

TNAU NEWS



TAMILNADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY NEWS LETTER

Patron : **Dr. C. RAMASAMY** - Vice Chancellor

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PONGAL VIZHA)))

Pongal Vizha was celebrated at Central Farm Unit in a grand manner on 15th January, 2008. Prof. C.Ramasamy, the Vice Chancellor, University Officers, Professors, staff and farm labourers of main campus, special invitees and persons from media were participated in the celebrations. During the Vizha, cattle from different farm units were decorated and were taken to temple in a colourful procession. The Vice Chancellor presented new cloths and mementos to farm supervisors and drivers of Central Farm Unit and cattle maintainers of different farms of TNAU. Later, pooja was performed to the cattle and sweet pongal and fruits were fed to the cattle. Events like 'Kummiattam' and 'tug of war' were performed by the women and men labourers of Central Farm Unit.

Dr. B. Chandrasekaran, Director of Research and Director (SCMS) in-charge, welcomed the gathering



during the Pongal vizha function. Dr. P. Santhana Krishnan, Registrar, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University in his felicitation address, indicated the role of farm labourers in the research achievements of TNAU.

The Vice Chancellor after distributing the prizes to the winners

of different events, delivered special Pongal address. He cherished the untired efforts and involvement of farm labourers of TNAU in developing new varieties, technologies and related activities. The Professor and Head, Central Farm Unit, Dr. K.Siddeswaran proposed the vote of thanks.

BOOK EXHIBITION



Two days book exhibition was organized on 7th and 8th January 2008 at AC&RI, Killikulam for the benefit of UG students. M/s.Higginbothams

Pvt. Ltd., Palayamkottai; M/s. Srinivasa Book Centre, Madurai and M/s.Knowledge Book House, Karaikudi participated in the book fair. A total of 89 students purchased different text and personality development books worth of Rs.87,697/-.

NCC CAMPS

A combined annual training camp for Senior Division NCC cadets was held from 9.1.08 to 18.1.08 at Dharapuram by the authorities of 4 Tamil Nadu

Battalion NCC, Coimbatore. The camp was attended by 754 cadets. A total of 15 NCC cadets from TNAU participated. The cadets won prizes in drill, volley ball, solo song and firing competitions. Corporal Sriraj, II B.Sc



STUDENTS WIN ACCOLADE AT INTERNATIONAL AGRIBUSINESS MEET)))



Forty three I MBA students and three faculty from the Department of Agricultural and Rural Management participated in the

International Agribusiness Meet – AMAETHON 08 conducted by the IIM, Ahmedabad from 11 - 13, January, 2008. The event for the first time had participation from four international colleges. More than 2,500 students participated from 80 top B-schools and agricultural universities across India. Our students competed in three contests and secured five top prizes. The prize winners are Bhanu Saranya, Dhivya R, Gayathri P, Kumaresh K and Sornamani N. The Vice Chancellor Dr. C. Ramasamy appreciated the efforts of the team and encouraged them to practice what they learnt from such visits. The Dean (SPGS) felicitated the winners of the events.

(Agri.) and Corporal Praveen Raj, II B.Tech. (Biotech) got medals in volley ball competition. Cadet Sunilkumar Guad, II B.Sc (Agri) was selected as the best NCC cadet out of eight hundred cadets. He was also selected for further firing competition to be held at Nilgiris as he got second rank in the overall firing competition.

A National camp was held at Nagpur from 5.1.08 to 16.1.08 in which Corporal T.P.Parthiban, II B.Tech (Biotech) and Lance Corporal R.Harish, II B.Sc (Agri.) participated and competed in expedition rally, marathon race and tent pitching events. The cadets have brought laurels to our university.

NSS ACTIVITIES OF ADAC&RI

The National Service Scheme unit of Anbil Dharmalingam Agricultural College and Research Institute, Trichy extended their service in coordination with Primary Health Centre, Inamkulathur at Navalur

Kuttappattu, Trichy on 6.1.08 in Polio Drops Camp, organized by the Tamil Nadu Government. During the camp, 30 NSS volunteers extended their service to the people residing in and around Navalur Kuttappattu village.



Nearly 250 children below age of 5 got benefited by the camp. The NSS volunteers also met the villagers and explained the importance of the Polio Eradication Programme and made them to join the camp along with their children.

The NSS unit also extended their service in co-ordination with Government Hospital Blood Bank, Trichy on 30.1.08 by organizing a Blood Donation camp. Forty volunteers comprising of NSS, NCC, and Social Service League of ADAC&RI donated blood during

this camp.

NATIONAL MONITORING TEAM'S VISIT

National Monitoring team comprises of Director (Oilseeds) Government of India, Hyderabad; Joint Director of Agriculture, Government of Tamil Nadu along with Deputy Director of Agriculture (Oilseeds), Chennai; Joint Director of Agriculture (Oilpalm), Chennai; Joint Director of Agriculture, Thanjavur and Thiruvarur visited the precision farming in Oilpalm fields in Thiruvarur and Thanjavur Districts on 24.1.08

Officials of the Department of extension, Cauvery Palmoil field staff, farmers were gathered during that field visit and discussed the



AGRI. MINISTER'S VISIT TO 'SRI' FIELDS)))

Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture, Govt. of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Veerapandi S. Arumugam visited 'SRI' Fields of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University laid out under World Bank project TN IAMWARM at Pallathatanur and Thumbal of UpperVellar Sub basin of Salem District. He interacted with farmers and labours about the 'SRI' practice. He visualised the weeder operation and subsequently participated in the 'SRI Field Day' function at Thumbal on 31.12.2007. Thiru. N. Mathivanan, District collector Salam, Dr. C. Ramasamy, Vice



Chancellor TNAU, and Dr. (TN IAMWARM) participated in the function.

impact of precision farming technology in Oilpalm.

SYSTEM OF RICE INTENSIFICATION - 'HARVEST MELA'

To create awareness on 'SRI' technique of rice cultivation among the farmers and to make them conscious on the increased productivity through SRI, '*Harvest Mela*' was organized on 10.1.08 at Vikaravandi of Varahandhi sub basin of Villupuram District under TN-IAMWARM project.

Dr.C.Ramasamy, Vice-chancellor, TNAU accompanied with Mr. Audiseshiah Secretary PWD; Mr.Vibu Nayar, Project Director, IAMWARM Project; District collector Mr. Brajendra Navnit and Dr.M.V.Ranghaswamy, Director (WTC) & Nodal Officer (TN-IAMWARM), visited the demonstration plot and observed the standing paddy crop grown with System of Rice Intensification technology. Later in the presence of statistical officers, farmers and dignitaries, the field was ear marked and harvested, which was 7875 kg/ha of paddy as compared to normal yield of 4650 kg/ha through

conventional method of cultivation. So far, 3,000 ha had come under the technology. It is being promoted under the mission mode to make it 11 lakh ha, in the next two or three years. The Vice – Chancellor stated that as a measure of popularizing essential implements for SRI like cono weeder, marker etc., rural artisans are being trained by TNAU and also local manufacturing of these implements are encouraged. It is proposed to distribute 10,000 cono weeders free of cost to the farmers.

ALTERNATE CROP IN THE FARMING SYSTEM

With the objective of conserving water and utilizing it efficiently with less men hours and fetching higher monetary return to the farming community of Villupuram district, TNAU has introduced thornless bamboo as one of the alternate crops in the Villupuram district. Mr. Audiseshiah, PWD Secretary, Dr. C. Ramasamy, Vice-chancellor, TNAU; Mr.Vibu Nayar, Project Director, IAMWARM, District collector Mr. Brajendra Navnit and Dr. M. V.Rangaswamy, Director (WTC) & Nodal Officer

(TN-IAMWARM), inspected the thornless bamboo planted field at Mathurthirukai, and also declared open the drip irrigation system. Problems on intercropping, weed management, organic recycling and harvesting techniques were discussed.

TRAINING ON EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

A training programme on "Maize hybrid seed production techniques" was organised at Agricultural College and Research Institute, Killikulam on Jan 28-29, under a DBT sponsored scheme. The beneficiaries are farm women of Kayathar block, Thoothukudi district. Two days training programme was inaugurated by Dr. P. Vivekanandan, Dean, AC & RI, Killikulam. Thiru. S. Arumugam,



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Joint Director of Agriculture in his special address indicated the increased importance of seed production in area under maize in Tuticorin district. He distributed certificates and free seed kit comprising parental seed material of newly released maize hybrid CoH (M) 5. Dr.B.Selvi, Principal investigator and Professor&Head, Department of Plant Breeding and Genetics welcomed the gathering and Dr. P. Sumathi, Associate Professor proposed vote of thanks.

TRAINING FOR PALMYRAH TAPPERS

Under the DBT funded scheme on palmyrah, two hands on training programmes were conducted, one at Bodipalayam village of Pollachi taluk on 28.12.2007 and second at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, TNAU, Coimbatore on 02.01.2008. In first programme at Bodipalayam village, about 100 neera tappers participated and got trained on value addition of edible and non edible products.



Dr. V. Ponnuswami, Professor (Horticulture) & principal Investigator of the scheme, and Scientists from TNAU imparted training to the participants. The tappers were trained to use the tree climbers to climb the coconut and palmyrah trees. A handout in tamil was issued for the benefit of the tappers.

In the second training programme held at KVK, TNAU, Coimbatore on 2.01.2008, about 50 conveners of different Farmers Discussion Group (FDG) of Coimbatore district have participated. Dr. V. Ponnuswami, Professor (Horticulture) gave a training lecture on "Entrepreneurship development

using edible and non edible products of palmyrah palm" and D.Malathi, Professor (Food Science and Nutrition) demonstrate how to convert palmyrah nungu and neera into various edible and non edible products.

TRAINING ON GROUNDNUT SEED PRODUCTION AND STORAGE

A training on "Scientific method of groundnut seed production and storage" was organized at the Vegetable Research Station, Palur from 9.1.2008 to 11.1.2008. Dr.S.Jebaraj, Director, Tamil Nadu Rice Research Institute, Aduthurai, inaugurated the programme and emphasised the importance of groundnut cultivation to the farmers. Dr.R.Vaidyanathan, Professor and Head, Vegetable Research Station, Palur, delivered the welcome address and shared the experience on groundnut cultivation. Th.T.Gunasekaran,

BIOGAS TECHNOLOGY)))

Three days staff training programme on "Biogas Technology" was conducted at Agricultural Engineering College and Research Institute, Coimbatore from January 23 – 25, 2008. A total of 15 Biogas Technicians/Block Development officers (Biogas) from various districts (DRDA's) have attended the training programme.

The training programme was inaugurated by Dr. A. Sampathrajan, Dean, AEC&RI, Coimbatore. In his inaugural speech he emphasized the importance of renewable energy programmes. Dr. P. Venkatachalam, Professor and Head, Bio Energy and the Programme coordinator highlighted the activities of training centre. The Dean and



Programme coordinator interacted with the participants and discussed about the field problems faced during the installation of biogas plants. Dr. R. Angeeswaran, Assistant Professor, Bio Energy welcomed the gathering and Dr. R.

Mahendiran, Assistant Professor, Bio Energy proposed vote of thanks. At the end of training programme, Dr. A. Sampathrajan, Dean AEC&RI delivered the valedictory address and distributed the certificates to participants.

Joint Director of Agricultural Cuddalore, Th.K.Balasubramanian, Assistant General Manager NABARD, Cuddalore and Dr.S.Nazeer Ahamed, Professor of Agronomy, Vegetable Research Station, Palur delivered special addresses highlighting the importance of scientific method of Groundnut cultivation and its storage. A total of 50 trainees participated and benefited out of the training. An exhibition was also organized during the programme. Dr.V.Paramasivam, training co-ordinator and Associate Professor (Seed Science and Technology), Vegetable Research Station, Palur proposed the vote of thanks.

TNAU SCIENTISTS HONOURED



Dr. V. Prakasam, Professor and Head, Department of Plant Pathology, elected as South Zone President for Indian Phytopathological society during Annual Meeting held at Regional Wheat Research Station, Mahabaleswar, Maharashtra.

Dr. S. Srinivasan, Assistant Professor of Crop Physiology, Agricultural College and Research Institute, Killikulam won the 2nd prize of the 2007 edition of IPNI photo contest during January, 2008 for his photo entry of nitrogen deficiency in maize from International Plant Nutrition Institute (Norcross, Georgia, USA). The prize carries a certificate and a monetary award of US\$75.00.

FIELD DAY ON MEDICINAL PLANTS)))

With a view to popularise the technology of cultivating medicinal plants using saline water, a field day was conducted at Idigarai village of Coimbatore district on 29.01.2008. The participants were farmers, women self help group and scientists from different disciplines of TNAU. An exhibition was also arranged, highlighting the performance of different medicinal plants at different salinity levels of irrigation water.

Subsequently during the meeting, Dr. C. Paulraj, Professor and Head (SS&AC) welcomed the gathering. Dr. S. Natarajan, Director (SCMS) in his address, emphasized the importance of commercial agriculture in which medicinal plants occupy a prime place

Dr. G. Selvaraj, Director (ODL) in his speech, mentioned that marketing of medicinal plants has to be taken care of and also informed that a certificate course



on medicinal plants is being offered by TNAU through the Directorate of Open and Distance Learning programme.

Dr. K. Rajamani, Professor and Head (Spices and Plantation Crops), Dr.A.K. Mani, Professor and Head, RRS, Paiyur, Dr.K.Appavu, Professor (SS&AC) and Dr.R. Natesan, Professor (SS&AC) spoke on the various aspects of medicinal plants.

Dr. R. Vijayaragavan, Professor and Head (KVK), has stressed that the services of convenors of Farmers' Discussion Group should be effectively utilised by the farmers. At the end of the function, Dr. R. Santhi, Professor (Soil Science and Agrl. Chemistry) and Principal Investigator of the Project on "Promotion of Medicinal Plants Cultivation through Saline Water Irrigation", proposed vote of thanks.

IMPORTANT VISITORS

- ▶ Students of INTAG programme in collaboration with Cornell University, USA visited CPMB, AC&RI, Coimbatore on 9.1.2008.

NEW SCHEMES

Name of the Scheme	PI	Amount (lakhs)	Funding Agency
Bioecology of stingless bees and evolving improved meliponicultural techniques	Dr. M. Muthuraman Professor (Entomology)	46.57	DBT
Establishment of Environmental observatory	Dr.C.Udyasoorian, Prof.& Head (ENS)	41.92	ISRO-GBP, PRL, Ahamedabad
Survey, Molecular Characterization Epidemiology and management of Aflatoxin producing fungi, Aspergillus flavus and A.parasiticus in Groundnut and maize	Dr.M.Karthikeyan, SRF	20.40	DST
Detection, Characterization and management of fumiosin in maize	Dr.V.Pranidharan, Asst. Professor	20.00	DST
Assessment of Aerosol Radiative forcing over India (ARFI)	Dr.C.Udyasoorian, Prof.& Head (ENS)	10.00	ISRO-GBP, SPL, Thiruvananthapuram
FASAL Technique Development and Parameter Retrieval and Crop Simulation	Dr.R.Jagannathan, Prof. and Head (ACRC)	2.70	Space Application Centre, Ahamedabad
Microbial products and their application in Food Processing	Dr.K.Vijila, Professor (Agrl. Micro.)	1.59	ICAR
Seminar on Institutional Intervention for development of market led farming systems in Tamil Nadu	Dr.C.Sekhar, Professor (ARM)	1.00	Tamil Nadu State Land Use Board, State Planning Commission
Training on Imparting Journalistic Skills to Enhance Communication of Extension Workers.	Dr.A.Palanisamy, Professor (AE&RS)	0.77	(Sponsor – Director, WTC, TNAU under IAMWARM scheme)
Training on Imparting Journalistic Skills to Enhance the Communication performance of Extension Workers in Scientific Conservation and Management of Land and Water Resources	Dr.A.Palanisamy, Professor (AE&RS)	0.50	Tamil Nadu State Land Use Board, State Planning Commission
Seminar on "Management strategies to combat man animal conflicts in the forest ecosystem"	Dr.C.Sekhar, Professor (ARM)	0.50	Tamil Nadu State Land Use Board, State Planning Commission

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