

TNAU NEWS



TAMILNADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY NEWS LETTER

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

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NEW RESEARCH STATION FOR DRY LAND RESEARCH >>>



Tamil Nadu Agricultural University has started an exclusive dry land Agricultural Research Station at Chettinad, Sivagangai District to tackle the constraints viz., poor water holding capacity, surface crusting, quick nutrient loss, low nutrient retention capacity, low organic matter content etc., are being encountered in dry land agriculture. The inaugural function was held on 2nd July 2008 with the mandate of conducting research on evolving high yielding crop varieties; develop land management technologies and pest and disease management. Further, training is also a major activity at this centre to build the capacity of the farmers and extension functionaries.

Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture, Government of Tamil Nadu and Pro-Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Th.Veerapandi S. Arumugam presided over the function and declared open the agriculture exhibition to the farmers of Sivagangai district. In his presidential address, he emphasized

the importance of system of Rice Intensification (SRI) towards second green revolution and also distributed SRI implements to the farming community.

The Hon'ble Minister of Finance, Government of India Th. P. Chidambaram laid the foundation stone and inaugurated the dry land Agriculture Research Station and delivered the inaugural address. In his inaugural address, he highlighted the led market production system towards increasing the agricultural production.

The importance of the Dry land Agricultural Research was emphasized by Dr.C.Ramasamy, Vice-Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University. The Hon'ble Minister for Slum Clearance Board Mr.S.P.Thangavelan released a booklet on the newly inaugurated research station and delivered special address. The Hon'ble Minister for Hindu Religious and Endowment Mr.K.R.Periyakaruppan distributed the inputs to the

beneficiaries and addressed the large gathering of the farmers.

Mr.Surjit.K.Chowdry, IAS, Agricultural Production Commissioner and Secretary, Government of Tamil Nadu and Mr.K.Balachandran, IAS, Special Secretary and commissioner of Agriculture (i/c) graced the occasion. Mr.Pankaj Kumar Pansal, IAS Collector of Sivagangai have also participated in the inaugural function.

Dr.B.Chandrasekaran, Director of Research, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, welcomed the gathering and Dr.P.Balasubramanian, Professor and Head, Dry land Agricultural Research Station proposed a vote of thanks.

The Members of Parliament, Legislative Assemble, panchayats and scientists from Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, officials from line Departments and more than 2000 progressive farmers participated in the function.

INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION >>>



The 62nd Independence Day was celebrated in a grand and fitting manner at Agricultural College and research Institute,

Coimbatore on 15.8.2008. Dr.B.Chandrasekaran, Director of Research hoisted the National Flag and delivered the special address. Dr.K.M.Sellamuthu, NCC Officer and Lt. Dr.S.Manonmani, Lady NCC Officer presented an impressive guard of honour by the NCC cadets and NSS volunteers.

The Director of Research distributed sweets to the participants. All University Officers, Heads of Departments, Teaching and Non Teaching staff members and students have enthusiastically participated in the Independence Day celebration.

ACHIEVERS OF ADAC&RI, TIRUCHY

The Dean, teaching and non-teaching staff and students of ADAC &RI, Tiruchirapalli honoured the alumni of this campus on 5.8.2008, whom are the achievers of Civil Service Examination – 2007. Mr. M. Tamilvanan, Mr. T. Ramalingam, Ms. P. Renugadevi and Mr. B. Radhakrishnan as the achievers, in their acceptance speech motivated the students in the preparation of UPSC examination starting from the selection of subjects including main and optional, preparation for preliminary examinations and to face the final interview. The students and the staff members raised several queries and the achievers answered them so nicely. The Dean, Staff Advisor and the Heads of the Departments offered their felicitations.



COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH WITH ICRISAT

Mr. Mohammed Mubarak a master's student in Plant Breeding and Genetics, TNAU, Coimbatore will be undertaking collaborative research on chickpea genetic engineering at ICRISAT under the guidance of Dr. K.K. Sharma. He will be the first master student to carry out collaborative research in ICRISAT, Hyderabad. It is worth mentioning that more than ten Ph.D., scholars have undertaken joint research at ICRISAT from TNAU, Coimbatore.

STUDENTS CLUB INAUGURATION AND ORIENTATION DAY- 2008

In the Agricultural Engineering Colleges and Research Institute, Kumulur, the students Club Inauguration and Orientation day for first year was conducted on 14.8.2008 at the college campus. While welcoming the new comers to the University, the Registrar Dr.P.Santhana Krishnan, said that the University has signed 12 MoU with foreign Universities for higher studies. Tamil Nadu Agricultural University and cornel University of



USA is offering dual Post Graduate degree program for the benefit of the students. He also pointed out that the graduates of the college are even getting Rs.50,000/-per month as salary in the private companies. He stressed that the students should have good communication skill, General knowledge and good academic record, in order to get placement in good companies. He also asked the students to make use of good facilities available in the campus. Dr.K.Rangaswamy, Dean of the college said that the University has been giving lot of funds for the infrastructure, laboratory developments, computer purchases, Wi-Fi net connection and library book purchases. He said that the Vice-Chancellor of the University wanted the college to become on par with Birla Institute of Technology, Pillani. Dr.S.Ganapathy, Staff Advisor, Dr.Karamathullah, Professor and Students

representatives also spoke on the occasion.

RAWE PROGRAM IN IAMWARM UPPER VELLAR SUB-BASIN

Tapioca and Castor Research Station is one of the centres in the implementation of RAWE programme for the final B.Sc. (Agri) students of AC&RI, TNAU, Coimbatore. This year RAWE syllabus is combined with TN-IAMWARM. Three boys and two girls groups of final B.Sc. (Agri.) students were placed at Tapioca and Castor Research Station, Yethapur under IAMWARM scheme Upper Vellar (Vasista) sub-basin in five locations.

Students stayed along with farmers in the concerned village itself. They have collected the basic information like water resource availability, soil type, problems faced by the farmers

regarding pest and diseases, nutrient deficiency etc. Also they have involved in analyzing the problems using Transect walk, Participatory Rural Appraisal method, collecting soil samples, plant samples pest and diseases, nutrient deficiency etc. They also have arranged demonstrations, trainings and field visits in the concerned villages and explained the techniques like root feeding of TNAU coconut tonic, mushroom cultivation, banana sucker treatment, System of Rice Intensification (SRI) community nursery preparation. Farmers from Attur and nearby villages were benefited through this RAWE programme.

SBI EXTENDS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO ODL PROGRAMS

The State Bank of India (SBI) has come forward to extend financial

support to Women Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in order to enable them to join the ODL (Open & Distance Learning) course offered by the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU). The Vice-Chancellor, said that TNAU is a pioneer among the Agricultural Universities in the country to offer the dual-mode of education i.e., both regular and ODL stream, which was conceived based on the Common Wealth of Learning, Vancouver, Canada.

Dr.G.Selvaraj, Director, ODL informed that at present TNAU is offering certificate courses on 21 topics to promote the establishment of various enterprises in agriculture and related fields. A nominal registration fee of Rs.1,500/- is being collected from the learners for a certificate course. As the ODL courses of TNAU have been mainly designed and offered for the under privileged sector deprived of regular agricultural education, a special

TNAU SIGNS MoU WITH NATIONAL PARKS BOARD, SINGAPORE)))



The Tamil Nadu Agricultural University has signed a MoU with the National Parks Board, Singapore on 13-8-08 at the National Parks Board, Singapore. Dr. R. Chandra Babu, Dean, School of Post Graduate Studies, TNAU informed that this MoU will facilitate international academic exchanges, develop

academic and scientific relationships, and support collaborative research activities between TNAU and National Parks Board, Singapore. The framework includes cooperative programmes facilitating student research attachment, University Personnel Exchange and visits for developing joint projects and

programmes in fields related to urban horticulture, urban greenery and urban ecology. Under this MoU, post graduate students will take up their research work in various National Parks of Singapore. This programme will be open to students who exhibit keen interest in pursuing their research in the area of urban greening. Students must be currently enrolled in any of the M.Sc. degree programmes in TNAU and are expected to have completed the first year of their M.Sc. programme before taking up their thesis research in Singapore. Followed by this the subsequent 6-9 months of the programme will be spent undertaking their research in Singapore. National Parks will provide the selected students with travel support to Singapore and back, accommodation and monthly internship allowance of SGD (Singapore Dollar) 850.

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PALMYRAH DEVELOPMENT BOARD CHAIRMAN VISITS TNAU)))



Recently, Dr. Kumari Anandhan, Chairman, Tamil Nadu Palmyrah Development Board, visited Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore. During

his visit, he interacted with Palmyrah research team of Horticulture faculty. Dr. V. Ponnuswami, Professor(Horticulture) and

Principal Investigator of several palmyrah research schemes, funded by Dept. of Bio technology, Government of India, explained various palmyrah research activities which are in vogue at faculty of Horticulture. The palmyrah research team of this faculty has conducted hands on training to the palmyrah tappers and their families of different parts of the country in value addition of palmyrah products. So far, around thousand palmyrah based workers were benefited.

The palmyrah development board chairman keenly observed the activities and he opined popularization of dwarf palmyrah types is essential for improvement

drive to enroll SHG members has been undertaken. The ODL Directorate prepared a pilot project for obtaining financial assistance from SBI, to support the SHG members. Emphasis was laid to get two-third amount of the registration fee i.e. Rs.1,000/- as contribution from the Bank and the remaining amount of Rs.500/- from the beneficiaries as their share. The SBI considering the importance of the proposal sanctioned an amount of Rs.2.0 lakhs for the year 2007-08. It is expected that more SHGs will be attracted to these ODI courses in future if more banks and other institutes offer to lend a helping hand.

FELLOWSHIP AWARDED FOR TNAU SCIENTIST

Dr.M.Thangaraju, Director (Students' Welfare), Tamil Nadu Agricultural University has been awarded with the Indian National Science Academy Fellowship to visit the Institute of Vegetable and ornamental Crops, Grosbeeren and Erfurt, Germany for one month under bilateral exchange programme

between India and Germany. During his visit, he will work with Dr.Philipp Franken on mycorrhizal symbiosis and synthesise collaborative research programmes. He will also visit the Universities of Bonn, Giessen and Hannoner at Germany to discuss on students exchange, joint degree programmes and research linkages.

HYBRIDS IN JATROPHA

The Scientific team at Forest College and Research Institute, Mettupalayam has developed 27 new and variables in Jatropha through back cross breeding method. During the last five years, intensive breeding programme was attempted in order to develop varieties with higher seed and oil yield.

The hybrids developed currently at this Institute, expressed significant variation for morphological descriptors compared to the local *Jatropha curcas* in terms of fruit size and fruit colour. These hybrids also exhibited significant improvement in terms of number of female flowers, number of fruits per bunch, seed yield, oil content and fatty acid profile.

The hybrid evaluation trial with 27 hybrid clones established at Forest College and Research Institute, Mettupalayam indicated early superiority over traditional *jatropha curcas* seed sources and indicated a scope for yield improvement in the species. These hybrids will be tested under multi-locational trial though DBT funded scheme for further evaluation and to promote potential high yielder.



FARMERS' INTERACTIVE MEETING

A Farmers' Interactive meeting on the adaptation of SRI Technology among the SRI beneficiaries was organized under the TN-

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IAMWARM project at Anaimalai on 12.8.2008. Welcome address was delivered by Dr.K.Rajamanickam, Professor and Head, CRS, Aliyarnagar. Mr.Ashok Shanmugasundaram, President, Anaimalai Panchayat Union, presided over the function. Th.O.V.R.Somasundaram, Honourable Board Member, TNAU also attended the meeting. Dr.M.V.Ranghaswamy, Director, WTC, Dr.E.Vadivel, Director of Extension Education, Dr.B.J.Panadian, Professor and Head, IAMWARM Cell, TNAU have spoken on the occasion. About 65 farmers, officials from line Departments viz., PWD,

Agricultural Department along with the staff of CRS, Aliyarnagar have attended the meeting.

TRAINING ON SRI COMMUNITY NURSERY PREPARATION

One day training cum demonstration programme on SRI Community Nursery preparation was organized by TN-IAMWARM scheme on 30.7.2008 at Pethanaickenpalayam. More than 300 farmers of Attur taluk of Salem District coming under Upper Vellar-Vasista sub-basin were participated in the programme.

Exhibition on SRI technologies were

arranged during the function. Dr.V.Palaniswamy, Professor and Head, Tapioca and Castor Research Station, Yethapur welcomed the gathering. Dr.M.V.Ranghaswami, Director, Water Technology centre and Nodal Officer, TN-IAMWARM, presided over the function. In his presidential address, he stressed the importance of SRI. Dr.B.J.Pandiyan, Head, IAMWARM cell in his technical address explained the advantage of SRI over conventional method of planting. He also explained the full cultivation technologies of SRI in paddy. Dr.D.Raja, Professor and Head, KVK, Sandiyur, Scientists of TCRS, Yethapur, SRFs of

WORKSHOP ON TN-IAMWARM PROJECT)))



An 'Evaluation and Planning workshop on TN-IAMWARM Project' was held at Tamil Nadu Agriculture University, Coimbatore recently. The TN-IAMWARM Project aims to improve the service delivery and productivity of irrigated agriculture with effective integrated water resources management in a sub-basin framework. The Workshop was inaugurated by Dr.C.Ramasamy, Vice-Chancellor of Tamil Nadu Agriculture University. An exhibition was also arranged highlighting the activities undertaken in the different sub

basins, achievements and success stories. The Vice-Chancellor in the key note address informed that TNAU was one of the line Departments involved in TN-IAMWARM Project and during 2007-08, different activities like demonstration in farmers fields on System of Rice Intensification (SRI), demonstrations on improved production technology on maize, garden land pulses, rice fallow pulses, groundnut, castor etc., were conducted in nine sub basins. In the Current year (2008-09), the activities are proposed to be extended to further 16 basins. Hence, during 2008-09, TNAU

will have various activities in 25 Sub basins.

The Vice-Chancellor reviewed the performance during 2007-08 and highlighted the excellent results achieved especially in demonstrations on System of Rice Intensification, where, significant yield increase was achieved with less water use and less cost of cultivation especially, on seed and labour. He further requested scientists to work hard and achieve good results in SRI, pulses, oilseeds and precision farming during the current year. Dr.K.Palanisami, Director, CARDS detailed the importance of planning and evaluation and different steps involved in it. Dr.E.Vadivel, Director of Extension Education, stressed the importance of cluster approach in organizing various activities and the need for in-depth study of constraints in large scale adoption of recommended technologies. Dr.M.V.Ranghaswami, Director-Water Technology Center & Nodal Officer TN-IAMWARM Project welcomed the gathering and Dr.Pandian, Professor (Agronomy) & Head, TN-IAMWARM cell proposed vote of thanks.

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IAMWARM scheme and Final B.Sc. (Agri) students under RAWE programme and farmers were participated in this programme.

FIELD DAY ON MANGO

The KVK, Kanyakumari organized a field day on mango at State Horticulture farm, Kanyakumari recently. Ninety mango growers and Extension functionaries from different parts of the district participated. The major problems

in mango cultivation and Hi Tech production techniques on propagation, planting, drip and fertigation, plant protection, post harvest management and marketing were discussed. The District Collector, Tmt.B.Jothi Nirmala, IAS, addressed the farmers and emphasized the importance of off-season mango, since it is a peculiar phenomenon of Kanyakumari district. Dr.M.Jayasekhar, the Programme Coordinator, Krishi Vigyan Kendra explained the

possibilities for the exploration of market led mango production and initiated the formation of mango growers association in the district.



NEW SCHEMES

Name of the Scheme	PI	Amount (lakh Rs.)	Funding Agency
National Invasive Weed Surveillance	Dr.C.Chinnusamy	26.35	Dept. of Agriculture and Cooperation, GOI
Efficacy evaluation of pre-emergence herbicide pendimethalin 38.7%(PC 01-08) for weed control in cotton and their residual effect on the succeeding crops	Dr.C.Chinnusamy	4.82	PCCP Ltd., New Delhi
Evaluation of Metamifop 10 EC for Bio-efficacy, Phytotoxicity and Residues in Direct Seeded Rice	Dr.C.Chinnusamy	4.82	FMC Agrl. Products (P) Ltd., Bangalore

IMPORTANT VISITORS

- Dr.Hautea ISAA, Dr.Flasinski, Dr.Sanjeev between 6.8.08 and 7.8.2008
- Federal Deginstic of Germany Consol General Mr.Roland General on 22.8.2008
- National Co-ordinator NAIP Dr.J.P.Mittal between 26.8.2008 and 28.8.2008.
- Mr.A.H.Sunil Kumar, Programme Co-ordinator, Hyderabad between 28.8.2008 and 2.9.2008
- Dr.A.N.Tiwari, Dean (Agro.) SAUA&T, Kanpur, between 28.8.2008 and 2.9.2008
- Dr.R.C.Gautham, IARI, New Delhi, between 28.8.2008 and 2.9.2008
- Dr.A.K.Singh, ARIRAU, Patna, between 28.8.2008 and 2.9.2008
- Dr.H.C.Pathak, Director and Dean, NAU, Gujarat, between 28.8.2008 and 2.9.2008
- Dr.M.Unikrishnan, CTCRI, Thiruvananthapuram, between 28.8.2008 and 2.9.2008
- Dr.M.S.Palanisamy, CTCRI, Thiruvananthapuram, between 28.8.2008 and 2.9.2008

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