

TNAU NEWS

TAMILNADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY NEWS LETTER

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

Editor : **Dr. R. BALASARASWATHI** - Director of Planning and Monitoring (i/c)

NATIONAL SEMINAR ON FOOD PROCESSING



National seminar on **"Emerging technologies in Food Processing and ensuring Food safety"** was organized by TNAU, on 16 and 17.10.2007 in connection with the **"World Food Day"**. Dr.C.Ramasamy, Vice-Chancellor,

TNAU, while inaugurating the seminar highlighted that 820 million people in the developing world still suffer undernourishment and stressed that ensuring food security is not only a pre-requisite for sustainable development but also

for economic growth and entrepreneurship development.

In the National seminar, 320 participants from 12 colleges have registered. About 110 papers were presented in the technical sessions on Food safety and quality, Food engineering & management and Innovative methods in food processing. About 58 posters and 12 models have been displayed in the poster and model sessions. A quiz programme for the student participants of various colleges has been held. A food festival was organized as part of this programme with 35 food items. On 17th October 2007, the plenary session was presided over by Dr. A. Sampathrajan, Dean (Engg.) and Dr. M. V. Ranghasamy, Director, Water Technology Centre, TNAU, Coimbatore distributed certificates and prizes for winners of best technical paper, poster, quiz, models etc. and delivered the valedictory address.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR FARM GRADUATES IN UK

Mr. L. Dhanasekaran, Head, Education U.K. (British Council, South India) presented a seminar on **"Opportunities for Higher Education in the U.K"** to the



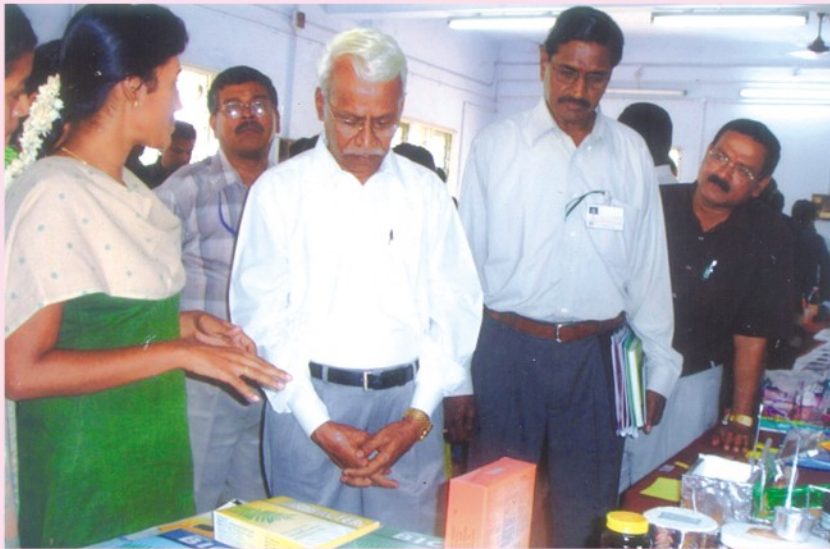
students of TNAU at Directorate of Students' Welfare on 30-10-2007. He made a comprehensive presentation on the range of courses available for agricultural graduates in the Universities of U.K. The presentation covered essential guidelines on admission procedure, visa phase, qualifying examination in English proficiency (TOEFL or IELTS), details of tuition fees, cost of living and regulations for part time jobs. He threw enough light on international scholarships like Rhodes, British Chevening and Common Wealth. Earlier, Dr. M. Thangaraju, Director (Students' Welfare) in his presidential address

emphasized the need for agricultural graduates to think and act globally.

WILD LIFE WEEK CELEBRATIONS AT FC&RI, METTUPALAYAM

The students' club and NSS unit of FC&RI, Mettupalayam jointly organized wild life week celebrations on 6.10.2007. Various competitions expressing the theme of wild life and environmental protection were held for school children. About 100 school children from various schools in and around Mettupalayam participated in various events. Video and slide shows on wild life were

VC's VISIT TO HC&RI, PERIYAKULAM



The Vice-Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore visited the Horticultural College and Research Institute, Periyakulam on 22.10.2007. During the visit, the Vice-Chancellor declared open the Mineral Water Unit installed at Horticultural College and Research Institute, Periyakulam and inaugurated the exhibition organized by the final B.Sc (Hort.) students to exhibit their activities during Horticultural Industrial Tie-Up Programme conducted from 3.10.2007 to 19.10.2007. The Vice-Chancellor interacted with the students and asked them to prepare themselves to face the challenges in future.

screened to children. Prizes were distributed to the winners of various competitions.

FREE DENTAL SCREENING CAMP

National Service Scheme, Coimbatore Unit of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University in collaboration with Charaka Dental Clinic and Cure 32 Dental care hospital of Coimbatore has organized free dental screening camp at TNAU campus on 6th and 7th of October, 2007. Dr. K. Vanangamudi, Dean (Agriculture), AC&RI, TNAU, Coimbatore has inaugurated the camp. About 430 persons including students, staff and public have participated and benefited by the dental camp.



TNAU STUDENTS BAGGED 'RUNNER UP TROPHY' IN 'AGRIUNIFEST 2007'

The 9th All India Inter Agricultural University Youth Festival



(AGRIUNIFEST) 2007 was held at Maharana Pratap University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, Udaipur, Rajasthan from 22.09.07 to 26.09.07. A team consisting of 25 students along with two staff members represented TNAU, Coimbatore. Our team stood in second position in the national level and bagged the '**Championship runner up trophy**'. The trophy and certificates were handed over to TNAU Team Managers by, Prof. S. L. Mehta, Vice Chancellor, Maharana Pratap University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, Udaipur.

PARTHINEUM AWARENESS WEEK AT FC&RI, METTUPALAYAM

Parthineum awareness week and Animal husbandry campaign was conducted at Kendapalayam village of Karamadai on

13.10.2007 by the NSS unit of Forest College and Research Institute, Mettupalayam and weed control unit of Agronomy department, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore. The programme was presided by Dr. M. Govinda Rao, I.F.S., Dean, Forest College and Research Institute, Mettupalayam Dr. C. Chinnasamy, Professor (Agronomy) and Principal Scientist explained the importance of awareness campaign, spreading methods of parthineum side effects and its control measures. Dr. R. Balagopal, Professor (Animal Husbandry) spoke on animal health, diseases and control measures. An exhibition on parthineum and students rally was also arranged.



WORLD FOOD DAY CELEBRATION AT HSC&RI, MADURAI

The World Food Day was celebrated at the Home Science

College and Research Institute, Madurai on 16.10.07. Dr. A. Andal, Dean (Home Science) Presided over the programme and highlighted the need for celebrating the function across the globe.

Tmt. Rajkumari Jeevagan, Chairman, Wings and Waalai Group of Hotels, Madurai in her special address spoke on the importance of Annadanam which is considered as the Yeomen service to be rendered by all to the starving people of our nation. The challenges ahead to meet our future demand will be made possible only by ensuring food security and sustainable agricultural production was suggested and reiterated by Dr. K. Ramamoorthy, Dean Agricultural College and Research Institute, Madurai. Nearly one hundred participants attended the function.

TNAU SCIENTISTS IN WORLD FOOD DAY CELEBRATION BY AME

The Agricultural Man Ecology Foundation a Private Agency conducted the World Food Day 2007 on 16th October 2007 at Rotary Hall of Dharmapuri. In this function the AGM (NABARD), Dharmapuri Mr. C. Ganesan, ATMA Nodal Officer,



Mr.S.Manoharan, Professor and Head, TCRS, Yethapur Dr.S.Venkatesan, Dr.P.Sridhar, Head, KVK, Papparapatty and Dr. V. Ashok Mehta, Professor, Horticulture RRS, Paiyur participated and offered special guest speech on the theme. The FFS groups self help groups and NGOs participated in the function.

TRAINING ON HYBRID SEED PRODUCTION IN MAJOR FIELD CROPS

Ten days training programme on the "Exploitation of heterosis and hybrid seed production in major crops" was conducted at the Agricultural College and Research Institute Killikulam from October 3-12, 2007. The training programme was inaugurated by Dr. V. Muralidharan, Director, TRRI, Aduthurai. In his inaugural speech, he emphasized the importance of hybrid seeds in major field crops. Dr. P. Vivekandan, Dean, Agricultural

College and Research Institute, Killikulam and the Course Director narrated importance of heterosis and its exploitation in rice. A total of 15 participants representing SAUs and ICAR institutes attended the training programme. Dr. B. Selvi, Professor and Head, Department of Plant Breeding and Genetics and course co-ordinator welcomed the gathering and Dr. V. Palanisamy, Professor, Seed Science and Technology proposed vote of thanks. Dr. T.S. Raveendran, Director, Centre for Plant Breeding & Genetics gave the valedictory address and released the training manual with CD and distributed the certificate to the participants.

TRAINING ON WATER MANAGEMENT



A training programme was conducted on "Irrigation Management for Supplemental Irrigation under Rainfed Condition" on October 30, 2007

VC's VISIT TO ARS, VAIGAI DAM



Dr. C. Ramasamy, Vice-Chancellor, TNAU visited Agricultural Research Station, Vaigai dam on 12.10.2007. Dr. K. Sivasubramaniam, Professor and Head accompanied the dignitaries and explained the activities being carried out under various schemes in operation. The Vice-Chancellor appreciated the efforts made for clearing the thorny bush area and brought under cultivation. The Director of Research, Nodal officer (Seeds) and Director, Centre for Plant Molecular Biology accompanied the Vice-chancellor during his visit to ARS, Vaigai dam.

VC's VISIT TO HSC&RI, MADURAI



The Vice Chancellor visited the Home Science College and Research Institute, Madurai on 11.10.2007. Dr. A. Andal, Dean

Home Science College and Research Institute, Madurai and the Heads of the Departments explained about the teaching, research and extension activities carried out in each Department. Vice Chancellor also interacted with all the staff members and offer constructive suggestions for the overall development and effective functioning of the college. He also highlighted the importance of obtaining external funded schemes from various agencies. He emphasized on the preparation of a document on vision of the college, so as to develop and strengthen the College in accordance with the vision.

at AEC&RI, Kumulur, Trichy. Dr. K. Shanmugasundaram, Professor and Head of the Department of Soil and Water Conservation Engineering welcomed the gathering. In his presidential address Dr. K. Rangasamy, Dean, AEC & RI, Kumulur, insisted the importance of water harvesting and using the harvested water for the non-rainy period for the crops grown under dry land conditions.

Dr. S. Jebaraj, Dean, Anbil Dharmalingam Agricultural College and Research Institute, Navalurkuttapattu explained the various cultivation practices that can be followed under rainfed conditions in his inaugural address. Mr. S. Ramesh Kumar and Mr. Dhakshinamoorthy of State Bank of India, ADB, and Mr. B. Krishnan, Regional Manager, IFFCO, Trichy also addressed the gathering.

TRAINING ON FODDER PRODUCTION

A three day training programme on "**Fodder Production Technology**" was organized between 10th and 12th October, 2007 by the Department of Forage Crops, Centre for Plant Breeding

and Genetics. The participants were Presidents of Panchayat Unions and the volunteers numbering 24 from Watershed



Development area of Cuddalore District. The training was fully financed by the District Rural Development Agency, Cuddalore.

TRAINING ON HYBRID SEED PRODUCTION IN MAIZE

Under the DBT scheme on "**Empowerment of rural farm women through knowledge transfer on hybrid seed production techniques and seed entrepreneurship at community**



level", a first phase of training programme was organized recently for farm women of Tuticorin District in AC&RI, Killikulam. Twenty five farm women participated in this programme. The inaugural function was presided by Dr. P. M. M. David, Dean in-charge, AC&RI, Killikulam, and inaugural speech was delivered by Thiru. M. Mohan Das, Joint director of Agriculture, Tuticorin.

Dr. B. Selvi, Principal Investigator and Professor and Head, Department of Plant Breeding and Genetics indicated the objective of the programme. Dr. P. M. M. David in his presidential address elaborated the value addition of maize and its prospect as an industrial crop. Dr. V. Palanisamy, Professor (Seed Science and Technology) proposed vote of thanks.

TRAINING ON VERMICOMPOST TO SHG MEMBERS

One day training on vermi compost training was conducted at Sengapadai village, Thirumangalam taluk, Madurai district on 15th October 2007 for the self help group farm women belonging to the DHAN Foundation



under the GOI scheme **"Agro based entrepreneurship for empowerment of farmwomen in Madurai district"**. Around 30 farm women and three staffs on DHAN foundation participated in the meeting. Dr. R. Durai Singh, Professor and Head, Regional Research Station, Aruppukottai, delivered a lecture on vermicompost technology. The farm women are eager to develop a vermi compost unit.

SENSITIZATION PROGRAM ON AGRL. MARKETING INFRASTRUCTURE

The Department of Social Sciences, Agricultural College and Research Institute, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Killikulam organized a one day sensitization programme at College campus on 30.10.2007. Officials from Department of Agriculture, Horticulture, Agricultural Marketing, Animal Husbandry,

Sericulture, Rural Development, Co-operation and Regulated market committee attended the programme. Dr. P. Vivekanandan, Dean in his presidential address, spoke about the importance of Marketing Infrastructure in the country to cater to the post harvest requirement of production of various farm products. Th. C. Vijayakumar, Joint Director of Agriculture i/c, Tirunelveli inaugurated the sensitization programme. Th. J. Suresh, Asst. General Manager, NABARD, Tirunelveli explained about availing financial assistance under the scheme to strengthen Agricultural Marketing infrastructure.

TNAU SCIENTIST ATTENDED SYMPOSIUM IN SOUTH AFRICA

Dr. N. Kumar, Professor (Hort.) has attended the International Symposium on **"Recent advances in banana crop protection for sustainable production and improved livelihoods"** organized by International society for Horticultural Science (ISHS), Leuven, Belgium in collaboration with PROMUSA (Bioversity International, France) at Greenway Woods Resort, White

River, South Africa recently and presented two papers.

TNAU SCIENTIST HONOURED



Professor Raguraman, Department of Agri. Entomology has received one of the most coveted and prestigious award **'Shiksha Rattan Puraskar'** for his contribution in the field of education and research in agriculture from the Former Chief Justice of Orissa and member of Parliament, Hon'ble Justice N. Y. Hanumanthappa in the august presence of Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education Shri. Shankaramoorthy and the Vice-Chancellor of Madras University, Prof. D. Ramachandran at Bangalore.

VC's VISIT TO 'TN-IAMWARM' PROJECT AREA



The Vice-Chancellor, TNAU, Coimbatore made a field visit on 18.10.2007 to inspect improved production technology in maize

and System of Rice Intensification (SRI) demonstrations laid out in Palar and Aliyar sub basins respectively under TN-IAMWARM project.

The major focus of the demonstration is to impart knowledge on the improved production technologies developed by the University to enhance the productivity of maize and to create awareness for diversification to less water requiring crops like maize in the basin. The Vice-Chancellor interacted with the beneficiary farmers about the implementation of the project and sensitized the project staff for effective transfer of technology.

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NEW SCHEMES

Name of the Scheme	PI	Amount (lakhs)	Funding Agency
Multi cottage level food processing centre for Training and Incubation	Dr.A.Alagusundaram	60.00	ICAR
Development of management practice to control root rot of sugarbeet	Dr.S.Nakkeeran	10.06	Syngenta India Ltd
Radiotracer studies on the metabolism and persistence of bacterimycin in soil- plant system	Dr.A.Rajarajan	4.18	T. Stanes and Company Ltd
Evaluating Avana (Neem based granular formulation) against insect pests in sugarcane	Dr.P.Sivasubramanian	3.58	E.I.D. Parry (India) Ltd.
Bio efficacy of herbal products in tomato PKM-1	Dr.James Pitchai	0.58	AEC Crop Needs (P) Ltd

IMPORTANT VISITORS

- ▶ **Dr.Craig Murray**, Vice-President alternative energy and manufacturing, Saskatchewan Research Council, Canada visited between 3rd and 7th October, 2007.
- ▶ **Dr. Makato Kawase**, Director and a Scientist **Dr. Juniaki Fukui** of Gene Bank, National Institute of Agrobiological Sciences (NIAS), Tsukuba, Japan visited the Department of Plant Molecular Biology and Biotechnology between 18th and 29th October, 2007.
- ▶ Expert committee under the chairmanship of **Dr.S.Kannaiyan**, Chairman National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai visited between 29th and 31st October, 2007.

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