



TNAU NEWS

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TAMIL NADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY NEWS LETTER

32nd Convocation - 2011



The Thirty second Convocation of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University was held on 23th November, 2011 in the Convocation Hall,

Coimbatore in a grand manner. His Excellency Dr.K. Rosaiah, the Governor of Tamil Nadu and Chancellor of TNAU presided over the Convocation and awarded 38 medals to 29 outstanding Undergraduate, Postgraduate and Ph.D. scholars. In this Convocation, totally 962 students were awarded with various degrees. Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture, Government of Tamil Nadu and Pro-Chancellor, Thiru S. Damodaran announced the new Endowments instituted. Dr. K. Kasturirangan, Member, Planning Commission, Government of India, New Delhi was the Chief Guest of the occasion and delivered the Convocation address.

Brain storming session on production of foundation seeds

A brain storming session of the NADP (RKVY) project on foundation seed production of pulses in TNAU was organized at Seed Centre on 28.11.2011 for discussing on the strategies to be followed for the foundation seed production programme to be taken up by TNAU with its operating seed production centres.

Dr.M.Bhaskaran, Special Officer (Seeds) welcomed the gathering and briefed the progress made in various NADP Programmes operated by Seed Centre and the proposed programme to be carried out under Phase IV. Dr.M.Paramathma, DR has delivered the special address on the importance of production and supply of quality seeds to the farmers by adopting proper multiplication system. Dr.N.Ajjan, Director (CARDS); Dr.T.Jayaraj, Director, TRRI,

Aduthurai and Th.A.Chandrasekaran, Joint Director of Agriculture (Pulses), Commissionerate of Agriculture, Chennai, emphasized the requirement of quality seeds in pulses to maintain the seed supply chain. While delivering the keynote address, our Vice-Chancellor emphasized the need for production and supply of quality seeds so as to increase the Seed Replacement Rate (SRR) and the role to be played by TNAU especially in the case of pulses and advised to co-operate all the operating centres to give top most priority to fulfill the mandate of production and supply of foundation seeds. Thirty four participants from various BSP centres and 14 KVKs, Seed Centre & Dept. of Seed Science & Technology attended the programme. Vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. P. Natesan, Professor (SST).



National training on “System of Rice Intensification (SRI)”

One day National level capacity building training programme on, “System of Rice Intensification (SRI)” was conducted on 28th September, 2011 at Tamil Nadu Rice Research Institute, Aduthurai.



Twelve Technical Officers from Bayer Bio science Pvt. Ltd., representing different states of India have participated in the training. Dr.

V. Ravi, Professor (Agronomy) welcomed the gathering. Dr. T. Jayaraj, Director, TRRI inaugurated the session and delivered the presidential address. Training manual and booklets distributed to the participants. The participants were exposed to field practices of SRI cultivation. Mr.V. Saravanakumar, Area Manager, South India, Bayer Bio science Pvt. Ltd. facilitated the training programme. Dr, S. Babu, Bayer Bio science Pvt. Ltd, proposed vote of thanks.

Training on Bio-rational pest management in horticultural crops

One day training on “Biorational pest management in horticultural crops” was organized by Horticultural Research Station, Kodaikanal, on 03.11.2011.



Dr. K. Premalatha, Asst. Professor (Ento.), welcomed the gathering. The training was presided by Dr. J. Rajangam,

Assoc. Professor and Head. A special lecture on role of biological control and importance of bio pesticides in control of pests in horticultural crops are delivered by Dr. C. Chinniah, Professor (Ento.) and Dr. J. Jayaraj, Assoc. Professor (Ento.). Dr. T. K. S. Latha, Asst. professor (Path.) proposed vote of thanks. The farmers from upper and lower Pulney hills of Kodaikanal participated in the training.

Little millet field day

A Samai field day was organized at Athipattu village in Javadu Hills of Thiruvannamali district on 5.11.2011 by Department of Millets, Coimbatore. A total of 1400 samai growing farmers gathered. Samai, a high yielding variety CO (Samai) 4, was raised in an area of 700 hectares in farmers' fields as demonstration.



Dr. K. Thiyagarajan, Director (CPBG), welcomed the gathering and in his address, stressed the significance of such field days to motivate the farmers and to exchange the ideas. Dr. C. Udayasoorian, Dean (SPGS), explained the goals of the project. The Principal Investigator of the Project, Dr. A. Nirmalakumari detailed the importance of high yielding varieties and improved technologies. Our Vice-Chancellor, Dr. P. Murugesu Bhoopathi, in his presidential address, expressed his happiness towards the participation of the farmers in huge number during rainy days. He wished the farmers to make use of the technologies at their farm gates in such a remote hilly tribal area to improve their life status. Dr. P. Kalaiselvan, DEE, proposed vote of thanks.

A group discussion chamber inaugurated

Our Vice – Chancellor, Dr. P. Murugesu Boopathi, declared open a group discussion chamber established with state - of- the - art facilities on 21.11.2011 in

D S W and congratulated the Director and his team for establishing a need – based Group Discussion



chamber for selection of candidates for placement, simulation and Group based discussions. The chamber is established to facilitate placement for the graduating students of Tamil Nadu

Agricultural University and grooming them for employability by means of soft skill courses, personality development workshops and career guidance courses.

Groundnut field day

Groundnut field day was conducted at Vedanatham Village of Tiruvannamalai district on 23.11.11 by ORS, Tindivanam, Totally 40 farmers participated.



Dr. M.Vaithiyalingan, Asst. Prof. (P B & G) , welcomed the gathering and explained the importance of latest test varieties viz., TMV (Gn) 13 and ICGV 00351. He also delivered the lecture on High yielding varieties of groundnut and seed production technologies. A manual in Tamil on Seed production technologies in oilseeds and pulses and Cultivation technologies for oilseeds were distributed to the farmers.

Training for tribal farmers of Dharmapuri district

Five days residential trainings to update knowledge in high tech horticulture to tribal farmers of Dharmapuri district was conducted by KVK, Pappapattay from 14.11.2011 for three batches with 50 farmers per batch.

Under this programme, technical lectures were delivered on the topics Viz., ICM practices for growing



vegetable and fruit crops in tribal areas, technology on mushroom production, IPM for vegetable and fruit crops, scope and importance of

organic agriculture to minimize the use of pesticides and fertilisers, marketing of horticultural crop produces. Besides, an entrepreneurial development programme for starting new businesses in horticulture was also

conducted to tribal farmers to uplift their livelihood. The farmers were brought to the innovative farmers field and precision farming field, in Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri districts on exposure visit.

Programme by TCRS, Yethapur

Training on improved tapioca production technologies and value addition techniques

Two days training programme on improved tapioca production technologies and value addition

techniques for the SC/ST tapioca growers numbering 30 was jointly organized on 16th and 17th November, 2011 at Ramanayakanpalayam village of



Salem district. The training was inaugurated by Dr.V.Rajendran, P&H, TCRS, Yethapur. In his special address, he stressed the importance of tapioca cultivation in Salem District and highlighted the improved package of practices for tapioca for increasing the yield. Various topics on tapioca cultivation were dealt with scientists of TCRS.

AICRP Castor Monitoring team's visit

AICRP Castor Monitoring team inspected the castor trials at Tapioca and Castor Research Station, Yethapur and

Front Line Demonstration fields in the farmers' holdings on 21 & 22.11.11.

The team inspected the research trials of

the station and FLD fields at Elaichipalayam and Namagiripettai blocks of Namakkal district. Dr. Ishwar singh, Castor Agronomist, Mandore, Jodhpur, Dr.A.G.Desai, Research Scientist (Plant Pathology), S.K. Nagar, Gujarat and Dr.S.R. Venkatachalam, Associate Professor (PB&G), constituted the members of the team. Monitoring committee appreciated the research trials carried out at TCRS, Yethapur.



Training on ' Sustainable Sugarcane Initiative '

A training programme on “Sustainable Sugarcane Initiative (SSI) Technology” was organized at ARS, Bhavanisagar from 16th to 18th November, 2011.



Dr. V.Palanisamy, Professor (SS&T) delivered welcome address. Mr.G.Santhanam, AGM, NABARD inaugurated the function and released the manual on “Sustainable Sugarcane Initiative” in Tamil. Dr.M.Mohamed Yassin, P&H, delivered special address on Scope and concept of SSI in Tamil Nadu. Twenty five farmers throughout Tamil Nadu and Pondichery participated in the training programme. A field visit was organized in Periyakulam village, Erode district to witness a nursery production unit for sugarcane seedlings established by a farmer.

Quality seed production training under seed village concept

Two days training on Quality seed production on pulse, rice and groundnut through seed village concept was organized for 35 farmers from Narasingampettai and Keelamathur villages in



Thanjavur district on 25th & 26th November, 2011 at TRRI, Aduthurai. Dr. K Raja, Assistant Professor (SST) welcomed the gathering. Dr. T. Jayaraj, Director, inaugurated the session and delivered presidential address. Special lectures on plant varietal characteristics, seed production technology and pest and disease management were delivered by concerned scientists., Mr. M. Lakshmiathan, Seed Certification officer, Thiruvaidaimaruthur, explained the registration procedure and seed standards to be maintained by the seed growers. All the participants visited the Seed Processing unit.

Training for rice farmers

One day training on 'Drum seeding and mechanical weeding for higher productivity, profitability and prosperity of rice farmers' was conducted at RRS, Paipur on 2.11.2011, for 50 farmers of Krishnagiri block. Dr.M.Suresh, P&H incharge, delivered the presidential address. Dr. M.N.Budhar, Professor (Agronomy) and Principal Investigator of the scheme, highlighted the benefits and components of the project. The drum seeding farmers, Th.Krishnan and Tmt. Jeyalakshmi, shared their experiences in having adopted this method of planting,emphasised on reduced cost of cultivation, increased yield and net income.



Buyer-seller meet on vegetables

Department of Market Extension of the Directorate of Extension Education, Coimbatore organized a Buyer-Seller Meet at the Krishi Vigyan Kendra located at Virinjipuram near Vellore on 7.11.2011. Totally 25 Vegetable growers representing 6 villages of Vellore District participated. A city based Vegetable procurement Agency ' e-Farm' dealing with the direct purchase of vegetables also participated in the event. Our Vice-Chancellor, Dr.P.Murugesha Boopathi, inaugurated the meet. Dr.P.Kalaiselvan, DEE, Dr. SP. Ramanathan, P&H, Market Extension and Dr.Nandakumar, PC of KVK, Virinjipuram and other Scientists of KVK interacted with the farmers.



ODL - B.F. Tech exam at KVK, Sandhiyur

Our Vice Chancellor, Dr. P. Murugesha Boopathi had visited KVK, Sandhiyur on 12th November, 2011 to

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witness and to interact with the farmer students who are undergoing semester examination under the ODL - B.F.Tech. course on weed and irrigation management and manures and fertilizers. He enquired their convenience on questions pattern and examination schedules Dr. S. Manickam, Programme Co-ordinators and Dr. M.A. Vennila, ODL Co-ordinator were present.

Sensitizing Scientists for Shifting Scenario

A three-day refresher programme on Creativity and Leadership to the Assistant Professors recruited during 2004 and 2007 years numbering 240 was



conducted from 26-28 November 2011 with intention to impart skills and attitudinal changes in the minds of young Assistant Professors and to infuse creativity, leadership, behavioural and organizational skills amongst them to cope up with the dynamic agricultural systems. Dr. P. Subbian, Registrar, inaugurated the programme and apprised the present working group scenario in TNAU and indicating the

essential attitudinal changes required to lead the University with an emphasis on the purpose this kind of exposure. A total of 18 interactive revelations were offered by the eminent personalities. The entire programme was coordinated by the DR and his team members. As per the participants' feedback, the programme though intensive and tightly packed, was a comprehensive scintillating eye opener for personality development with useful tips to be followed in their career.

TNAU weighs high in ASRB

The recently concluded ARS examination 2010 meant for recruiting scientists to ICAR institutes indicated that for the 214 vacancies to be filled, success ratio was worked out to be 1:34 (i.e. one in 35 candidates who appeared for the exam qualified). As per ASRB Annual Report 2010-11, ten states contributed 82.2% ARS scientists out of the 1164 posts, in which Tamil Nadu topped with 20.7% success rate. Consolidated data on the success of candidates in clearing ARS from 2006 to 2010 indicated that TNAU, Coimbatore stood first with the success rate of 9.3% surpassing the follower, GBPAU&T, Pantnagar with 6.2%. Dedicated efforts of teachers and sincerity of the students coupled with conducive learning ambience are the reasons for such great achievements.

Inauguration of Millet Food Court



Madurai has established a Millet Food Court in college premises. Millet based convenience food mixes namely multi purpose snacks mix, multigrain adai mix, millet based health mix, kali mix, cookies, karasev, varagu flakes etc were displayed for sale in the Millet Food Court, which was inaugurated by our Vice Chancellor, Dr.P.Murugesha Boopathi on 30.11.2011. Dr. P. Banumathi, Dean, added that the similar kind of millet based mixes were also being sold by beneficiaries of the trainings in "Ulavar Unavagam" inaugurated

Realising the importance of millets in food basket, the Department of Home Science Extension in HSC&RI,

by Thiru.Sahayam, IAS, Collector, Madurai district. Later, the collector visited the Millet Food Court.

New schemes

Name of the scheme	Principal Investigator	Amount (Lakh ₹.)	Funding Agency
Imparting training and organizing farm school on the diagnosis and management of Nematode disease	Dr. I. Cannayane Asst. Professor, Nematology, Coimbatore	40.02	NADP
National initiatives for Climate Resilience Agriculture- real time pest monitoring in rice	Dr.G.V.Ramasubramanian, Prof. (Ag.Ento) Dr.SN.Jalaludeen, Prof. (Ag.Ento) Dr.A.Karthikeyan, Prof.(Pl. Path.)	5.00	NCIPM, NICRA
Coupling mechanisms of soil carbon sequestration and productivity enhancement for different cropping systems for sustainable agriculture	Dr. K. Baskar, Ph.D., Assoc. Professor (SS & AC), Killikulam	33.47	DST
Evaluation of strobilurins and triazoles against important diseases of grapes, tomato, groundnut, chillies and rice	Dr. M. Theradimani Assoc. Professor, AC & RI, Madurai	19.71	Cheminova India Limited, Mumbai
Enhancement of host plant defense mechanism and biosurfactant management of rhizome rot of ginger and turmeric	Dr. T. Saravanan, Ph.D., Asst. Professor, HRS, Yercaud	19.15	DST
Evaluating the performance of released coconut hybrid in farmers' fields at different districts of Tamil Nadu	Dr. C. Natarajan Professor and Head, ARS, Pattukkottai	14.45	CDB, Kochi
Testing and Evaluation of Nematicide MCW2 (10% GR) against root knot nematode, Meloidogyne incognita in tomato	Dr. A. Shanthi Assoc. Professor, Nematology, Coimbatore	2.80	M/S. Makhteshim Agan India Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad

Important visitors

- Dr. Jana Janakiram, University of Guelph, Canada visited Directorate of Open and Distance Learning between 06.11.2011 and 10.11.2011.
- Dr. Jagadish Jrishna, Plant Physiologist and Dr. Tom Ishimaru, Physiology, IRRI, Philippines visited Directorate of CPMB&B between 08.11.2011 and 9.11.2011.
- Prof. Drik Weichgrebe, Head, Anaerobic technologies, Leibniz University of Hannover, Germany; Mr. P. Patnaik, University of Hannover, Germany; Mr. Erwin Voss, VE. Efficiency solutions, Germany visited Dean Engineering between 26.11.2011 and 28.11.2011.

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From
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