

TNAU NEWS



TAMILNADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY NEWS LETTER

Patron : Dr. P. MURUGESA BOOPATHI - Vice Chancellor

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

Technology week)))



Technology week (27.1.2010 to 31.1.2010) was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture, Thiru.Veerapandi. S.Arumugam at KVK, Sandhiyur on 27.1.2010. The Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture has distributed seeds and birds to the beneficiaries who belonged to Salem district and released technical bulletins on Paddy and Tapioca Production Technologies. He had also delivered the inaugural speech and he suggested that the farmers should come forward

to adopt new production technologies. He also reiterated that the farmers should get better price for their produce and at the same time the consumers also should get it at fair prices.

Dr.P.Kalaiselvan, Director of Extension Education, welcomed the gathering. Our Vice-Chancellor, Dr.P.Murugesu Bhoopathi, delivered presidential address. Thiru.K.Nandha Kishore, I.A.S., Agricultural

Production Commissioner and Secretary, Chennai; Thiru.Harmandar Singh, I.A.S., Director of Horticultural and Plantation Crops Chennai and Thiru.J.Chandrakumar, I.A.S., District Collector, Salem district had delivered special address and graced the occasion. The Members of Legislative Assembly, Panchyat Union presidents, officials from various State Departments and Scientists of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University were participated.

About twenty one stalls representing seed companies, fertilizer companies, pesticide companies, farm implements, tractor companies, state departments, various research stations were installed there. In this conference, the technologies on SRI method of rice cultivation, precision farming, soil health management, pulses production technologies, mealy bug management, sericulture, mushroom cultivation, marketing of medicinal plants, poultry rearing, usage of machineries and farm implements and computer based market information were disseminated. 1500 farmers from Salem and Namakkal Districts have participated.

Bank of India recruited TNAU graduates

The Directorate of students' Welfare, organized a campus recruitment of Agricultural Officers, JMG / scale-1 for Bank of India (BOI) on January 12, 2010. The top executives of BOI visited TNAU and recruited 15 graduates for a permanent position to their bank. Dr.T.Rathakrishnan, Director (Students' welfare) welcomed the gathering and apprised the status of TNAU students'

placement. Dr.K.S.Subramanian, the then Professor (SW) briefed the bank recruitment status of TNAU graduates. Placement Professors Dr.G.Dharmaraj and Dr.M.Mohamed Yassin made elaborate arrangements for the successful conduct of the program.

Exotica 2K9 at Killikulam

A two-day cultural extravaganza, "Exotica 2K9" was organized at Agricultural College and Research

Institute, Killikulam on 21st and 22nd December 2009 as part of silver jubilee celebrations of the College. Dr. A. Raja



Rajan, Dean, presided. Sixty students from the constituent colleges of TNAU and Fisheries College and Research Institute, Thoothukudi exhibited their talents in 11 stage events and 14 non-stage events. Dr. A. Mohammed Ali, former Dean, Agricultural College and Research Institute, Killikulam was the chief guest and distributed prizes and certificates to the winners. Agricultural Engineering College and Research Institute, Kumulur won the overall championship. Dr. J. Sundersingh Rajapandian welcomed the gathering and Mr. S. Ramakrishnan, Secretary, Dramatic Society proposed a vote of thanks.

AEC&RI, Kumulur students felicitated for their feat

The students of AEC&RI, Kumulur bagged the overall championship shield in the EXOTICA-2009, organized at AC&RI, Killikulam between 21st and 22nd December, 2009.



They also won many prizes in cultural programme 'Freedom – 2009' which was conducted at ADAC & RI, Trichy during 16-17, December 2009 and won the second best poster award at the recently conducted "Career Guidance and Business Prospects in Food Processing" at Cauvery College for Women, Trichy.

To felicitate the students, a function was organised at AEC & RI, Kumulur on 23.12.2009. Dr. K. Annadurai, Staff Advisor welcomed the gathering. Dr. A. Tajuddin, Dean presided over the function and appreciated the students for their sincere efforts and distributed the prizes to the students.

Mr. R.Nagarajan of III Year B. Tech. (Agrl. Engg.) proposed a vote of thanks.

TNAU Scientist honoured

Dr.N.Kumar, Dean (Hort), HC&RI, Coimbatore has been awarded Shri.Giridhari Lal Chadha Memorial Gold Medal for his contribution in fruit crops for the year 2009 in a special function convened by Horticultural Society of India at New Delhi on 26th December, 2009. The award was presented to him by Dr.C.D.Mayee, the Chairman, Agricultural Service Recruitment Board, New Delhi in the presence of



Orientation workshop to the newly recruited farm Scientists >>>



An orientation workshop for the newly recruited Assistant Professors numbering forty, who have been posted in the Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) as subject matter specialists was conducted on 21st January 2010 at the Directorate of Extension Education, Coimbatore. Our Vice-Chancellor Dr.P.Murugesu Boopathi called upon them to get deeply involved in the process of transfer of

technology, perfection and timely completion of the tasks assigned to them so as to make a large number of farmers to understand, appreciate and ultimately adopt the new farm technologies in their farms.

Citing the KVKs as "Frontline Innovative Knowledge Centers" in the districts, the Vice-Chancellor wanted these young professionals

who act as Subject Matter Specialists (SMS) in KVKs to move closely with the farming community, understand their needs, prioritise them and impart necessary knowledge and skill to them in a way that they get increased net farm income which results in their enhanced standard of living.

Dr.P.Subbian, Registrar of TNAU stressed the need for "Team Work" in Krishi Vigyan Kendras and said that a strong team could bring wonders even in complex tasks. He called upon the young scientists in KVKs to propose innovative interdisciplinary TOT projects by addressing the current issues and challenges in the present day farming.

Dr.P.Kalaiselvan, Director of Extension Education, TNAU called upon these young professionals to undertake the transfer of technology tasks with great enthusiasm, attempt with dedication and complete them to the satisfaction of the stakeholders.

Dr.J.S.Samra, Chief Executive Officer, National Rainfed Area Authority, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, New Delhi and Dr.K.L.Chadha, Ex. DDG (Hort), ICAR and the President of Horticultural Society of India. Dr.N.Kumar was the first Horticultural scientist from TNAU to bag this prestigious award in view of his significant contributions in the field of fruit science.

Tamil New Year and Pongal vizha at AEC & RI, Kumulur

Tamil New Year and Pongal day was celebrated at Agricultural Engineering



College & Research Institute, Kumulur, Trichy on 12.01.2010 in a grand manner. Teaching, non teaching staff, students and farm labourers participated in the function. Dr. K. Annadurai, Staff Advisor, welcomed the gathering. In view of pongal celebrations, a Rangoli competition was conducted. Dr. A. Tajuddin, Dean, AEC & RI, Kumulur presided over the function.

The labourers participated in the village traditional Kollattam with village songs. The students and the staff gathered and enjoyed Tamil New year cum Pongal festival. Dr. R. Jagadeesan, Farm Manager proposed a vote of thanks.

Launching of electronic journal of plant breeding

Our Vice-Chancellor, Dr.P.Muruges Boopathi formally inaugurated the website of the “**Electronic Journal of Plant Breeding**” on 6th January 2010 in his chamber in the presence of Dr.K.Thiyagarajan, President, ISPB and other senior members of the society. This is a first of its kind from TNAU. While inaugurating the



journal, the Vice-Chancellor appreciated the efforts of the ISPB and suggested to maintain the publication. The journal can be viewed at <http://sites.google.com/site/ejplantbreeding>. It can also be seen from the home page of www.tnau.ac.in under “outreach” tab. This journal is included in the J-gate listing of Informatics (India) Ltd, Directory of Open Access Journals, e-journals.org, etc. Attempts are in progress to obtain ISSN and for CABI indexing. It is being indexed in various search engines also. Since it is an open source and online, the reach of this journal is world wide. As per the google analytics estimate, this journal already viewed 672 times from 58 countries in less than one month.

Field visit by MDPU members on SRI machine transplanting

A field visit on rice fields planted by transplanter at Abinavam and Kottavadi villages in Attur taluk of Salem District was made by the Multi Disciplinary Project Unit members viz., TNAU Consultant Dr. V. Ravichandran, WRO Consultant, Thiru. Rajagobalan and Agricultural Marketing Consultant Thiru. Seetharaman, Agriculture Department Consultant Thiru. Vidhyasagar along with Professor and Head, Tapioca and Castor Research Station, Dr. V. Palanisamy and TN-IAMWARM Upper Vellar (Vasista) incharge Dr. K. Thirukumaran. They reviewed SRI machine transplanting and normal SRI fields. They also suggested to go for large scale production of SRI machine transplanting in Salem District.

Green House opened at ARS, Kovilpatti

Dr.P.Murugasa Boopathi, Vice-Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Agricultural

University declared opened the green house and the labor rest shed at Agricultural Research Station, Kovilpatti, recently. On this occasion, he stressed the need for farm mechanization in rainfed agriculture since agricultural labor availability was less due to the engagement in non farm activities. Dr.V.Subramanian, Chief Scientist, All India Coordinated Research Project on dryland Agriculture, ARS, Kovilpatti accompanied the Vice-Chancellor to all the experimental fields in the research farm. Dr.M.Paramathma, Director of Research, TNAU and the scientists of ARS, Kovilpatti participated.



Training on agri-business management

The Directorate of Agri-Business Development of TNAU has organized a five-day intensive training program from 14th to 18th December, 2009 on “Agri-Business Management” as an initiative of the Agri-Business Incubator, recently established in Tamil Nadu Agricultural University. The training program was a collaborative activity with the Zonal Project Directorate of ICAR-Zone VIII to benefit its KVK faculties representing the various States of Kerala, Karnataka, Puducherry, Goa besides Tamil Nadu.



Dr.R.Ganesan, Director, Agri-Business Development of TNAU in

his welcome address oriented the trainees on the significance of Agri-Business as an emerging specialization by which, the business – value of agricultural technologies and the business-models of agri-related enterprises can be imparted to various stakeholders of agricultural developments besides progressive farmer groups. The training content has been conceptualized and designed in such a way to incorporate the perceptible theme areas with success models of technologists and enterprise practitioners representing the different sectors such as agriculture / horticulture, seed ventures, dairy, agri-clinics, bio-technology, food processing and organic farming, he explained.

Presiding over the training programme, Dr.P.Subbian, Registrar, TNAU directed the participants to serve as 'Knowledge Workers' at village level by which there can be a possibility of transforming the progressive – minded clients as agropreneurs. He emphatically stated that “Agri-Business Management” assumes its significance for exploration by every extensionists as it is supposed to be a high-end activity in technology transfer. He appealed the trainees to identify and plan for workable business ventures utilizing the various services of Agri-Business Incubator of the Directorate of Agri-Business Development. Dr.K.R.Ashok, Professor (Agrl. Economics) of the Directorate

proposed a vote of thanks.

Farmers' training on varagu cultivation



A one day farmers' training programme on Varagu cultivation was organized on 18.12.2009 at KVK, Vriddhachalam. A total of 40 farmers participated in the programme. Dr. P.

Seminar on pulses >>>



One day Seminar on “Strategic Approach to enhance pulses production in Tamil Nadu” was conducted at Rice Research Station, Tirur on 17.12.2009 by inviting the officials of the Dept. of Agriculture, Government of Tamil Nadu, TNAU Scientists and Progressive farmers. Seminar was inaugurated by our Vice-Chancellor, Dr.P.Murugesha Boopathi.

Dr.M.Paramathma, Director of Research, TNAU, Coimbatore delivered the welcome address. Special address was delivered by the District Collector, Thiruvallur, Thiru.V.Palanikumar, I.A.S.

Thiru. S.Kosalaraman, I.A.S., Commissioner of Agriculture stated that an intervention should be introduced to bridge the gap between the production and the need of pulses as that of SRI in paddy.

The Vice-Chancellor in his inaugural address stressed that pulses to be grown as pure crop instead of bund crop or mixed crop. He further stressed that TNAU is committed to evolve high yielding varieties to increase pulse production in Tamil Nadu. He also enlightened the importance of mobile sprinkler and application of foliar nutrients to boost pulse yield.

Thiru. K. Shanmugam, Principal Secretary to the Government Cooperation, Food & Consumer protection, spoke about the effect of climatic change and rainfall pattern on the reduction in pulses production. He suggested that varieties evolved by TNAU and scrupulously following the package of practices would increase the pulse yield.

Keynote address was delivered by Th.P.N.Vedanarayanan, I.A.S. former Agricultural Production Commissioner and Secretary. He requested the Government to provide special schemes to popularize pulse production in this state.

Agriculture Production Commissioner and Secretary Thiru.K.Nanda Kishore, I.A.S., in his presidential address stressed that the scientists and the farmers are to be sensitized on increasing pulse production in Tamil Nadu. Panel discussion was organized in which, experts from TNAU, Officials of Commissionerate participated and chalked out the future course of action. The farmers from various districts shared their experiences and offered suggestions for increasing the pulse production in the state.

Veerabahiran, Professor and Head, Department of Millets welcomed the gathering. In his address, he stressed the importance of nutritional attributes of varagu crop. Dr. K. Thiyagarajan, Director, Centre for Plant Breeding and Genetics, delivered the presidential address. Dr. N. Sathiah, Programme Co-ordinator, KVK, Vriddhachalam, opined that there is a great scope for marketing of varagu by way of value addition through Self Help Groups. Dr. P. L. Viswanathan, Professor and Head, Regional Research Station, Vriddhachalam spoke about the importance of varagu cultivation in Cuddalore region. Dr. A. Nirmala Kumari, Professor (Small millets) and Principal Investigator of the scheme, Department of Millets trained the farmers about the need for the quality seeds and important high yielding varieties available in varagu. An exhibition depicting the details of high yielding varieties, advanced package of practices, plant protection measures and value addition was arranged. A field visit and interaction meet have also been arranged with farmers to know about their feed-back in the demonstration plots.

Training on leadership development

One day training programme on Leadership Development was jointly organized by NABARD, Salem and Tapioca and Castor Research Station, Yethapur on 19.12.2009 at TCRS, Yethapur. More than 100 farmers from various Farmers Clubs of Salem District have participated and benefited.

In the inaugural function, Tmt.P.Manimegalai, Deputy General Manager, NABARD, Salem district welcomed the gathering. Shri.R.Mahadevan, Deputy General Manager, Indian Bank, Salem inaugurated the function. Dr.V.Palanisamy, Professor and Head, TCRS, Yethapur explained the research and technology transfer to the farming community. He also, highlighted the tapioca and castor cultivation technologies and I A M W A R M activities. Shri.P.Dhasaradhan, Deputy Director

of Horticulture, offered his technical suggestion to improve the Horticulture as an enterprise.

In the technical session, Tmt.P.Manimegalai explained about the leadership role and communication skill to be performed by the club leaders. Managers and staff from various banks, scientists of TCRS, Yethapur were participated in the programme.

An exhibition also organized with regard to tapioca and castor cultivation technologies and live specimens of improved varieties also depicted.

Training on food and health to community nutrition supervisor

At KVK, Sirugamani, a campus training on food and health was organized for nutrition noonmeal scheme supervisors on 18.12.09.

Dr.S.P.Ramanathan, Professor and Head, KVK, inaugurated the training. The main focus of the training viz., Food and Nutrition, deficiency disease of nutrition like protein-protein energy malnutrition, vit A deficiency, Iodine, anemia hygiene and sanitation to be followed by children and adolescents, supplementary foods, nutrient rich foods etc., were explained by Dr.G.Sashidevi Food and Nutritionists. Mrs.Tamilselvi, Farm manager explained about nutritional garden, kitchen garden layout and roof garden etc.

Training on rice seed production technology

Training on "Rice seed production technology" was organized at Tamil Nadu Rice Research Institute, Aduthurai for five days from on 18.1.10 to 23.1.10 to 1000 farmers (200 per day) for the farm beneficiaries from selected seed villages in Kodavasal Block of Thiruvavur District. Scientists of Tamil Nadu Rice Research Institute imparted the training on seed production technologies covering cultivation, plant protection and economics of seed production to the seed producer.

Improved cow shed inaugurated



Our Vice-Chancellor, Dr. P. Muruges Boopathi inaugurated the cattle shed provided with "Rubberised Cow Mat" on floor on 14.01.2010. The mat absorb pressure especially the heavy load put on knees when cows lie down and hock joint while getting up. Each cow mat is with a dimension of 6'x4' is sufficient to accommodate one dairy cow. Advantages of cow mat are easy to clean, unique antibacterial surface, reduces incidence of lameness, increased blood supply to teat and udder facilitating increase in milk yield, improves quality of milk and reduces premature culling.

Training on value addition of palmyrah

A hands on training on value addition of palmyrah products was organized at Anthoniarpuram village, Tuticorin District on 24th of January 2010. Around one hundred palmyrah workers and their women family members participated and got trained. The tappers were trained on value addition of edible and non edible products, popularization of TNAU palm climbing device, motivation of palmyrah tappers and their family members to encourage the value added product preparation. During this training programme, edible tasty products viz., *puttu* and *payasam* were demonstrated from palmyrah tuber powder. Dr. V. Ponnuswami, Dean (Hort.) & Principal Investigator of the



scheme delivered a lecture to the participants about the need for identifying the early bearing high neera yielding dwarf elite types. He further emphasized about the consumer attractive handicrafts prepared from palm leaves, trunk, roots and petiole. Many scientists of TNAU spoke during the occasion. All

their queries related to palmyrah and its byproducts including tree climbing device and marketing of products were clarified.

Training on Organic farming

One day training programme on 'Organic farming' was organized at

NPRC, Vamban on 29.12.09 with financial support from Department of environmental Science, TNAU Coimbatore under NADP. The meeting was inaugurated by Dr.S.Chellamuthu, Director, Water Technology Centre. One hundred and thirty farmers attended the training programme.

NEW SCHEMES

Name of the Scheme	PI	Amount (lakh Rs.)	Funding Agency
National Bamboo Mission project on prolonging storage life of bamboo seeds using eco-friendly techniques	Dr.K.Ramamoorthy Special Officer (Seeds)	29.92	Ministry of Agriculture & Co-operation-GOI
Investigation on safe disposal of sludge from terry towel (textile) industry for Agroforestry production	Dr.S.Avudainayagam Professor (ENS)	11.54	DST-Sludge
Techno Economical Empowerment of Farm Women through Integrated Farming systems approach	Dr.K.Ramamoorthy, Professor (Agronomy)	8.67	DBT
Environmental and socio-economic externalities of land degradation in the Nilgiris Mountain of Tamil Nadu	Dr.C.Sekar, Professor (Agrl. Eco.), PHTC	8.17	Ministry of Environment and Forest, GOI
Development of seed hardening technique and designer seed technology for tomato, brinjal and chilly	Dr.A.S.Ponnuswamy, Emeritus Scientist	7.68	ICAR Emeritus scientist scheme

IMPORTANT VISITORS

- Dr.Hisato Okuizumi, Gene Bank, NIA S Japan visited to Dept. of Plant Molecular Biology & Biotechnology, between 26.1.2010 and 30.1.2010.
- Dr.Kaushik Majundar, Director and Dr.T.Sathiya Narayanan, Dy. Director Indian Plant Nutrition Institute, New Delhi visited to TRRI, Aduthurai on 21.1.2010.
- Th.Selvaraj, Regional Manager, Dhanuka Pesticides visited to TRRI, Aduthurai on 21.1.2010.
- Dr.Mangal sain, Principal Scientist & Head, TTT and Dr.P.Muthuraman, Sr.Scientist, Directorate of Rice Research, Hyderabad visited to TRRI, Aduthurai on 22.1.2010.

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