

TNAU NEWS



TAMILNADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY NEWS LETTER

Patron : Dr. P. MURUGESA BOOPATHI - Vice Chancellor

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

Felicitation and thanks giving function >>>



The State level felicitation and thanks giving function organized by the Association of Farm Labourers of TNAU to felicitate the Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture, Government of Tamil Nadu and the Vice-Chancellor of TNAU for regularizing the farm workers of the University and also increasing their daily wages, was held at TNAU, Coimbatore on 17.03.2010. The farm labourers working in various Colleges and Research Stations of TNAU have

gathered in large number at the fully packed 'Kalaingnar Arangam' of the University. Dr. P. Murugesha Boopathi, Vice-Chancellor, TNAU, presided over the function.

The Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture and Pro-Chancellor of TNAU, Thiru. Veerapandi S. Arumugam in his special address said that various schemes have been announced and are being implemented in an efficient manner by the State Government

under the leadership of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, for the benefit of workers, both in unorganized sector as well as in the Government departments. The Hon'ble Agriculture Minister greatly appreciated the University for successfully accomplishing the tasks under the able leadership of the Vice-Chancellor. He also detailed the various benefits extended to the University over a period of time under the noble leadership of Kalaingnar. The Hon'ble Minister for Forest Thiru.N. Selvaraj offered felicitations on the occasion.

Dr.P. Subbian, Registrar, TNAU, Welcomed the gathering. Dr.L.Pugalendhi, President of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University Teachers' Association; Thiru T. Sureshkumar, President of Farm Labourers Association; Thiru. V. Selvaraj, President of Non-Teaching Staff Association and Thiru. Thangavel, President of Asst. Agricultural Officers' Association offered felicitation on the occasion. Thiru. C.Dharmalingam, Secretary of Farm Labourers' Association proposed vote of thanks.

National training on production, post harvest and marketing of guava



A “National training on Guava” was conducted from 3rd to 5th February, 2010 at HC&RI, Coimbatore, under the NAIP Scheme on “A value chain on Guava and Guava for Domestic and Export Markets” inviting 75 guava farmers and 25 stakeholders including processors, exporters, traders and retailers. The National training was inaugurated by Our Vice-Chancellor, Dr.P.Murugesha Boopathi, Dr.M.Paramathma, Director, Research, presided the national training. In his inaugural address, the Vice-Chancellor, elaborated the importance of

guava on nutritional and economic point. Dr.T.N.Balamohan Co-PI of the project (NAIP - Guava and Mango Value Chain) has enlightened the aims and goals of the scheme and also the activities so far made. All the beneficiary farmers and progressive farmers in the area participated and involved in the discussion.

USAID – IPM CRSP Scientists' visit to TNAU

A team of scientists consisting of

Dr. C. Hedlund, USAID; Dr. R. Muniappan, Program Director – IPM CRSP, Virginia Tech; Dr. Sally



Miller, Professor of Plant Pathology, Ohio State University; Dr. George Norton, Professor of Agrl. Economics, Virginia Tech; Dr. Doug Pfeiffer, Professor of Entomology, Virginia Tech; Dr. Maria Elisa Christie, program Director, Women in Development, Virginia Tech and Dr. Ed Rajotte, Professor of Entomology, Penn State University visited TNAU during 7th to 11th February 2010. They reviewed the projects funded by USAID-IPM CRSP during the last phase and finalized the programme of work for the next phase. The opening session was held on 7th February, 2010. Dr. M. Paramathma, Director of Research offered the opening remarks. The Director, CPMB; Director, CPPS and Heads of the Departments of Plant pathology, Plant Molecular Biology, Agrl. Entomology and Nematology were participated and interacted in the meeting.

The progress of work of the last phase of IPM CRSP projects were presented by Dr. S. Mohankumar, Professor (Pl. Mol. Bio.) and Dr. G. Karthikeyan, Associate Professor (Pl. Pathol). The finalization of programme of work for the next phase (2009-2014) was discussed in detail. They have visited different laboratories in the Departments of Plant Molecular Biology, Plant Pathology, Agricultural Entomology and Nematology and appreciated the modern facilities available in the University. The team has visited the Institute of Commercial Horticulture, Ooty to identify the problem of research in cole crops. The team has visited the onion IPM demonstration plot at Irur, Perambalur and they also participated in the onion IPM farmers meet at Irur after the field visits. Finally, the team met the Vice-Chancellor and discussed in detail about the outcome of the alit phase and the plan of work for the next phase of the project.

Nanotechnology center in TNAU

The Tamil Nadu Agricultural University is the first State Agricultural University in India to set up an exclusive Department of Nano Science & Technology to harness the benefits of the sunrise technology. The center focuses on nano-formulations (fertilizers, herbicides, insecticides), biosensors (detection of nutrients, pathogens and toxins), food systems (nano-encapsulation of functional foods and nano-membranes for food packaging), environmental remediation besides, customizing seeds. The center is being equipped with state-of-the-art facility to undertake a wide array of research in nanotechnology.

Australian scientist visits CARDS

Dr. Allan Curtis, professor, Charles Sturt University (CSU), Australia visited the Centre for Agricultural & Rural Development Studies (CARDS), TNAU, Coimbatore during 19-20th January 2010, to develop a concept



paper for the collaborative research project entitled, "Improving livelihood outcomes in tank irrigation watersheds of south India in an era of climate change". This long term collaborative project between CSU and TNAU with IWMI and DHAN Foundation is proposed for funding by Australian Council for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), Australia.

Scientific advisory council meeting

The fourth Scientific Advisory Council Meeting of KVK, Needamangalam was held on 15.02.2010. The meeting was chaired by Dr. P. Kalaiselvan, Director of Extension Education, TNAU, Coimbatore, in the presence of Dr. T. Jayaraj, Director, Tamil Nadu Rice Research Institute, Aduthurai and Dr. S. V. Sairam, Senior Scientist, Zonal Project Directorate, Zone VIII, Bangalore. A total of 17 newly

nominated members (14 officials and 3 farmers) attended the meeting and offered valuable suggestions for the



effective functioning of the KVK towards farmers' prosperity. Dr. T. Senguttuvan, Programme Coordinator presented the action taken on the suggestions of third Scientific Advisory Council Meeting and the various activities of KVK, Needamangalam. Later the subject matter specialists Dr. A. Pounraj (Agri. Extension), Dr. K. Kumanan (Horticulture), Dr. S. Anandkrishnaveni (Agronomy), and Dr. M. Senthil Kumar (Plant protection) have presented the progress made on the On Farm Testing (OFT) and Front Line Demonstrations (FLDs) conducted during 2008-09 and 2009-10.

State Level Stakeholders Workshop

The 'State Level Stakeholders' workshop on annual training plan was held at SAMETI, TNAU, on 12.02.2010 for the preparation of the Training Calendar for the year 2010-2011. The participants numbering 60 included officials from the State Department of Agriculture and Line Departments, representatives from DHAN foundation, NGOs, School Teachers offering Agriculture Course and NABARD.

Our Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Murugesu Boopathi, interacted with the participants and flagged the important issues to be addressed. He expressed that besides giving knowledge, it is more important to impart wisdom to farmers. He also stressed the importance of 'Integrated Nutrient Management' (INM) practices, which advocates



Launching of 'Industrial Agroforestry' website »»



Our Vice-Chancellor, Dr. P. Murugesha Boopathi, launched a new website on "A Value Chain on Industrial Agroforestry in Tamil

Nadu" on 10-2-2010 and emphasized the need for speedy transfer of Industrial Agroforestry technologies across the State with

the participation of various stakeholders.

The website has been designed incorporating all the details about the project, consortium partners, project operational areas, cluster level farmers information, innovative technologies, market information and value addition in a dynamic mode. This website can be accessed under the URL: www.fcrinaip.org.

Dr. M. Govinda Rao, IFS, Dean, FC & RI, briefed the activities of the project. Dr. K. T. Parthiban, Consortium Principal Investigator of the project explained the use and utility of the website. University Officers, Scientists, Project Partners and Stakeholders participated in the function.

balanced application of chemical fertilizers and organic manures.

Thiru.V.Kandhasamy, Joint Director of Agriculture, Coimbatore district; Dr.B.Arumugam, Regional Joint Director of Animal Husbandry, Vellore; Er.S.Arivazhagan, Executive Engineer, Namakkal; Tmt.B.Sivarani, Programme Leader, DHAN Foundation, Madurai; Dr.B.Mohan, Programme Coordinator, KVK, Namakkal; Mrs.N.Devi, Vocational Instructor (Agri), Coimbatore and Thiru.V.Suresh, Asst.General Manager, NABARD, Coimbatore spoke during the occasion.

Dr.P.Kalaiselvan, Director of Extension Education, TNAU narrated the various trainings organized by TNAU for the benefit of different clientele groups. Dr.R.Vijayaraghavan, Professor and Head, Training Division and Faculty Head (SAMETI) proposed a vote of thanks.

Herbal conservatory at HRS, Pechiparai

Our Vice Chancellor, Dr. P. Murugesha Boopathi, inaugurated the herbal conservatory at Horticultural Research Station Pechiparai. The herbal conservatory has been established with more than 500 medicinal herbs includes several rare, endangered and threatened plant species. Dr. N. Kumar, Dean,



Horticultural College and Research Institute, Coimbatore, Dr. J. Prem Joshua, Professor and Head, Horticultural Research Station, Pechiparai and Dr. R. Richard Kennedy, ODL-Co-ordinator for the Pechiparai centre accompanied Vice Chancellor and explained about the Collections in the conservatory and their therapeutic properties.

Collaboration between TNAU and University of Cologne on ODL programs

A discussion meeting was held at the Directorate of Open and Distance



Learning with the visiting Professors, Dr. Matthiaz Pliz, Full Professor and Director of Research Centre, German Research Center and Comparative Vocational Education and Training, University of Cologne, Germany and Dr. Balasubramaniam Ramani, University of Cologne, Germany regarding ODL programmes of TNAU and vocational programmes offered by University of Cologne on 12.2.2010. Discussions were also made on mutual collaborations in sharing the knowledge available at both the ends.

Students experience on lab to land and land to lab

Nine number of final year B.Tech. (Agri.) students of Agricultural Engineering College and Research Institute, Kumulur, Trichy who have been placed under Rural Agricultural Work Experience (RAWE) programme and 100 B.Ed., students along with 10 teachers form Arunamalai Educational College, Kumarapuram, Melavasal, Thiruvarur district have visited the Coconut Research Station, Veppankulam on 09.02.10 and 11.2.2010 respectively. Research accomplishments and development activities of the CRS, including nursery management, planting methods, varieties improvement, crossing techniques, manuring, intercropping, intercultural operations,

T
N
A
U

N
E
W
S



root feeding techniques, harvesting, mulching, pest and disease management and value addition in coconut were explained.

Degree programme for Farmers

An interactive meeting with the faculty Deans of TNAU was arranged on 10.02.2010 regarding offering a bachelor degree programme to the farmers in Tamil was organized under the Chairmanship of the Director, ODL. Suggestions were made to name the degree programme as B.F.Sc – Bachelor of Farm Sciences for duration of 3 years (6 semesters). The curricula and syllabi

are to be prepared after further discussions.

ISWS Recognition Award for TNAU scientist

Dr.C.Chinnusamy, Professor (Agronomy) & Principal Investigator



(DWSRC), Department of Agronomy, Centre for Soil and Crop Management Studies, Coimbatore was conferred with ISWS Recognition Award for the year 2009 - 10 by Indian Society of Weed Science, Jabalpur. Dr. M.P.Pandey, Vice - Chancellor, Indira Gandhi Krishi Viswavidhyalaya, Raipur, Chattisgarh

presented the award during the ISWS Biennial Conference held at IGKVV, Raipur on 25th February, 2010. The award was conferred for his outstanding contribution in the field of Weed Science Research on Integrated Weed Management for rice, sugarcane, major pulses, drum seeded and aerobic rice and for problem and parasitic weeds.

TNAU Scientists bagged ISWS Best Research Paper awards

Dr.C.Chinnusmay, Professor (Agronomy) and Dr. P. Janaki, Assistant Professor (Soil Science & Agrl. Chemistry), Department of Agronomy,



XV Group workers' meet of AICRP on Arid Zone Fruits >>>



The XV group workers meet of All India Co-ordinated Research Projects on Arid Zone fruits was conducted at Horticultural College and Research Institute, Periyakulam, from 28th to 30th Jan. 2010. The inaugural function was presided over by Dr. P. Subbian, Registrar, TNAU and inaugurated by Dr. H.P. Singh, Deputy Director Horticulture, ICAR, New Delhi on 28.01.2010. Dr. H. P. Singh in his inaugural address emphasized that

the technology driven fruit production, integrated approach, farm mechanization, enhancing and utilization of wasteland and efficient post harvest technology would meet the challenges faced by horticulture. Dr. P. Subbian in his presidential address appealed to the Deputy Director General, ICAR for including the Horticultural College and Research Institute for the research programme on Jamun and Pomegranate under the All India Co-

ordinated Research Projects of Arid Zone fruits. Dr. N. Kumar, Dean, HC & RI, TNAU, Coimbatore in his felicitation address elaborated the research contribution of TNAU in Arid Zone Fruits.

Dr. T.A. More, Director and Project Co-ordinator (AZF), Central Institute of Arid Horticulture (ICAR), Bikaner, Rajasthan presented the project report and action taken report. Earlier, Dr. V. Ponnuswami, Dean, HC&RI, Periyakulam in his welcome address stressed the need for the introduction of arid fruit crops to increase the income of the farmers.

About 100 scientists of All India co-ordinated Research Projects on Arid Zone Fruits and Tamil Nadu Agricultural University participated in the three day deliberation. The representatives of the farmers' association from the different parts of the country also participated in the discussion. Dr. M. Selvaraj, Professor and Head, Dept. of Fruit Crops, HC&RI, Periyakulam proposed the vote of thanks.



Centre for Soil and Crop Management Studies, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore were conferred with Indian Society of Weed Science Best Paper Awards for the year 2009 - 10. The awards were conferred for their research papers "Eco-biological characterization of *Orobanche cernua* and its management in tobacco planted in alfisols of western zones of Tamil Nadu" and "Adsorption and desorption characteristics of alachlor in different soils of Tamil Nadu" in the field of Weed Science Research.

The awards were presented in the recently concluded ISWS Biennial Conference on Recent Advances in Weed Science Research - 2010 held at IGKV, Raipur, Chattisgarh.

Report on Obesity and Diabetic Food Recipe Contest

The under graduate and post graduate students, senior research fellows and staff of Home Science Collage and Research Institute, Madurai participated in the obesity and diabetic food recipes contest 2010 conducted during 30th & 31st January 2010 at the Obesity (Weight Management) Clinic of Meenaksi Mission Hospital and Research Centre, Madurai. The students prepared and displayed a wide range of health foods enriched in micronutrients and dietary fibre. The food products were highly appreciated and the I, II and III prizes were bagged by Mrs. R. Sakthisubasini, Senior Research Fellow, Miss. R. Niveda, B.Sc, (Home Science) Student and Mrs. G. G. Kavithashree, Ph.D., Scholar respectively.

Fourteenth Annual Sports Meet at AEC&RI, Kumulur

Agricultural Engineering College and Research Institute, Kumulur celebrated the Fourteenth Annual Sports Meet in the college ground on 03.02.10.

Dr. K. Annadurai, Staff Advisor

welcomed the gathering. Mr. S. Syed Imran, Games Secretary presented the Annual Report. Special addresses were delivered by the special guests Dr. G. James Pitchai, Dean, TRIARD, Perambalur and Dr. L. Gothandapani, Principal, Roever Engineering College, Perambalur who accolades the efforts of the staff and students. Dr. G. Kathiresan, Dean, ADAC&RI, Trichy declared open the sports meet. Various track and field events were conducted for the students and fun games for the guests and staff of the college were conducted. Tajuddin, Dean AEC&RI, Kumulur presided over the function, delivered the presidential



address and gave away the prizes. Assistant Director of Physical Education, Tmt. Daisy proposed the vote of thanks.

Field demonstrations on betelvine

Field demonstrations were organized at Attur and Krishnagiri Districts on 25.1.2010 & 11.2.2010 by Department of Spices and Plantation Crops, Coimbatore. Dr.A.K.Mani, Professor and Head, Paiyur participated in this programme and highlighted the importance about the programme. Dr.S.Vanitha, Associate Professor (Plant Pathology) and Dr.M.Suganthi, Assistant Professor (Entomology) demonstrated the technologies developed by AICRP- Center on disease and pest management in betelvine. Dr.L.Nalina, Assistant Professor demonstrated on improved production technologies of betelvine. About 110 betelvine growers were participated in the programme and interacted with the



scientists. Sample kits containing biocontrol agent viz., *Trichoderma viride* were supplied to the farmers. The benefits and application methods of biocontrol agents were also explained to them.

Field day on SRI paddy

System of Rice Intensification (SRI) is being implemented through TN-IAMWARM scheme in Upper Vellar sub basin, by the Tapioca and Castor Research Station, Yethapur. In this scheme, SRI (Machine transplanted) paddy harvesting field day was conducted on 10.1.2010 at Vellalagundam village, Vazhapadi block, Salem district.

Dr.S.Chellamuthu, Nodal Officer TN-IAMWARM and Director (WTC), TNAU, Coimbatore; Dr.B.J.Pandiyam, Head, TN - I A M W A R M ; Dr.V.Palanisamy, Professor and Head; Dr. S.Venkatesan, Professor (Entomology) and Dr.K.Thirukumaran, Assistant Professor (Scientist incharge, TN-IAMWARM) of Tapioca and Castor Research Station, Yethapur participated in the function. About 60 farmers have



attended the field day. Also, demonstrations on SRI nursery preparation, use of conoweeder were conducted.

Off season mango festival at Kanyakumari

Under NAIP project, a mango festival has been organized at state horticultural farm, Kanyakumari. A wide array of off season mango varieties numbering 70 types such as Neelum, Bangalore, Banganapalli, Sendura, Himampasanth, Chengavarugai, Thiruvarambu, Naden, Kalkachi, Kalkandu Surancudi etc., had been displayed in a nice manner. This is the first of its kind in the country. Apart from the varietal collections, ripened fresh fruit were also arranged in different styles which attracted the visitors very much. The farmers, traders, NAIP and



TNAU Scientists, students and visitors have visited the exhibition. Dr.R.Richard Kennedy, Associate Professor (Horti) and CCPI of the NAIP project and Dr.J.Prem Joshua, Professor and Head, Horticultural Research Station, Pechiparai have made all the arrangements in a fitting manner.

Participation in State level seminar

A State level seminar on Medicinal Plants Cultivation – Buyers and Sellers Meet was organized by Directorate of Horticulture and Plantation crops on 28.1.2010 at Nehru Kalai Arangam, Salem.

The seminar was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Agricultural Minister, Tamil Nadu Government. Vice-Chancellor, TNAU, Coimbatore, Agricultural Production Commissioner and Secretary of Tamil Nadu Government,

Commissioner Horticulture and District Collector, Salem were participated.

An exhibition was arranged by Tapioca and Castor Research Station, Yethapur depicting live specimens on TNAU released tapioca varieties and castor hybrids. Charts on cultivation aspects of tapioca, castor and on coconut tonic were also displayed. More than 1000 farmers visited the exhibition and pamphlets were distributed.

Campus visit by Director (SW)

As part of the placement and higher education activities of the Directorate of Students' Welfare, the Director and his faculty paid a visit to AEC & RI, Kumulur on 28th and ADAC & RI, Trichy on 29th Jan., 2010. The Director and his team, made presentations on the various activities of the Directorate, viz. Placement, Higher education in India and abroad and Career Development courses offered by the Directorate followed by good interaction from the students.

In order to facilitate students to face campus interviews with confidence and care, the visiting team facilitated a simulation- based group discussion on vegetarianism, the economic and



healthy facts. The participation of the students was quite impressive and encouraging.

District level sports meet for the disabled

The District level 'SPORTS MEET 2010' was organized by AUM Yoga Therapy Trust for the persons with disabilities, in which 14 schools participated, was inaugurated by Dr. P. Subbian, Registrar, on 26.02.2010. There were about 400 participants of the age group between 4 and 20 years, exhibited their sports talents at TNAU playground.

Appreciating the children for their interest in sports activities, both individually and in groups, Dr. P. Subbian exhorted that, sports in general and physical exercises in particular, would help individuals to lead a healthy

National level interactive training cum seminar on off season mango)))



A two days National Level interactive training cum Seminar was organized by the Horticultural Research Station, Pechiparai at Vivekananda Kendra, under the NAIP project on Off Season Mango.

The training cum seminar was sanctioned by the ICAR to be organized under the NAIP project on Off Season Mango. Dr.J.Prem Joshua, Professor and Head welcomed the gathering while,

Dr.S.Rajan Principal Scientist, CISH, Lucknow delivered special address. Dr.N.Kumar, Dean Horticultural College and Research Institute, Coimbatore, presided over the function. Dr.A.Raja Rajan, Dean, Agricultural College and Research Institute, Killikulam inaugurated and delivered the key note address. The CCPI-NAIP project Dr.R.Richard Kennedy proposed vote of thanks.

In the technical session, eminent personalities delivered training lectures on Off Season Mango. In the interactive discussion, farmers, traders, extension workers and scientists have participated. The two days interactive discussion gave birth to a 'National off season mango growers Association (NOMA)' to be functioned at Kanyakumari.

life. "Freedom from diseases is a great gift" the Registrar stressed and added that this could be achieved through planned exercises and sports. Participation in sports activities would help children develop goodwill among them and spirit of friendship.

'Winning or loosing' is nothing in sports, participation is all the more important, Dr.P. Subbian told the large gathering of children who have assembled for the Meet.

Training on 'Varietal purity testing'

A National training on "Varietal purity testing – testing of specified traits" sponsored by GOI - NSRTC, Varanasi



has been organized from 4th to 8th January, 2010 at the Department of Seed Science & Technology, Seed Centre, Coimbatore.

Our Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Murugesu Boopathi, inaugurated the five day National training on 04.01.2010 and released the training manual. The training has been programmed to expose the participants to conventional and advanced methods of varietal identification, reasons for varietal deterioration and the policies related to varietal purity / genetic purity testing and their maintenance.

'Off season mango laboratory' at HRS, Pechipparai

Our Vice Chancellor, Dr. P. Murugesu Boopathi, inaugurated the laboratory established under the NAIP project on Off Season Mango. The laboratory has been established to conduct the experiments on the contributing factors such as phyto hormonal, biochemical, soil and physiological parameters of Off Season production in mango. Dr. N. Kumar HC&RI, Coimbatore, Dr. J. Prem Joshua, Professor and Head, Horticultural Research Station, Dr. Eraivan, Professor and Head, KVK, Dr. R. Richard Kennedy, CCPI of the NAIP

project were also present.

Training on rice and maize hybrids



Government of India sponsored training programmes on "Seed Production and Quality Control in Rice and Maize hybrids" were conducted in four batches at Seed Centre, Coimbatore between 8th Dec., 2009 and 6th Feb., 2010. The training duration was 5 days and 25 participants from Department of Agriculture and Department of Seed Certification were there in each batch. The participants were trained on seed production techniques in hybrid rice and maize through lectures, demonstrations and field visits.

Production and post harvest technology of Jasmine

Under NAIP funded scheme entitled "Value chain on flowers for domestic and export markets", a growers training programme on "Production and post



harvest technology of Jasmine" was conducted at the office of the Assistant director of Horticulture, Sathyamangalam on 11-02-2010. In the training programme, about 35 jasmine growers participated and got trained. Mr. P. Murugesu, President, Tamil Nadu Flower Growers' Association (TFGA), Sathyamangalam welcomed the farmers. Dr. M. Jawaharlal, Professor & Head, Department of Floriculture & landscaping, Coimbatore and Principal Investigator of the scheme highlighted on the NAIP project and production technology of jasmine. Dr. M. Kalyanasundaram and Dr. P. Muthulakshmi, spoken about pests and

diseases management and also clarified the farmers' queries on plant protection. Demonstration with video clip was also done during the training programme. All the queries raised relating to jasmine cultivation and marketing were also clarified. At the end, Mr. S. Mahalingam, Secretary, Tamil Nadu Flower Growers Association (TFGA), and Sathyamangalam, proposed a vote of thanks.

Training on hybrid rice under SRI

Training on "Hybrid rice cultivation under System of Rice Intensification" was organised in Bhavanisagar to 50 farm women on 10.2.2010. Dr. K. Mohana Sundaram, Professor and Head, Dr. S. Suresh, Professor, Dr. S. Manonmani, Associate Professor, Department of Rice, Coimbatore, Dr. K. Balusamy, Professor and Head, Dr. Marimuthu, Assistant Professor, ARS, Bhavanisagar, Mr E.R. Subramaniam, ADA, Bhavanisagar participated in the training. Fifty farm women were selected in and around Bhavanisagar from 5 self help groups. The farm women were taken to a field under SRI, concepts of single seedling per hill, square planting, young seedlings and the usage of cono weeder were demonstrated in the field. Each self help group was given with CORH 3 hybrid seeds to motivate them for adopting the technology under their farm holding during the ensuing season.

Field day on 'Eco friendly pest management'

A field day on Eco friendly pest management in rice was conducted at Therkkupattam village of Thiruvavur district on 13.02.2010. It was organized by KVK, Needamangalam. In the programme, more than 50 progressive farmers of Therkkupattam cluster village have participated and interacted about the management of pests and



diseases through adoption of eco friendly IPM tactics. The beneficiary

farmers expressed their views that eco friendly pest management in rice could be able to save Rs.2000/- from their cultivation expenses. Th. K. Parthasarathy, Convener of KVK farm science club proposed vote of thanks.

Training on 'Inland composite Fish culture'

A residential training programme on 'Inland composite Fish culture' was conducted for four days between 27.01.2010 and 30.01.2010 to 30



farmers from 11 districts of Tamil Nadu at KVK, Needamangalam with the financial support of NABARD. The participants are the progressive farmers of farmers club of NABARD. The training programme was formally inaugurated by Dr.T.Jayaraj, Director,

TRRI, Aduthurai. In his inaugural and presidential speech, advised the farmers to take up the fish farming as an entrepreneurship. Th.V.A.Raghavan, District Development Manager, NABARD, Thiruvarur and Th.G.Venkidasamy, Assistant Director of Fisheries delivered special address. Earlier Dr.T.Senguttuvan, Professor and Head welcomed the gathering. Dr.A.Pounraj, Associate Professor (Agri.Extension) proposed vote of thanks.

Dr.P.Kalaiselvan, Director of Extension Education, TNAU, has delivered a special technical lecture on 'Integrated Farming System with fish culture as a component' on the third day of the training programme.

Training programme on Cocoa intercropping in Coconut

One day training programme on cocoa intercropping in coconut sponsored by the Directorate of Cashew and Cocoa, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, Kochi was organized at Coconut Research Station, Veppankulam on 17.02.2010. In the inaugural session, Dr. R. Vaithilingam, Professor and Head,

CRS welcomed the gathering, Dr. T. Jayaraj, Director, TRRI, Aduthurai



presided and inaugurated the training and delivered the guest speech. Dr. K. Rajamanickam, Professor and Head, CRS, Aliyarnager and Dr. C. Natarajan, Professor and Head, ARS, Pattukkottai offered felicitations. Dr. S. Mohandas, Associate Professor (SS&AC), proposed vote of thanks. In this programme, 150 cocoa farmer were participated from five blocks of Thanjavur district.

While delivering the valedictory address Dr.V.Shunmugam, Chief Economist, MCX, Mumbai emphasized that Commodity Futures market gives advance price signals to the farmers and enabled them for hedging the produce to mitigate any price risk.

Technology week at KVK, Needamangalam >>>

The 'Technology week' was organized at KVK, Needamangalam for five days from 15.02.2010 to 19.02.2010 in order to reorient the KVK premise as 'Farmers stop' for appropriate and effective dissemination of latest technologies to the farmers at a time.

The exhibition with 21 stalls covering technology inputs, information and service stalls was first declared open by Dr.T.Jayaraj, Director, Tamil Nadu Rice Research Institute, Aduthurai on 15.02.2010. Subsequently, the technology week was inaugurated by Dr.P.Kalaiselvan, Director of Extension Education, TNAU. In his inaugural address, he advised the farmers to utilize the KVK, as it acts as the technological resource and knowledge centre. Th.S.Anbalagan, Joint Director of Agriculture, Thiruvarur and Th.Krishnakumar, Assistant Director of Horticulture offered felicitations. Dr.S.V.Sairam,



Senior Scientist of Zonal Project Directorate, Bangalore has given a detailed address about the objective of the Technology week, to be organized by each KVK at district level.

Earlier, Dr.T.Senguttuvan, Professor and Head, KVK, Needamangalam welcomed the gathering and Dr.A.Pounraj, Associate Professor (Agri.Extension) proposed vote of thanks.

Farmers' awareness campaign



A massive farmers awareness programme on Commodity Futures Market has been conducted by Dept. of Agrl. Economics, Centre for Agrl. & Rural Development Studies, Coimbatore on 19th Feb. 2010 at ADAC&RI, Trichy. Govt. Officials and farmers from various districts including Trichy, Perambalur, Thanjavur, Pudukkottai, Karur & Nagapattinam participated in the programme. Dr. V.Shunmugam explained in detail about the dire need of commodity Futures Market and how farmers can participate in it and reap its benefits. Thiru. T.G. Senthivelan from Multi Commodity Exchange explained the entire gamut of commodity futures trading with suitable examples for easy understanding of farmers.

Field day on hybrid castor

A hybrid castor (YRCH 1) Front Line Demonstration field day was conducted on 8.2.2010 in Rasipuram block of Namakkal District. Dr.K.Thiagarajan, Director (CPBG), Dr.V.Palanisamy, Professor and Head, Tapioca and Castor Research Station and other scientists have participated in the field day. A special lecture was delivered on importance of castor cultivation in rainfed and irrigated situation. Explanations on the varieties and season of cultivation, agronomic practices and pest & disease management were provided to the farmers.



Field day on precision farming in sugarcane

A field day on precision farming for sugarcane was conducted by Tapioca and Castor Research Station under TN-IAMWARM scheme on 6.2.2010 at Thumbal village, Salem District.

Dr.S.Chellamuthu, Director (WTC) and Nodal officer (TN-IAMWARM), TNAU, Coimbatore, Dr.V.Palanismay, Professor and Head and Dr.K.Thirukumar, Assistant Professor (Scientist incharge, TN-IAMWARM) of Tapioca and Castor Research Station have participated in the function. More than 30 farmers have participated in the field day.



The importance of precision farming for water saving, increasing yield and sugar recovery was highlighted to the farmers. Demonstration on drip fertigation through precision farming for sugarcane was also conducted for the benefit of farmers. At the end of the programme, Th.P.Baskaran, a progressive farmer shared his experience on precision farming with other fellow farmers.

Field day on precision farming in banana

A field day on Precision Farming for banana was conducted on 6.2.2010 at Thamaiyanur village, Salem District under TN-IAMWARM scheme. Dr.S.Chellamuthu, Director (WTC) and Nodal Officer, TN-IAMWARM, TNAU, Coimbatore, Dr.V.Palanisamy, Professor and Head and Dr.K.Thirukumar, Assistant Professor (Scientist incharge, TN-IAMWARM) of Tapioca and Castor Research Station participated in the function. About 50 farmers have attended the field day.

A special lecture on importance of precision farming in water scarcity area to increase the yield and thereby increasing the standard of living was

highlighted to the farmers. Also demonstration on precision farming



through drip fertigation for banana was conducted by the scientists.

VC's inspection at ARS, Thirupathisaram

Our Vice-chancellor Dr.P.Murugesha Boopathi inspected the Agricultural Research Station, Thirupathisaram on 30.1.2010. He reviewed the research activities. He instructed the soil scientists to analyze the soil for all physical and chemical properties for the lay-out of the permanent manurial experiment. He suggested to test the nutritional status of the rice developed from this station at HC&RI, Madurai. He declared open the newly constructed Labour Rest Hall at Thirupathisaram. Dr. N. Kumar, Dean (HC&RI) Coimbatore, accompanied the Vice Chancellor. Dr.A.P.M.Kirubakaran Soundararaj, Professor and Head of the station explained the activities.



Farmers Training programme on Rice Production Technologies

A training programme on "Latest Rice Production Technologies" was organized by Department of Agronomy, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore and NABARD for three days from 8th to 10th February, 2010. Twenty five farmers from twelve rice growing districts of Tamil Nadu have participated in this program. Dr.P.Muthukrishnan, Professor and Head, Department of Agronomy, Coimbatore, welcomed the gathering. Dr.S.Jeyaraman, Director (SCMS)

T
N
A
U
N
E
W
S



inaugurated the training and delivered the inaugural address. Dr.V.Suresh, Assistant General Manager, NABARD highlighted the various initiatives taken by NABARD under TOT mode. Dr.N.Maragatham, Professor of Agronomy and training coordinator explained the various aspects of the training program.

Dr.P.Muthukrishnan, Professor and Head, Department of Agronomy, Coimbatore in his valedictory address emphasized the need for such a training program and then he distributed the participatory certificates. Dr.P.Murali Arthanari, Assistant Professor and training co-coordinator, proposed vote of thanks.

IMPORTANT VISITORS

- A team of scientists from Virginia tech, Ohio State University, Penn State University and Tamil Nadu Agricultural University visited ICH, Ooty on 09.02.2010
- IPM CRSP team consisting of Dr. Shally A. Muller, Plant Pathologist, Ohio State University, USA, Dr. Ed Rajotte, Entomologist, Penn State University, USA, Doug Pfeiffer, Entomologist, Virginia Tech, USA, George Norton, Agrl. Economist, Virginia Tech, USA, Dr. Maria Elisa, Gender Specialist, Virginia Tech, USA, Dr. Muniappan, IPM-CRSP Director, Virginia Tech, USA, Robert Headlund, USAID, IPM CRSP Director, Dr. Newton Kaushik, TERI, New Delhi and Dr. K. P. Jayant, BCRL, Bengaluru visited CPMB between 7.2.2010 and 11.2.2010.
- Th.Balasubramanian Ramani and Mathias, COLOGNEU, Germany visited DODL between 11.2.2010 and 12.2.2010.
- The global representatives from BASF, Plant Science Company, Mr. Ernst Vrancken, Global development manager, Rice from Belgium and Mr. Oliver Gluch, Quality Manager Development (Germany) visited CPMB on 15.2.2010.
- Dr.Devnhard and Balasubramanian Ramani, Leibniz University of Hannover, Germany visited HC&RI, Coimbatore, between 16.2.2010 and 18.2.2010.
- Dr. Leslie Macharen, Co-President, Vice President Academic, Nova Scotia Agrl. College, Canada, visited on 17.2.2010.
- Prof. Helena, Macquarie University, Australia visited CPMB on 19.2.2010.
- Dr.Disk Weichgrebe, Professor, Leibniz University of Hannover, Germany visited AEC&RI, Coimbatore, between 22.2.2010 and 24.2.2010.
- Prof. Choi, Chung-Ang University, Korea, visited CPMB on 26.2.2010.

NEW SCHEMES

Name of the Scheme	PI	Amount (lakh Rs.)	Funding Agency
Strengthening of quality seed production and distribution – Phase II	Dr.K.Ramamoorthy, Special officer, Seed Centre	31.33	NADP - project
Development of Instructional materials for COE both BBT and advance module	Dr.K.Vanangamudi, Professor (SST)	12.44	GOI

Published by :
Directorate of Planning & Monitoring, TNAU.
Coimbatore - 641 003.

Printed at :
Directorate of Open & Distance Learning,
TNAU Offset Printing Press,
Coimbatore - 641 003.

To

From
Directorate of Planning and Monitoring,
Tamil Nadu Agricultural University,
Coimbatore - 641 003