbian, Registrar, Dr. M. Paramathma, Director of Research, Dr. N. Kumar, Dean (Horticulture), Thiru. V. Thirumalai, AGM, NABARD, Dr. A. K. Mani, Professor and Head, Regional Research Station, Paiyur and the implementing scientist Dr. S. Vijayabaskaran were present.

Training programme on drip fertigation technology



A two day training programme on "Drip Fertigation Technology" was organized jointly by Indian Farmers Fertiliser Co-operative Limited, Coimbatore and Department of Agronomy, Centre

for Soil and Crop Management Studies, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore between 1st and 2nd March, 2010. Around 40 farmers from Coimbatore, Erode, Tiruppur, Salem, Madurai and Theni districts have attended the training programme. The training programme was inaugurated by Dr.S.Jeyaraman, Director, Centre for Soil and Crop Management Studies. During the inaugural address, the Director highlighted the importance of drip fertigation technology in enhancing crop productivity besides achieving efficient use of production inputs like nutrient and water. Thiru.S.Govindarajan, South Zonal Manager, IFFCO, Bangaluru, Thiru. M.Krishnan, State Marketing Manager, IFFCO, Chennai; Thiru. P.Mathiyalagan, Chief Area Manager, IFFCO, Coimbatore and Dr.P. Muthukrishnan, IFFCO Chair Professor and Head of the Department of Agronomy also spoke on the occasion highlighting the various aspects of drip fertigation technology.

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IMPORTANT VISITORS

- Dr.S.Suresh Desai, University of Manitoba, Canada visited Department of Agricultural Entomology, AC&RI, Coimbatore between 5.3.10 and 6.3.10.
- Dr.Sanjeev Kalia, Monsanto, Delhi visited Department of Plant Molecular Biology and Biotechnology on 8.3.2010.
- Prof.Glen Filzon, University of Guelph, Canada visited Directorate of Open and Distance Learning between 7.3.10 and 13.3.10.
- Dr.Yueyaguchi, Faculty of GRIPS, Japan visited Department of Agricultural Rural Management, AC&RI, Coimbatore between 10.3.10 and 11.3.10.
- A team of fifteen officers from National Defence College, New Delhi visited Department of Plant Molecular Biology and Biotechnology on 16.3.2010.

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