

# TNAU NEWS



## TAMILNADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY NEWS LETTER

Patron : Dr. P. MURUGESA BOOPATHI- Vice Chancellor

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

### 64th Independence day celebrations



The 64<sup>th</sup> Independence day of our country was celebrated with much enthusiasm at Coimbatore campus on 15.8.2010. About 550 NSS volunteers attended the flag hoisting by our Vice-Chancellor, Dr. P.Murugesha Boopathi at the RI building. The Vice-Chancellor received the guard of honour from the NCC cadets of TNAU. Later, a mass tree planting was taken up by NSS volunteers. One thousand tree saplings were planted and the function was graced by our Vice-Chancellor. Scientists and staff of TNAU also took part in tree planting. The saplings were sponsored by Tamil Nadu Agril. University Teachers' Association and arrangements were made by HC & RI, TNAU.

### Orientation for agribusiness work experience

The orientation for "Agribusiness Work Experience Programme" was organized on 11.08.2010 in the Department of Agricultural Extension and Rural Sociology, Coimbatore to inculcate an awareness and knowledge on the utility of village stay programme proposed to be organized for a duration of 15 days for the benefit of final year students of B.S. (Agribusiness Management).

The Dean (Agriculture) in his introductory remarks, highlighted the importance of Agribusiness Work Experience Programme.

Dr.N.Ajjan, Director, Center for Agricultural and Rural Development Studies, in his felicitation, indicated that the Agribusiness Work Experience Programme will have tremendous impact among the farming community besides enabling them to acquire first hand knowledge on technology adoption by the farming community.

The Agribusiness Work Experience Programme is being implemented in TN-IAMWARM sub basins of Dharmapuri District under the technical guidance and coordination of Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Dharmapuri besides Dr.S.Kalaivani, Assistant Professor (Agril. Extension) as course teacher.

Earlier Dr.S.Palaniswamy, Professor and Head, Department of Agricultural Extension and Rural Sociology, TNAU, Coimbatore welcomed the gathering. Dr.P.Muthiah Manoharan, Professor (Agricultural Extension) proposed the vote of thanks.

### Faculty Development programme on Commodity Futures

Department of Agricultural Economics, Coimbatore has organized a two days 'Faculty Development Programme (FDP) on Commodity Futures' in association with Forward Markets Commission, Department of Consumer





Affairs, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Government of India and Multi – Commodity Exchange, Mumbai to sensitize the functioning of commodity futures market to the staff and research scholars of TNAU and other institutes in Coimbatore district on 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 2010. A total number of 106 participants, including staff and research scholars, from TNAU and other institutes in Coimbatore district participated in the training programme.

The FDP programme was inaugurated by Dr. P. Subbian, Registrar, TNAU. Dr. K. S. Uma, IES, Economic Advisor, Forward Markets Commission, Mumbai delivered the key note address. Dr. Raosaheb Mohite, Assistant Vice-President, FT Knowledge Management Company, Mumbai delivered the special address. Dr.N.Ajjan, Director CARDS welcomed the gathering and Dr.M.Chinnadurai Professor & Head, Dept. of Agricultural Economics proposed a vote of thanks.

**Awareness campaigns on bio tech crops**

Awareness campaigns on Biotech crops for extension personnel (officials of Department of Agriculture) and KVK scientists were organised in coordination with Directorate of Extension Education with a view to provide scientific information on GM crops.

The series of awareness meetings was inaugurated on 6<sup>th</sup> August, 2010 by Our Vice-Chancellor at Coimbatore. The meeting was attended by University officers,

Mr. L. Nadarajan, Joint Director of Agriculture, Coimbatore and officials of Department of Agriculture. Our Vice-Chancellor, in his inaugural address, highlighted the popularity of the GM technology particularly Bt cotton among the Indian farmers. He also stressed the need for such awareness campaigns to provide scientific facts about the technology and instill confidence among different stakeholders.

During the one day meetings conducted at Coimbatore, Maduari, Thirupathisaram, Tindivanam, Sandhiyur, Needamangalam and Sirugamani KVKs, the following lectures were presented. 1. GM crops - An overview 2. Biosafety of GM crops 3. Case study on Bt cotton and Bt Brinjal.

These meetings provided an opportunity for the extension personnel to get first-hand information from experts and to get their doubts on GM crops clarified.



**Training on gloriosa superba at KVK, Sandhiyur**

One day training on improved production technologies of *Gloriosa superba* (Common names: Kannuvali Kizhangu, Senganthal Malar and Kalappai Kizhangu) was conducted on 23.7.2010 at KVK, Sandhiyur, Salem in collaboration with Department of Horticulture, Salem. Dr. K. Rajamani, Professor and Head of the Department of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants, HC & RI, Coimbatore, explained about the improved production technologies of *Gloriosa* in detail. Dr. S. Manickam, Programme Co-ordinator, KVK, Sandhiyur presided



over the training. Thiru. Dasarathan, DDH, Salem district, Dr. S. Azhazia Manavalan, Dean (Retd), HC & RI, Coimbatore and ADH, Edappadi participated in this training and elucidated the importance of Medicinal plants cultivation in Salem district. About 110 farmers growing *Gloriosa* in Edappadi Block participated. Dr. M.A.Vennila, Assistant Professor, KVK, Sandhiyur welcomed the gatherings and Dr. P. S. Kavitha, Assistant Professor, KVK, Sandhiyur proposed vote of thanks.

**Jawaharlal Nehru Award for horticulture thesis**

Dr.Sukhen Chandra Das, who has completed his Ph.D during 2007 in the department of Fruit Crops, HC&RI, Coimbatore, under the chairmanship of Dr.T.N.Balamohan, Professor (Horticulture) has been awarded with the prestigious “Jawaharlal Nehru Award -2009” for the outstanding research contribution in the field of Horticulture by the ICAR, New Delhi. His thesis topic was on “Breeding for Resistance to Nematodes and Fusarium Wilt in Banana (*Musa spp.*)” He received this award from the Honorable Minister of Agriculture, Govt. of India on 14.7.2010.

**Price forecast for adipattam crops**

**Maize**  
DEMIC econometric analysis done with ten years price data of Udumalpet market results confirmed that the price of maize will be around Rs.850-950 per quintal for the adipattam sown crop, which comes to the market from October – December, 2010. The



continuous demand for maize in poultry industry and lesser predicted area in the *kharif* will help the prices to rule around higher side. Based on the above, farmers in Tamil Nadu are recommended to go for maize sowing in the ensuing season. They are advised to sow varieties/hybrids with bold grains to fetch better prices.

### Groundnut

In spite of huge stocks and import of oil, usage of nearly 10 lakh metric tonnes of groundnut for table purpose and limited stock and demand in festive season gives positive sign that the prices of groundnut will be revolving around Rs.2900-3200 per quintal during September to December 2010. Hence, farmers are advised to sow groundnut in Adipattam with proper seed treatment and providing irrigation at the time of flowering and pod formation which will increase the yield.

### Awareness campaign on invasive weeds

Monthly zonal workshop was conducted at Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), AC&RI, Madurai on July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010. In this workshop, the Joint Director of Agriculture (JDA), Assistant Director of Agriculture (ADA) and Agricultural Officers of Madurai district totaling 50 Nos. participated. This zonal workshop was inaugurated by Dr.N.S.Venkataraman, Professor of KVK. Lectures on Integrated nutrient management and dryland agriculture were given by Dr.Saravanapandiyan, Assoc. Professor of Soil Science and Dr.R.Durai Singh, Professor of Agronomy. Surveillance Inspectors of NIWS scheme, Mr.S. Nanthakumar, P.Anandhkumar and



S.Thirumalaikumar also participated.

Mrs.N.Malarkodi presented elaborately about the invasive weeds. The Senior Surveillance Inspector explained about the spread and control measures of already invaded weeds. In this campaign, folders and pamphlets on invasive weeds were given to the participants. This campaign has created awareness among all these 50 extension officials of Madurai district about invasive weeds and already invaded weeds.

### ASRB Chairman visits HRS, Ooty

The Chairman, Agricultural Scientist Recruitment Board, New Delhi, Dr.C.D. Mayee visited the Horticultural Research Station, Ooty on 10.07.2010. Dr. R.M.Vijayakumar, Professor and Head and Dr.L.Rajendran, Assistant



Professor (Plant Pathology) explained the various research and extension activities of the station. The Chairman, ASRB visited the polyhouse, biofertilizer and biocontrol agents production unit and the medicinal plants collection unit.

### Director (TRRI) inspects CRS, Veppankulam

The Director, TRRI, Aduthurai visited the Coconut Research Station, Veppankulam on 23.07.2010. The Director reviewed the research activities of individual Scientists critically and offered suggestion for improvements. The Director asked the scientists to formulate new schemes for availing external funding. The Director initiated the "Network Project on establishment of nucleus seed garden of recently released coconut varieties" by planting the



first seedling in the station. He also inspected the ongoing field experiments.

### Seed processing unit launched at AC&RI, Madurai

A modern seed-processing cum storage complex was established with an outlay of about 40 lakhs under the ICAR - Mega Seed Project and inaugurated at AC&RI, Madurai, by Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture Thiru. Veerapandi S. Arumugam, in the presence of Hon'ble. Minister for Adi Dravidar & Tribal Welfare, Tmt. Thamilarasi Ravikumar.

Modern equipments viz., Seed Cleaners, Graders, Seed Up-Graders, Automatic weighing and Bagging Machine, Automatic Seed Coating Machine and Loader - Staker were installed for easy processing and improving the quality of all kinds of seeds including vegetables with an annual capacity of processing of about 1500 tonnes of seeds of different quality classes i.e. breeder, foundation and truthful seeds of various crops.

### Training for kisan call centre personnel

One day orientation training was arranged to Kisan Call Centre Personnel at the Directorate of Extension Education, by the Department of Market Extension on 19.7.2010. The Scientists of TNAU handled technical sessions on Plant Protection, Animal Husbandry and Organic farming. An exclusive interactive session was also held in which an analysis was done on the queries often received and the districts from where more number of queries are being asked and the



modalities for replying those queries.

**Inaugural function of certificate course on sugarcane technology**

Sugarcane Research Station, Melalathur has organized Certificate course on Sugarcane Technology under the Directorate of Open and Distance Learning, Coimbatore to Cane Staff at



Dharani Sugars & Chemicals, Polur. In this context, an inaugural function was organized on 25.07.2010 at Dharani Sugars & Chemicals, Polur. The inaugural function was chaired by Dr. Valluvaridasan, Director, Open and Distance Learning, and delivered Presidential address. Dr. R.S. Purushothaman, Professor and Head, SRS, Melalathur delivered special lecture on "Varieties of sugarcane and their characteristics" to 50 Cane Assistants and answered their queries as part of contact class.

**Placements for TNAU graduates**

The 131<sup>st</sup> Campus Interview to select Agricultural Field Officers for Corporation Bank was organized by the Directorate of Students Welfare on 19.7.2010. The graduates numbering 127 turned in for the interview.

The interview was inaugurated by Dr.P.Subbian, Registrar. He highlighted and appreciated the achievements and accomplishments made by the Directorate in placing the students in public as well as in private

sectors. He also applauded the Career Development Courses offered from this Directorate in equipping the students with necessary skills and competencies for better placement and Higher Education in India and Abroad.

The General Manager Mr.S.Pattabi Raman, of Corporation Bank, Mangalore in his address highlighted the profile of the Corporation Bank. He also emphasized the role and function of the Agricultural Graduates in the progress of the Nation. Mr.V.Thangaraju, Zonal Head and Deputy General Manager, in his special address said that the Corporation Bank serving for the cause of the development of the Rural and Semi Rural people, has a promising future for the candidates selected for its service.

Out of the 127 candidates, 33 were short listed after a Group Discussion and in the final interview, 15 candidates have been selected for the post of Agricultural field officer.

**Refresher training for seed certification officials**



Two day refresher training programme was conducted for the Seed Certification Officials of Southern districts at AC&RI, Madurai between 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> July, 2010. About 50 participants comprising of ADAs of Seed Certification and ASOs of Seed Certification participated. Dr. K.Vairavan, Dean, AC and RI, Madurai chaired the training session and conducted the proceedings. While welcoming the gathering, the JDA (Madurai) requested the participants to utilize the opportunity to refresh their

knowledge. Director (Seed Certification) Th.Karunanidhi extolled the virtues of Tamil Nadu Seed Certification staff and requested them to act in just while conducting field inspection. During the presidential and keynote address, Dr.K.Vairavan, Dean, Madurai informed the role of quality seeds in green revolution. He also presented the seed production activities at AC and RI, Madurai. Dr. N. Kumar Professor and Head, KVK, proposed the vote of thanks.

**Farmers' field day**

A "Farmers' Field Day' was conducted at Vanur block of Tindivanam Taluk under the IAMWARM project on 19<sup>th</sup> July, 2010, in which cultivation of green manure crops, SRI, rice fallow pulses cultivation were demonstrated at field level. Dr.N.Sathiah, Professor and Head, KVK, Tindivanam, gave an in-depth explanation of the above technologies and seeds of green manure crops were distributed to the SRI farmers. Mr. Sivagami Madhavan, Panchayat President of Vanur Taluk, presided over the function. Mr.Neduchejian, Counsellor and Mr. Sundar, President of Water Use Association participated in the function.

**Inauguration of Scheme on Sustainable Cocoa Production at CRS, Aliyanagar**

The inaugural function on the launching of the scheme on "Sustainable Cocoa Production in Tamil Nadu" was held at CRS, Aliyanagar on 28.7.2010. Dr.K.Rajamanickam, Professor and Head welcomed the gathering. Dr. N. Kumar, Dean, HC&RI,





## Commodity interest group farmers' interface meet

An Interface meet was arranged in Coimbatore campus on 21.7.2010 by the Department of Market Extension in co-ordination with Sri Avinashilingam Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Karamadai based on the request made by Coimbatore District Plantation Crop Growers welfare Association for providing technical guidance on mealy bug control, farm mechanization and vegetable cultivation. Around 60 farmers who are the members of the above association attended the meet.

Our Vice Chancellor, Dr. P. Murugesu Boopathi while addressing the gathering, assured all the technical support to the farmers' organizations on production, marketing and processing. The Vice Chancellor also suggested the Avinashilingam KVK, to co-ordinate with the Directorate of Extension Education, TNAU in conducting the training programmes to the farmers of Coimbatore District regularly.



Dr.P.Kalaiselvan, Director of Extension Education, explained the purpose of the interface meet and the responsibilities of the Association in popularizing the technologies released by TNAU. Dr.SP. Ramanathan, Professor and Head, Department of Market

gathering and Dr.R.Vijayaraghavan, Professor and Head, Training Division proposed a vote of thanks. The Scientists of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University delivered lectures on mealy bug control, farm mechanization and vegetable cultivation.

Coimbatore, inaugurated the function and highlighted the importance of cocoa as a suitable intercrop in Tamil Nadu. Mr.Bellie, Advisor (Cocoa), Cadbury (I) Ltd., delivered the event theme address and emphasized the need for growing cocoa as an intercrop in coconut. Dr. Jansi Rani, Professor and Head (Spices and Plantation Crops), imparted the objective address of the scheme. Mr. R. Rajesh, Manager (Cocoa Operations -Tamil Nadu), Cadbury (I) Ltd. delivered the special address. The vote of thanks was proposed by Dr.J.Sheela, Associate Professor (Plant Pathology). The function concluded with the planting of elite cocoa seedlings as an intercrop in the 20 year old coconut plantation at CRS, Aliyarnagar.

### Trainings on pests and diseases surveillance

A training programme on Pest and Disease Surveillance was

conducted for the benefit of the Extension Functionaries of Villupuram district on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2010. A total of 13 Agricultural Officers, 13 Deputy Agricultural Officers and 8 Horticultural Officers participated in the training programme. The resource persons included the Plant Protection scientists of ORS and KVK, Tindivanam. A Video Conferencing was arranged with the participants and experts from TNAU. Dr.E.Vadivel, Professor (Hort) and Nodal Officer, e - extension, also joined the session.

### Launching of BPD - Entrepreneurial Hub

At Madurai



The BPD-Entrepreneurial hub was launched at the AC&RI, Madurai on 9<sup>th</sup> July, 2010. Shri. K.P.T. Ganesan, Chairman, Agricultural Marketing Committee, Government of Tamil Nadu was the chief guest for the function. Nearly 25 entrepreneurs have participated in the function.

Dr. V. Sekar, Professor and Head, Department of Agricultural Extension, AC &RI Madurai welcomed the gathering. Dr. K. Vairavan, Dean, AC&RI, Madurai delivered the presidential address. In his speech, he noted that the BPD-Entrepreneurial hub at Madurai can act as a bridge between scientists and entrepreneurs.

Dr. R. Ganesan, Director, Directorate of Agri-Business Development, and PI, NAIP-BPD project, Coimbatore delivered the special address. In his speech he emphasized that farming has to be carried out as business and not a livelihood activity.



Shri. K.P.T. Ganesan, Chairman, Agricultural Marketing Committee, Government of Tamil Nadu while addressing, pointed out that the Government of Tamil Nadu has initiated the establishment of terminal markets in Madurai, Macheri, Salem, Pudukottai, and Perambalur so as to cater the marketing needs of the agripreneurs.

After the inaugural function, Mr. R. Bhubesh kumar, Business Manager, BPD-TNAU explained the activities of BPD unit at TNAU and services extended to entrepreneurs.

**At Aduthurai**

At TRRI, Aduthurai it was launched on 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 2010. About 80 participants from various places in the district attended the program.

Dr. Praveen, Professor (Agronomy), TRRI, welcomed the participants and guests. Dr. Jeyaraj, Director, TRRI, during his inaugural address stressed upon the importance of marketing in agri-business.

Dr. R. Ganesan, Director-Agri-Business Development and PI, NAIP-BPD project during his special address, said that the farmers have to turn in to successful entrepreneurs.

Dr. Kathiresan, Dean, ADAC&RI, Trichy in his speech, discussed in detail about the scope of food processing and value added products. Mr. Ravikumar, Manager, NABARD, Tanjore has presented in detail about various support programs of the bank for entrepreneurs. During the afternoon session, Mr. R. Bhubesh Kumar, Business Manager, BPD-TNAU presented in detail about the services offered at BPD-TNAU which include technical and

business consultancy, market study and market linkages, capacity building, publicity, infrastructure and many more.

**Brain storming session at TRRI, Aduthurai**

A brain storming session was held on 9-7-2010 at TRRI Aduthurai. All the scientists participated in the discussion held to design the technology and knowledge base portal development for rice based cropping system and to develop the 'Global Knowledge Portal' in rice. Mr.G.Senthilkumar, Project Coordinator, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), New Delhi participated in the discussion. Latest as well as indigenous technologies available in rice production were discussed.

**Launching of ClimaRice Programme**



The ClimaRice programme was launched in two villages viz., Thirubhuvanam and Manalur of Thanjavur district which represent the Cauvery old Delta zone. Preliminary meetings were arranged in both the villages on 20-07-10 and 21-07-10 respectively. It has been programmed to layout trials in farmers' field to assess the impact of green house gases emission, besides evaluating climate change aspects.

**Training for Palmyrah Growers**

A training programme on "Hands on training for Entrepreneurship development of value addition and marketing of palmyrah products was conducted at HC&RI, Periyakulam, on 01.07.2010. In this training programme, about 100 women farmers from Endapuli Pudupatti participated.



Dr. V.Ponnuswami, Dean (Hort.) and Principal Investigator of the project delivered a lecture on the need for identifying the high neera yielding, early bearing, dwarf elite types and on preparation of value added edible and non edible palmyrah products. In the training programme, demonstration on the preparation of pongal and payasam from neera and nungu gheer were done. The trainees were also briefed about the importance of preparation of these value added products from palmyrah on a commercial scale.

**HC&RI students exposed to Departmental activities**

The final year students of HC&RI, Periyakulam, had first hand exposure in the functioning pattern of the state Department of Horticulture under the RHWE –Attachment with ADH Programme. They were placed at Theni and Dindigul districts.

The students conducted a number of demonstrations like management of Papaya mealy bug, management of panama wilt, psuedostem weevil and bunchy top in banana, control of yellow mosaic virus and pod fly in bhendi, training and pruning and control of stem borer in mango, High density planting in mango, air layering in moringa and fertigation under Precision Farming.

The programme also provided an





exposure to agro processing industries and helped in developing their presentation and documentation skills.

### Training on Commodity Group Formation and its Empowerment

Under the ICAR-NAIP funded scheme "Value chain on flowers for domestic and export markets", a training to facilitate commodity group formation for jasmine flower growers was organized at Nilakottai on 27.07.2010 and 28.07.2010.

Forty flower growers participated in this programme. Dr. M. Jawaharlal, the Consortium Principal Investigator of the above project and Professor of Horticulture, welcomed the growers and gave a lecture on the role of the NAIP project in floriculture promotion.

Dr. P. Paramaguru, Professor and Head, Department of Floriculture and Landscaping and Mr. S. Ganesan, Deputy Director of Horticulture, Dindigul also highlighted the importance of commodity group formation in this area which would help to strengthen the farmers' livelihood.

Dr. N. Venkatesa Palanichamy, Associate Professor, Dept of Agriculture and Rural Management, emphasized the role of commodity group formation in making benefits and resources more accessible to the growers. Dr. D. Suresh Kumar, Associate Professor, Dept of Economics, highlighted on aspects such as institutional support from organization such as NABARD and Government and private banks.



Certificates were distributed to the flower growers. Finally, Mrs. Indragandhi, Assistant Director of Horticulture, Nilakottai, proposed vote of thanks.

### TNAU scientist honoured

Dr. N. Selvaraj, Professor (Horticulture), Horticultural Research Station, Ooty has been awarded with 'BHARAT JYOTI AWARD 2010' by the International Friendship Society of India, New Delhi recently. The award was given by Dr. Bhisma Narain Singh, former Governor of Assam and Tamil Nadu. He has also been awarded as 'BEST CITIZENS OF INDIA AWARD 2010' by the International Publishing Centre, New Delhi. Both the awards were given to him for his contribution through Research and Development in the field of 'Organic Farming' in India.



### Season long training on cotton cultivation

In order to increase the area under cotton, the Govt. of India thro' its project Cotton Mini Mission II organizes the cotton cultivation training regularly for the facilitators

The second training on cotton cultivation was inaugurated by our Vice Chancellor Dr. P. Murugesu Boopathi on 2.8.2010 at TNAU, Coimbatore. During his inaugural speech, the Vice-Chancellor stressed the need for increasing the productivity of cotton.

Dr. P. Kalaiselvan, Director of Extension Education, welcomed the gathering and emphasized the need for updating the knowledge of the facilitators on cotton cultivation. Dr. N. Gopalakrishnan, Project Co-ordinator (Cotton) and



Head, Central Institute for Cotton Research, Coimbatore, delivered special address. Thirty participants representing the major cotton growing districts were attending the training. Dr. SP. Ramanathan, Professor and Head, Department of Market Extension, proposed a vote of thanks.

### Netherlands researchers visits ARS, Pattukkottai

Dr. Dominic Glover and Dr. Ezra Berkhout, Wageningen University, Netherlands visited Agricultural Research Station, Pattukkottai on 28.07.2010, accompanied by Dr. B. J. Pandian, Professor and Head (TN-IAMWARM) under the project "Evolution of system of rice intensification as a social movement" funded by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Dr. P. Parthasarathy, Professor and Head, welcomed them and explained about the emergence and spread of System of Rice Intensification in Cauvery delta zone besides the drivers and mechanisms that underline the SRI. Members of 'Sethengudi SRI Farmers Association' participated in the meeting and answered the queries raised by Dr. Dominic Glover and Dr. Ezra Berkhout. Dr. M. Kavino, Assistant Professor (Horticulture) proposed vote of thanks.





Directorate of Weed Science Research Centre, Department of Agronomy, Coimbatore has observed Parthenium awareness week between 7<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> August, 2010. Elocution contest and quiz programme for NSS volunteers of TNAU were organized on 07.08.2010. Parthenium awareness rally was also organized on 07.08.2010 involving 350 NSS volunteers and scientists, which was flagged off by Dr. V. Jeyapal, Dean, Agricultural College & Research Institute, Coimbatore. Finally a meeting was organized under the presidentship of our Vice Chancellor, Dr. P. Murugesha Boopathi. Dr. P. Muthukrishnan, Professor and Head, welcomed the gathering. Dr. C. Chinnusamy, Principal Investigator, Weed control unit spoke about the parthenium. Dr. S. Jeyaraman, Director (Crop Management) stressed the importance of



parthenium eradication. Our Vice chancellor explained to the gathering about the origin of Parthenium in India, ill effects caused by the weed to the general

public, cultivated lands and the livestock population in India. Dr. K. Govindarajan, DWSRC, Department of Agronomy, proposed a vote of thanks

T  
N  
A  
U

N  
E  
W  
S

**Vice Chancellor visits SWMRI, Thanjavur**

Our Vice Chancellor Dr. P. Murugesha Boopathi visited Soil and Water Management Research Institute, Kattuthottam, Thanjavur on 10.08.2010. He reviewed the ongoing activities and inspected the research farm. He also initiated the sub surface fertigation in sugarcane. Dr.T.Jayaraj, Director, TRRI, Aduthurai accompanied the Vice Chancellor.

Dr.T.Senguttuvan, Professor and Head, KVK, Needamangalam; Mr.P.Loganathan, Joint Director of Agriculture, Thanjavur; Mr.S.Anbalagan, DD Seed

Certification, Thanjavur and Mr.K.Muralidharan, ADA, Seed Testing officer have also participated during the Vice Chancellor's visit.

**Cocoa poly clonal seedling plantation in HRS, Thadiyankudisai**



Dr. N. Kumar, Dean (Hort.), TNAU, Coimbatore has inaugurated the scheme on Sustainable Cocoa Production in Tamil Nadu by planting of cocoa seedlings at Horticultural Research Station, Thadiyankudisai on 9.8.2010. Dr. M. Ananthan, Associate Professor & Head, HRS, Thadiyankudisai, Dr. P. Jansirani, Professor & Head,

Dept. of Spices & Plantation Crops, HC & RI, Coimbatore, Th. R. Rajesh, Manager (Operations) and Th. T. Bellie, Advisor of Cadbury India (P). Ltd., the Assistant Professors of HRS, Thadiyankudisai and Planters were also present. A poly clonal cocoa nursery is raised through the budded plants obtained from Faculty of Horticulture, Kerala Agricultural University, Vellanikara.

**DSW visits CSIA, Tindivanam**

Dr.T.Rathakrishnan, Director, (Students welfare) visited C. Subramaniam Institute of Agriculture, on 12.08.2010. He conducted group discussions among the Diploma students.





Dr.N.Ramamoorthi, Principal, CSIA presided over the function. Dr. Suresh and Dr. G. Dharmaraj delivered lectures on improvement of the soft skills and techniques of facing interview.

### Monitoring team on Jute and allied fibers, visits TRRI, Aduthurai

The All India Co-ordinate Network project on Jute and Allied Fibers monitoring team comprising of Dr.A.R.Saha, Sr. Scientist (Soil Science), Dr.B. Majumdar and Dr.T. Ramasubramanian, from Central Research Institute for Jute and Allied Fibers, Barrackpore, Kolkatta visited the on-going field experiments at TRRI, Aduthurai on 09.08.2010. The progress of crop management and crop



improvement trials was also seen and appreciated. Later, they had discussion with Director, TRRI and other related scientists, regarding the functioning of the Jute and Mesta Scheme.

### RKMP –Rice knowledge management portal – Action plan meeting

TRRI, Aduthurai is one of the coordinating centres for NAIP Component 1 funded “Development and Management of Rice Knowledge Management Portal” at Tamil Nadu. The action plan meeting was held at TRRI, on 11.08. 2010. Dr. Shaik N. Meera, Principle Investigator, DRR, Hyderabad, Consortium partners Dr.M.P.Rajanna, UAS, Bangalore, and Dr.C.Kathiresan, CDAC, Hyderabad were discussed about the objectives, functional requirement, dimension of the project. Scientists were actively participated in the action meeting and the preparation of the content

development for the RKMP information.

### Freshers' day at CSIA, Tindivanam



A welcome party was organized for the freshers of Diploma in Agricultural programme on 11.08.2010 by C. Subramaniam Institute of Agriculture, Tindivanam. Dr. N. Ramamoorthi, Principa,l inaugurated the function and delivered the presidential address. The second year students were participated and performed various cultural programmes. The staff members of ORS and KVK, Tindivanam were also participated in the function.

### DR visits ORS, Tindivanam

Dr. M. Paramathma, Director of Research visited ORS, Tindivanam on 11.08.2010. He interacted with



staff members and gave valuable suggestion for better working conditions of the ORS. During the field visit, he appreciated the line sowing in groundnut with tropiculture. He suggested for popularizing this technology among the dry land farming community to increase the oilseed production. The Professor and Head, Dr. N. Ramamoorthi explained the pre-release cultures of groundnut under field condition.

### Algal management in rice fields of cauvery delta

In Cauvery delta, the profuse algal growth making a mat in rice field has been a burning problem which reduces yield considerably. In this context, a field workshop was organized on 30.07.2010 for algal management in rice fields, wherein 15 farmers participated. Dr. G. Sudhagar, Dr.M.Ramasubramanian and Dr. K. Kumanan, the Subject Matter Specialists of KVK, Needamangalam explained about the algal management, step by step. At the end of the interaction, the farmers were taken to field and Dr.G.Sudhagar and his team demonstrated how to apply copper sulphate in the field.



### KVK, Needamangalam facilitated creation of Farmers Science Club

Vallalar Ulavar Mandram, a farmers' science club at Melathirupalagudi village of Thiruvarur district has been put on motion formally by the KVK, Needamangalam on 30.07.2010. Dr.T.Senguttuvan, Professor and Head, KVK, Needamangalam and Mr.Mayilvahanan, Assistant Director of Agriculture, Mannargudi inaugurated the club formally by lighting the lamp which was attended by fifty farmers. The inauguration was followed by a





seminar wherein a lecture was delivered on Location specific Agronomic practices for Rice by Dr. S. Anandakrishnaveni, Assistant Professor (Agronomy) followed by another lecture on Integrated Pest & Disease Management in Rice by Dr.M.Senthil Kumar, Assistant Professor (Agrl.Entomology).

**Rice transplanter demo in KVK, Needamangalam**

A one day on campus demonstration has been arranged at KVK, Needamangalam on 21.07.2010 to demonstrate the utility of Eight row Yanmar Rice transplanter to farmers of Thiruvapur District. Twenty farmers from the district participated in the



demonstration and witnessed the efficiency of Rice Transplanter. They actively interacted with the SMS team of KVK headed by Dr.T.Senguttuvan, Professor and Head. He further made an appeal to the participants to pass on the information to their fellow farmers that KVK will give Rice Transplanter on custom hiring to all needy farmers. Dr.G.Sudhakar, SMS (Agronomy) explained about the cost economics of Rice Transplanter and the Nursery tray preparation

**Training on square planting in SRI**

Subject Matter Specialists from KVK organized a field level off-campus training in Parappanamedu village of Thiruvapur District on 15.07.2010. Thirty women labourers got benefited out of the training. During the training, Dr.T.Senguttuvan, Professor and Head, KVK, Needamangalam emphasized the need for square



planting in SRI to maintain optimal population in the main field and subsequent gap filling and thinning. Dr.G.Sudhakar, SMS (Agronomy) sensitise the women labourers about the importance of planting 14 day old single seedling.

**Training on vermicomposting**

On-campus training on vermicomposting was organized at KVK, Needamangalam on 09.07.2010. Totally 50 participants encompassing farmers, farm women and SHG Women have participated in the training. Dr.T.Senguttuvan, Professor and Head, KVK, Needamangalam inaugurated the training and spelt out the importance of earthworms and vermicompost in improving crop yield. Dr.G.Sudhakar, SMS (Agronomy) during his technical address briefed different methods of vermicomposting. Finally, the trainees were taken to vermicompost demo unit available in KVK and given hands on training to prepare vermicompost.



**DEMIG suggests selling sunflower upon harvest**

Results of the econometric analysis done by the NAIP-Domestic and Export Market Intelligence cell (DEMIG) functioning in Centre of Agricultural Rural development Studies (CARDS) revealed that the average price of sunflower seed for the next three months will be

ruling in the range of around Rs.23-26 / kg. For best quality seeds, the maximum price would be Rs.30 / kg. Farmers could get these prices during September – October, 2010. In November, there is a likelihood of decrease in prices. Hence, farmers are recommended to sell upon harvest without going for storage.

**Training on sprinkler and drip irrigation**



One day training programme on sprinkler and drip irrigation for Secretaries and Special officers of Primary Agricultural Co-operative Banks of Attur Region was jointly organized by Agricultural Engineering department under the IAMWARM scheme, Tamil Nadu co-operatives department and Tapioca and Castor Research Station, Yethapur on 5.8.2010. Th.K.C.Ravichandran, Joint Registrar of Co-operatives emphasized that the co-operative staff should have adequate knowledge to convince the farmers to install drip and sprinkler irrigation systems. Dr.V.Palanisamy Professor and Head, Tapioca and castor Research Station explained the role of Primary Agricultural Co-operative Banks in installation of Drip irrigation under TN IAMWARM scheme. Dr.V.Rajendran, Professor (Soil and Water conservation Engineering), highlighted drip irrigation techniques, installation methods and advantages over conventional irrigation. Dr.S.Manickam, Head, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Sandhiyur told the training will be useful to the co-operative staff to identify the right type farmers for disbursing the loan.



### Revival of the laboratory crèche at HSC&RI, Madurai

The inaugural function of the Laboratory creche of the Department of Human Development, HSC&RI, was held on 5.8.2010. Dr.S.Amutha, Professor and Head, Department of Human Development, welcomed the gathering. Dr.K.Vairavan, Dean, AC&RI, Madurai, inaugurated the creche and delivered the inaugural address. Dr.P.Banumathi, Dean, HSC&RI, Madurai, opined that the role of women have altered to a large extent due to changes in economic and social spheres.

All the heads of various departments, staff advisors, academic coordinators of Agricultural College and Research Institute and Home Science College and Research Institute, Madurai, participated and offered their felicitations. Dr.Cissie Theeblyn David, Assistant Professor (HDT) proposed vote of thanks.



### DEMIG suggests harvest plan for coconut farmers

NAIP- Domestic and Export Market Intelligence Cell (DEMIG) analysis confirmed that the prices of coconut start increasing after July 2010 due to the short supply and festival demand. The results showed that the farm level prices at Pollachi area would be 5-5.5 Rs. per nut during August – September and 5.75 to 6.00 Rs. in October – November 2010. In other markets in Tamil Nadu, the prices will be lower to a certain extent, when compared to Pollachi. Farmers are advised to have their harvesting plans taking into account the above price forecast.

### 'Sadbhavana Diwas' celebration at AC&RI, Madurai

Government of India is celebrating the birth day of (Late) Rajiv Gandhi, former Prime Minister of India as 'Sadbhavana Diwas' on 20<sup>th</sup> August for promoting National Integration and Communal Harmony among the people. In this regard, the NSS Unit of AC&RI, Madurai organized an essay competition with the theme areas viz., anti-terrorism, communal harmony, global warming, globalization and national / international leaders mainly for creating the awareness among the students. About 52 students of both, AC&RI and



HSC&RI Madurai have participated in the competition. The winners were awarded with the prizes and certificates.

### Awareness Programme on Warehousing Act – 2007

Awareness programme on warehousing (Development and Regulation) was jointly conducted by the Central warehousing Corporation, Kumbakonam and TRRI, A duthurai. Dr. P.Devasenahipathi, Director (i/c) preside over the function and explained the importance of the post harvest technology. The two days awareness programme was inaugurated by Mr.S.Ashok Kumar, RDO, Kumbakonam and requested the farmers to use the warehousing facility to protect from the storage pest and rat damage and to maintain the quality of the grain. Various lectures on objectives, activities, benefits of the warehouse receipt, grading and storage of agricultural products were delivered in the session by the warehousing experts.

### New schemes

Name of the scheme	Principal Investigator	Amount (Lakh Rs.)	Funding Agency
bioremediation of contaminated soils in different agro – ecological zones of Tamil Nadu	Dr.S.Mahimairaja, Professor (ENS)	15.68	DST
Bio-priming of banana tissues culture plantlets with PGPR and endophytes for enhanced resistance to rhizome rot of banana caused by Erwinia carotovora pv carotovora	Dr.S.K.Manoranjitham, Asst. Professor	14.29	DST
Bio-efficiency evaluation of UPH-309 and (PSE)- 10% WP and their effect on soil physico-chemical properties and soil micro-flora and fauna and succeeding crops	Dr.P.Murali Arthanari Asst.Prof. (Agronomy)	10.30	United Phosphorus limited



Evaluation of bioefficacy, residue, phytotoxicity and carry over of potassium salt of glyphosate formulation herbicide on transgenic stacked corn hybrids (MON 89034 x NK603)	Dr.C.Chinnusamy Professor (Agronomy)	10.00	Monsanto
Drip Fertigation in Rice	Dr.T.Jayaraj Director (TRRI)	5 .00	NETAFIM (I) Ltd,
Bio efficacy, phytotoxicity and residue studies of Nativo 75 WG (Trifloxystrobin 25% + Tebuconazole 50%) against coffee leaf rust	Dr.T. Saravanan Asst. Prof. (Path.)	4.38	Bayer Crop Science, Mumbai
Water requirement studies for Bt cotton	Dr.P.Muthukrishnan Prof.& Head (Agronomy)	3.93	Mahyco Monsanto Biotech India Limited
“Bio-efficacy testing of Tubuconazole 25 WG as per harvest spray in grapes for pre and pest harvest management”	Dr. V. Ponnuswami, Dean (Hort.) HC&RI, Periyakulam	2.70	Excel Crop Care Limited, Mumbai.
Rice Knowledge Management Portal	Dr.T.Jayaraj Director (TRRI)	2.00	Directorate of Rice Research, Hyderabad
TNAU indigenous Pheromone out reach programme	Dr G.Ravi	1.20	Indian Institute of Chemical Technology, Hyderabad

### Important visitors

- ▶ Lutherhu, Hansen, China, C/o. L C T Harvester, Coimbatore visited Dean (Agrl. Engineering)between 11.8.2010 and 13.8.2010.
- ▶ Dr.Yue Yaguchi, faculty of GRIPS, Japan visited ARM between 11.8.2010 an 15.8.2010.
- ▶ Dr. Rajan Natarajan, President & CEO, Global Alliant Inc., Maryland, USA visited DPMB&B on 13.8.2010.
- ▶ Dr.V.Ponraj, Scientist, Advisor to His Excellency Dr.A.P.J.Abdul Kalam, Former President of India visited Directorate of Research on 24.8.2010.
- ▶ Dr. Bhattacharya, Vice-President, JK Agri Ltd., Hyderabad visited DPMB&B on 25.8.2010.

Published by  
**Directorate of Planning and Monitoring,**  
TNAU, Coimbatore-641 003.

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

To  
Thiru

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