



TNAU NEWS

Patron; **Dr. P. Murugesu Boopathi**, Vice Chancellor
Editor: **Dr. G. Kathiresan**, Director, Planning & Monitoring

TAMIL NADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY NEWS LETTER

National Defence College Officers visit TNAU



bug management through biological tools, and initiatives under National Agricultural Innovation Programme, Automatic Weather Stations installation in all blocks of Tamil Nadu, video conferencing for problem solving and dissemination of market information through Domestic and Export Market Intelligence Cell, Community Radio Station, Open and Distance Learning programmes were highlighted by the Registrar during the discussion.

Officers of the National Defence College, New Delhi visited Tamil Nadu Agricultural University on 12-3-2012. Totally 14 Officers comprising of Brigadiers, Air Commodore, Group Captains including 3 Officers from abroad, headed by Air Vice-Marshal Th. Arvind Verma visited TNAU as part of their economy, science and technology tour.

Dr. P. Subbian, Registrar of the University received the Officers and briefed about the various achievements and ongoing activities of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University. He highlighted the organizational structure of the University, ongoing R & D work related to SRI, SSI, Precision Farming, frontier research in the field of Nano Science & Technology, Plant Genetic Resources, Remote Sensing and Geographical Information System. "About nine technologies of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University have been patented so far and 36 technologies have been filed for patenting" he added. Role of Agri-business Directorate in entrepreneurship development, mealy

Th. Arvind Verma, Air Vice-Marshal in his remarks emphasized that the National Security Architecture is part of the course training at National Defence College, being taught in the fields of Economy, Science and Technology. India being an agrarian country, where more than 70 per cent of the population depends on agriculture, exposure to agriculture will provide knowledge on food and nutritional security, essential to strengthen the National security base. In that perspective, visit to Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, the pioneer Agricultural University of the country, is appropriate. From the visit it is learnt that Indian agriculture is the oldest in the globe and many technologies start their journey from India and make a round in the world and come back to India with slight alteration and attraction he added.

The officers were exposed to the Precision Farming activities, Agri-portal development, and ongoing research on water saving technologies of the Water Technology Centre.

TNAU - Inter Collegiate Tournament and Sports Meet -2012



The TNAU Inter Collegiate Tournament and Sports Meet -2012 was held at Adhiparasakthi Agricultural and

Horticultural College, Kalavai from 31st Jan to 4th Feb, 2012. The sports meet was inaugurated with great fanfare by the Vice Chancellor, Dr. P. Murugesha Boopathi in the presence of Mr.G.B.Anbalagan, Managing Trustee, Adhiparasakthi Charitable, Medical, Educational and Cultural Trust, Dr. A. Rajarajan, Dean Agricultural College & Research Institute, Coimbatore and Dr. S. Ramasamy, Dean of AA&HC, Kalavai and film actor Mr. Santhanam.

Sports persons from 16 colleges of TNAU participated as twelve teams in the meet. The overall championship for Games was bagged by TNAU Main campus, Coimbatore and Second place for men went to APAC, Kalavai and Second place for women went to TNAU Madurai campus. The overall championship for Athletics was bagged by HC & RI, Periyakulam in the men's event and TNAU Main campus Coimbatore in the women's events. Individual championship was won by Mr Palanisamy of HC& RI, Periyakulam and for women by Ms A.R. Manju Hashni of Forest College & Research Institute, Mettupalayam

Programmes at HC&RI, Periyakulam

Soil sample collection launched

The inauguration of soil sample collection for the issue of soil health cards was done by Theni District Collector, Dr. K.S. Palanisamy on 01.02.12 at Lakshmiapuram, Theni. The need for soil testing and farmers integrated handbook was highlighted during the meeting. The Dean, Horticultural College & Research Institute, Periyakulam and Joint Director of Agriculture, Theni District also participated in the meeting.

ICT -Championship -2012

Horticultural College and Research Institute, Periyakulam bagged the overall athletics championship for



men in the Intercollegiate Tournament held on 03.02.12 at Adhiparasakthi Agricultural & Horticultural College, Kalavai. V. Palanisamy of Final Year bagged the individual championship by getting first place in 400 mts., 800 mts, 1500 mts & Third in triple jump. The college also got runners in chess and basket ball for men and women.

Laurels to students

Selvan. J. Ravi Varman, I year and Selvi C. Sathya, IV year have been awarded first and third prizes respectively in the competitions conducted by the Tamil Literary society.

Farmers Training

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University and NABARD jointly organized a farmers training programme on "Production of healthy seed and planting materials in horticultural crops" at Periyakulam from 1-3rd February 2012. Thirty farmers including 2 women from NABARD farmers club of Madurai, Dindigul and Theni districts participated.



Lectures on seed production of vegetable crops, grafting techniques followed for fruit crops, nursery techniques for production of quality planting materials, importance of production of quality seeds and planting materials, media preparation for plant multiplication, pro-tray culture and nursery practices under shadenet, processing, grading, seed treatment and storage techniques of vegetable seeds, plant protection measures and commercial flower seed production of marigold, tuberose, balsom, aster, zinnia, were given.

Training on Dry flower



Training on “Entrepreneurship development on dry flowers” was conducted for 3 days. The Dean (Hort.), HC&RI, gave the inaugural address and stressed the importance of dry flower making and entrepreneurship development on dry flowers. Self help groups, unemployed rural youth and farmers were trained by Dr. Aruna, AP (Hort) on harvesting of dry flowers, different drying techniques, preparation of dry flower crafts and floral arrangements. They were stressed on the importance of dry flowers and their products and the need to create awareness among the people on dry flower marketing. Total of 75 beneficiaries were trained during this programme.

45th Research Council Meeting



Forty fifth Research Council meeting of TNAU was held in the University premises under the Chairmanship of the Vice-Chancellor, TNAU. A total of 45 participants including the University Officers, nominated Heads of the Departments / Stations, Expert members and Line Department officials participated in the deliberations. Dr. A. Chandrasekaran, DR (i/c) welcomed the gathering and he presented the Recommendations and action taken on the items suggested during 44th R.C. Newer strategies and technologies included in the 12th Five Year Plan proposal of TNAU submitted to the Govt. for funding and TNAU's comprehensive Vision 2030. Good deliberations on the issues of developing diabetic friendly cereals / vegetables / fruits, value addition of farm produces, initiation of permanent pesticide trials to study its effect on long run, botanicals /

nano materials based pollution abatement, development of varieties / hybrids in crops based on need, development of low cost gender friendly tools, greater focus of research in pulses and oilseeds, etc. The meeting ended with formal vote of thanks by Dr.K.Thiyagarajan, Director, CPBG, TNAU, Coimbatore.

All India Radio-Farm School Contact Programme held on 28.01.12 at Trichy

TNAU & AIR Trichy jointly organised a Farm School on “Integrated Pest and Disease Management in



Vegetables” under the USAID Funded IPM-CRSP (South Asia Region IPM Programme) project. A total of 1447 farmers have registered and 20 lessons on Integrated Pest and Disease Management in Vegetables have been broadcasted from April to August, 2011. The contact programme of the Farm School was held at Trichy on 28.01.12. The Vice Chancellor Dr.P. Murugesu Boopathi, in his presidential address said a sustained campaign by TNAU and Extension department over the past few decades has reduced the use of pesticides by the farmer Mrs. Malarvizhi from Sengattupatti, Trichy district on her use of biocontrol agents for pest control in vegetables. Dr. V. Jayabal, Dean, Anbil Dharmalingam Agricultural College & Research Institute, Trichy and Dr.P. Kalaichelvan, Director of Extension Education participated. Dr. R. Muniappan, the Director, IPM –CRSP (USAID) indicated that Tamil Nadu is a forerunner in the implementation of IPM programmes. The Vice Chancellor released a book on “Integrated Pest and Disease Management in Vegetables” Compiled by TNAU scientists and the first copy was received by Thiru. V. Srinivasan, Station Director, AIR, Trichy. He also distributed certificates to the registered participants of the Farm School Contact Programme.

Vice Chancellor triggers the grey cells of Home Science Fraternity



The Honourable Vice-Chancellor of TNAU Dr. P. Murugesha Boopathi visited the HC&RI, Madurai on 09.03.2012 and

participated in an interactive meeting with the faculty and students of the college. Dr.P.Banumathi, Dean in her welcome address, remembered the concern of the Vice Chancellor in the development of the college and student amenities. The Vice-Chancellor, in his address, stressed the importance of value addition of agricultural commodities and the role of food scientists in evolving appropriate technologies. He accentuated that value has to be created in every stage of value chain of agricultural commodities. Further, he motivated the students to prepare for competitive examinations. Dr.M.R.Premalatha, P&H, Department of Food Science and Nutrition offered vote of thanks.

Programmes at FRS, Thovalai

District Collector Inaugurated Farmers Training on Precision Farming in Flowers

A farmers training on "Precision Farming in Flowers" was organised at FRS, Thovalai under TN-IAMWARM programme. Farmers from Panagudi, Sivakamipuram, Thanakkarkulam and Pampankulam villages of Tirunelveli district and Aralvaimozhi, Thovalai, Erumpukadu and Azhagappapuram villages of Kanyakumari district participated in the training. Dr. R. Richard Kennedy, Associate Professor and Head, welcomed the gathering and explained the activities of the project. Mrs. S. Madhumathi, I.A.S., Collector, Kanyakumari district inaugurated the function and informed the farmers to adopt precision farming techniques to realize high returns. Mr. T.K.S. Kalai Selvan, Director, Flora Mart Pvt. Ltd, Malaysia dealt about the import and export of flowers. Mrs. M. Visalakshi, Salem Spices demonstrated the dry flower production technologies. Dr. P. Hemalatha, AP (Horticulture) explained the Precision Farming

technologies for flower crops. Dr. G. Preetha proposed vote of thanks.

Former DDG (Edn) visited Floriculture Research Station

Dr. S. Prakash Tiwari, FNAAS, Former Vice Chancellor, S.K. Rajasthan Agricultural University, Former Deputy Director



General, ICAR and Former Director, NAARM, ICAR visited the FRS, Thovalai. Dr. R. Richard Kennedy, Associate Professor and Head has explained various activities and research priorities of the station. The former DDG visited the station and appreciated the Scientists for maintaining numerous collections in flower crops and suggested the Scientists to introduce novel orchid types from NRC-orchids and evolve suitable types for commercial exploitation, as Kanyakumari is very well suited for commercial orchid cultivation. Earlier Dr. S. P. Tiwari planted an ornamental pink ball, *Dombeya rosea* in the station premises.

Flower exhibition

A flower exhibition was organized in connection with the visit of Dr. H. P. Singh, DDG (Hort) to FRS, Thovalai. He was accompanied by Dr. N. Kumar, Dean (Hort). They witnessed the farm and showed keen interest on the promotion of emerging cut flowers such as heliconia, ornamental ginger, torch ginger, bird of paradise, etc., which are popular in this tract. He inaugurated the flower exhibition. The exhibition was organized by FRS with the collaboration of Thovalai Florist Federation which is functioning with the technical support of the FRS.

Field day on rotary weeder usage in SRI field

FRS, Thovalai organized a field day on the usage of rotary weeder in SRI field at Veerapandian village of



Hanumanadhi sub basin under TN-IAMWARM. Dr. G. Preetha, AP (Agrl Entomology) welcomed the gathering. Dr. R. Richard Kennedy, Associate Professor and Head highlighted the importance of using rotary weeder. The farmers from Veerapandian, Thalavaipuram and Kadampankulam villages attended the field day and clarified their doubts.

Field day on DAP Spray on Pulses



A field day was organized on DAP spray on pulse crops by FRS, Thoivalai at Kalkarai village of Hanumanadhi sub basin. Dr.

P. Hemalatha, AP (Horticulture) welcomed the gathering. Dr. R. Richard Kennedy, Associate Professor and Head, explained the importance of DAP spraying in pulses and its impact on the enhancement of yield. The preparation and spraying of DAP was demonstrated to the farmers and subsequently the farmer's queries were clarified.

Training on Improved Production Technology in Pulses



A farmers training on "Improved Production Technology in Pulses" was organized at

Sivakamipuram by FRS, Thoivalai, under TN-IAMWARM for the Hanumanadhi sub basin farmers. Dr. G. Preetha, AP (Agricultural Entomology) welcomed the gathering. The Associate Professor and Head, Dr. R. Richard Kennedy, highlighted the activities of the project and asked the farmers to adopt modern technologies to augment pulses production. Dr. S. Suresh, AP (Soil Science), spoke on INM. Mrs. K. Kokila, proposed the vote of thanks.

Training for garden land pulses

The training programme for beneficiary farmers of NADP (RKVY), on "Initiative for Nutritional Security through Intensive Millet Promotion (INSIMP)" was

conducted with Dept. of Agriculture, Vellore. Dr.S.Nanthakumar, Programme Co-ordinator, Mr.

Tamilselvan, JDA, K.Kalaiarasu, MLA of Anaicut and R.K.Shah, Deputy Commissioner, Crops, ICAR addressed the gathering. Fifty tribal



farmers from Vellore district were imparted training on improved production technology in small millets with main focus on Samai and Thinai. Demonstrations were conducted on application of herbicides and vermicompost production.

Farmers Training on Nematode Management

Inaugural function for the training programme under NADP on "Diagnosis of nematode diseases and their integrated



management practices" in important crops was held at HC&RI, Periyakulam on 8.2.2012 under the presidentship of Dr. V. Ponnuswami, Dean. Dr. E.I. Jonathan, Director, CPPS inaugurated the training programme. Thiru. R. Imamudin, JDA, Thiru. C. Murugan, DDH and Dr. L. Jeevajothi, P&H, Department of Spices and Plantation Crops offered their facilitations. Dr. R. Sundaram, Professor of Nematology welcomed the participants. The Principal Investigators Dr. I. Cannayane, Dr. S. Ramakrishnan and Dr. M. Sivakumar, P&H, Department of Nematology, participated.

National Seminar on Solid Waste Management

Dr. Mariakulandai is the founder principal of AC & RI, Madurai. The first Dr. Mariakulandai Memorial lecture on "Soil the Dynamic Living System – Soul of Infinite life" was delivered by Dr. K.K Krishnamurthy, Former Dean of AC & RI, Madurai



8th March 2012. Earlier, the Vice Chancellor Dr. P. Muruges Boopathi declared open the statues of Th. Kakkan and Dr.

Mariakulandai in the main building entrance of the college. The family members of Th. Kakkan and Dr. Mariakulandai were present.

The Department of Soil and Environment of Agricultural College and Research Institute, Madurai organized a two days National Seminar on “Ecofriendly Recycling of Solid Wastes through Composting” The M.K. Memorial lecture and subsequent National Seminar on Solid Waste Management was attended by former Directors, Deans, Professors of Soil Science of TamilNadu Agricultural University and about 120 scientists involved in research of solid waste recycling within and out outside the state. Dr.A.R.Mohamed Haroon, P & H, Department of Soil & Environment welcomed the gathering. Dr. P. Muruges Boopathi, Vice Chancellor, TNAU, Coimbatore inaugurated the seminar, released the compendium and delivered the inaugural address. Soil quality deterioration due to unregulated dumping of solid wastes is a serious concern and proper utilization approach should be adopted rather than mere disposal, he said. Entrepreneurs involved in Solid Waste Management viz., Sakthi vermicompost Sivasamy, SACS vermicastings Narayanan, Coirpith briquette exporter Chandrasegaran, Banana fibre products manufacturer Murugesan were among the others who shared their experiences, the scope and bottlenecks of solid waste recycling through composting technologies. The Director of Agri Business Development, Dr. P. Sivasubramaniam chaired the business opportunities session and highlighted the facilities and technical consultancy services offered by TNAU, Coimbatore. Mr. Vasirajan , Development officer from KVIC presented the schemes available for funding the establishment of vermicompost units. The Chief Guest for the Valedictory Session of the National Seminar was Mr. S. P. Ramamohan, Vice President, Coromandel International Private Limited, Hyderabad who put forth the experiences of Coromandel fertilizers in facilitating the concept of Reduce, Reuse and Recycle through

management of Solid Waste Mr.Ramamohan and Dr.K.Vairavan, Dean, AC&RI, Madurai distributed the awards for best research papers presentation and certificates to the delegates of the seminar.

Exposure Visit for SRI

An exposure visit programme for SRI was organized on 17.02.2012 to AC&RI, Killikulam, and Karumeniyar sub



basin. Dean, AC & RI., Killikulam addressed the farmers and explained the importance of SRI technology and college activities. Technologies were described by the scientists. Dr.R.Vimala, Associate Professor (Scientist Incharge, TN-IAMWARM-Sevalaperiyar sub basin) and Tmt.K.Vanaja (JRF) guided 50 farmers for the exposure visit.

National symposium at AC & RI, Madurai

A National Symposium on “Recent Advances in Bioinoculants Technology” was organized in the Department of Agricultural Microbiology, Agricultural College & Research Institute, Madurai, during 1-2 March, 2012 as the mark of Silver Jubilee Celebration of the Department of Agricultural Microbiology. The convener of the Symposium was Dr.K.Vairavan, Dean, AC&RI, Madurai and the Organizing Secretary was Dr.SP. Sundaram, P&H, Department of Agricultural Microbiology. Around 225 delegates throughout the country participated in the symposium.

The symposium was inaugurated by Dr.K.Ramasamy, Vice-chancellor, Karpagam University and Member, Planning Commission, Tamil Nadu State Government, Chennai. Former, Heads of the Department of Agricultural Microbiology also attended the symposium and felicitated

The concluding session was chaired by Dr.K.Vairavan, the Convenor. Dr.S.Anthoniraj, former P&H, Department of Agricultural Microbiology, AC&RI., Madurai and Dean, ADAC&RI, Trichy delivered the concluding remarks.

Anna (R) 4 paddy Field day



Anna (R) 4 paddy variety was released during November, 2009. from ARS, Paramakudi. To popularize

on Anna (R) 4 variety were exchanged within the farming community.

Consultative Meeting on Madurai Malli Growers Development



The Business Planning and Development Unit-TNAU and the Agri-Business Incubator-ICRISAT organized a consultative meeting on Madurai Malli Growers Development on 25th February 2012 at AC & RI, Madurai with all the stakeholders in the Jasmine value chain to alleviate the problems of stakeholders and addressing specific needs on wholistic approach.

27th Sports Day of AC&RI, Killikulam

Killikulam celebrated the 27th Sports Day of AC&RI, on 01.03.12 with fervour and in a fair spirit of competition. After the welcome address by the Staff Advisor Dr.M.A.K.Pillai, Mr.R.Suresh, Games Secretary presented the Annual Report. Dr.R.Ganesan, Dean,

AC&RI, Killikulam in his Presidential Address emphasised the need for the students to stay physically agile and mentally able but to excel in their career.



The Chief Guest Mr.P.Ganesan, the Arjuna awardee and the Asian Gold Medallist in Kabaddi who felt quite at home with the students, appreciated the initiatives of staff and students for the efficient and fair conduct of the various sports events. A.Manivannan of III B.Sc.(Ag.), M.Gopal of II M.Sc.(Ag.) and T.Vaitheeswari of II B.Sc. (Ag.) emerged as individual Champions. Among the Team games and Field events, IV B.Sc.(Ag.) emerged Team Champions. Dr.S.Ravindran, Director of Physical Education proposed vote of thanks.

Training on groundnut under NADP

One day training program on “Demonstrations on improved varieties and key technologies in groundnut” funded by NADP was conducted at



Oilseeds Research Station, Tindivanam to 50 Farmers from KVK, Valikandapuram, Perambalur district

on 14.3.12. and 26.03.2012. Dr. N. Ramamoorthi, P & H, ORS, Tindivanam welcomed the gathering and delivered the lecture on production scenario, yield status of groundnut, High yielding varieties of Groundnut. Dr. M. Vaithiyalingan, Assistant Professor (PB&G) Dr. S. Anbumani, A.P. (Agron.) Dr. J. Balamurugan, A.P. (SS&AC), Dr. V. Radhakrishnan A.P. (Entomology), Dr. N. Ramalingam, As. P. (Micro.), Dr. C. Tamil Selvi and. Dr. K. Kavitha, A.P. (Plant Pathology) delivered the lecture on groundnut.

Groundnut Training at CRS, Aliyarnagar



One day farmers training programme was organized at CRS, Aliyarnagar on 1st March, 2012 under A I C R P o n

“Groundnut Production Technologies”. A total of 65 farmers participated in the training programme. The inaugural address was given by Dr. K. Rajamanickam, P&H, CRS, Aliyarnagar. In his inaugural address, he highlighted the importance of Groundnut cultivation among all the nine annual oilseed crops. Dr. R. Sridhar, Professor (Agricultural Microbiology), and Mrs. R. Umarani, ADA, Pollachi (North) participated. The scientists of CRS, Aliyarnagar viz., Dr. N. Premalatha, AP (PB&G), Dr. V. Vasuki, A.P. (Agronomy), Dr. J. Sheela, A.P (Plant Pathology), Dr. T. Srinivasan A.P (Agrl. Entomology), Dr. I. Johnson, A.P. (Plant Pathology) and Dr. K. Nelson Navamaniraj, A.P. (SS&T) were the resource. Training was concluded by proposing vote of thanks by Dr. D. Rjakumar, A.P. (Agronomy).

WORLD WATER DAY

The World Water Day was observed by the Department of Agronomy, AC & RI, Madurai on 22.03.2012. The Chief Scientist of the AICRP on Water

Management, Dr.S.Krishnasamy, welcomed the gathering and mentioned that during the current year, five trainers training to Extension



officials and 11 farmers trainings on latest technology in water management for different field and horticultural crops coupled with rainwater harvesting have been conducted. Dr.K.Vairavan, Dean, presided over the function and in his presidential address he stressed the importance of water use in agriculture and need to promote drip fertigation for all crops. Dr. R. Balasubramanian, P & H, Department of Agronomy, proposed vote of thanks. The scientists of the college, Post Graduate students of the Department of Agronomy and farmers numbering 50 from different regions of Madurai district participated in this function. Earlier in commemoration of World Water Day a quiz competition for students of the college was organized on 20.03. 2012 with Water and Food security as the theme. Dr.K.Sivasubramanian, P & H, Department of SS & T, along with Dr.C.Swaminathan, and Dr.R.Babu, faculty of Agronomy conducted the quiz.

Farmers Training on Market Led Agriculture

Five days training programme on market led agriculture was conducted from 20.03.2012 to 24.03.2012 at KVK, AC&RI, Madurai under the Market



Research Information Network scheme. Farmers from Alanaganallur, Melur, Thirumangalam blocks and various places from Madurai district participated. The training was inaugurated by Dr. SP. Sundaram, Dean (In charge), followed by welcome address by Dr N.S. Venkataraman, P&H, KVK, Madurai. Scientists, entrepreneurs from university, private firms and successful commodity growing farmers delivered lectures related to market led agriculture. Dr SP Ramanathan, P&H, DME, TNAU, Coimbatore spoke

on Commodity Interest Group for efficient marketing. Dr P. Sathiya moorthy, Proprietor, Vinzi Sperry from Directorate of ABD, has also spoken. The training programme was organized by Dr. C. Ravindran, A.P. (Horticulture), KVK, Madurai and supported by Department of Agriculture and Co-Operation, Directorate of Marketing and Inspection, Ministry of Agriculture, GOI.

Capacity building programme



TNAU, Coimbatore in collaboration with Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi organised Three days (22.03.2012 to

24.02.2012) Capacity Building Program on "Competitiveness and Export of Potential Agricultural Commodities from Tamil Nadu". by Department of Trade and Intellectual Property, CARDS. Dr. N. Ajjan, Director, CARDS, gave welcome address. Dr. K. N. Selvaraj, P&H, highlighted the Collaborative Exports Training conducted at Department of Trade & IP. Dr. R. Senthil Kumar, A.P and Program Co ordinator briefed on the IIFT Capacity Building Program. Shri. K.Unnikrishnan, Director (Southern Region), Federation of Indian Export Organizations, Chennai presided the Inaugural function. Dr. A. Chandrasekaran, CoE and Director of Research (i/c), TNAU, Coimbatore inaugurated the function. Dr. M. Chinnadurai, P&H, Department of Agricultural Economics, CARDS, TNAU proposed the Vote of Thanks. Registrar, TNAU delivered the Valedictory Address. The Program Leader and Chairperson was Professor R.M. Joshi, IIFT, New Delhi. Program consultant and Coordinator is Ms. Tamanna Chaturvedi, IIFT, New Delhi

Training on "Drip Fertigation in Redgram"

One day Training programme on "Drip fertigation in Redgram" sponsored by NADP(RKVY)

was conducted on 28th March,2012 at Miratunilai Village, Near Arimalam, Pudukkottai district. Sixty



progressive farmers from Pudukkottai district participated. The Programme was inaugurated by Dr.S.Jeyaraman, Director, Directorate of Crop Management, and offered special lecture on the progress made in water management front. Dr.S.Palanivelan, Professor of Agronomy, Dept. of Pulses elaborated the pulses production technologies including weed control measures. Councilor of Miratunilai Panchayat union and Progressive farmers gave special addresses. Earlier, the participants were welcomed by Dr.H.Vijayaraghavan and the vote of thanks was offered by Dr.M.Sundar.

Kisan Mela organized at DARS, Chettinad

The Kisan Mela was organized jointly by the Department of Agriculture, Sivagangai district and Dryland



Agricultural Research Station at Chettinad on 22.03.2012. The District Collector, Thiru.V.Rajaraman presided over the function and in his inaugural address focused the need for development of Agriculture in the district. Dr. P. Balasubramanian, P&H emphasized the adoption of important technologies to enhance the production of rainfed crops. The Joint Director of Agriculture and the Heads of Line Departments explained various schemes and their benefits to the farming community. Demonstration and exhibition were arranged on various aspects most specifically on the mechanization especially in groundnut. In-situ water harvesting techniques and their importance in dryland agriculture were explained. Around 2000 farmers from different blocks of Sivagangai district participated in the programme.

New schemes

Name of the scheme	Principal Investigator	Amount (Lakh ₹.)	Funding Agency
Effect of Mycorrhizae formulation of Novozymes on Sugarcane growth and yield enhancement.	Dr.S. Panneerselvam Professor (Agronomy) SRS, Sirugamani	5.10	Novozymes South Asia Pvt.Ltd.,
Awareness programme on FAO-Hortivar	Dr. C. Ravindran Asst. Prof.(Horticulture) Krishi Vigyan Kendra Madurai	6000 US\$	Food and Agricultural Organization, Italy Rome
Physiological studies using LCO (lipo-chito oligosaccharides) in maize and soybean	Dr. P. Jeyakumar Assoc. Professor (Crop Physiology)	10.24	Novozymes South Asia
TNAU – Venture Capital Scheme on “Production of Designer Micronutrient Fertilizer Mixtures for Crops	Dr.V.P. Duraisami, Professor and Head, Dept. of SS&AC, Coimbatore	5.00	Directorate of Agri Business Development, TNAU, Coimbatore

Important visitors

- ★ Dr. Shashidhar Viraktamath, Co-ordinator, UAS Dharwad, Dr. Sushama Chapalkar, PI, VSBT Baramati, Dr. K.V. Lazar, PI, CU Calicut, Dr.D.P. Abrol PI, SKIAST, Jammu, Dr. A. Rahman, PI, AAU Jorhat, Dr. Solomon Raju, PI, AU, Visakhapatnam, Dr.B.Fakrudin, CoPI, UAS Dharwad, Dr. A.S. Vastrad, CoPI, UAS Dharwad and Mr. Omkarbabu, SRF, UAS Dharwad to attend the group meeting of DBT network project on bees on 06.30.2012
- ★ Dr. Riccardo Geffer, Paola Mariani and Alberto Cremonesi of Techno Parco Italy to discuss with CPMB&B on 6.03.2012 and 07.03.2012.
- ★ Mr. Uri Rubinstein, Counsellor, International Co-operation, Embassy of Israel. New Delhi visited Directorate of Research, on 21-03-2012.
- ★ Dr. Hartmut Stutzel Professor (Veg. Science), Leibniz University, Hannover, Germany visited Dean (Horticulture), on 24-03-2012 and 25.03.2012.
- ★ Dr. Anup Karwa, Director, Krishidhan Seeds (P) Ltd., Jalna to deliver special address in the Bioconcorrenza'12 on 29.03.2012

Published by
Directorate of Planning and Monitoring,
TNAU, Coimbatore-641 003.

Printed at :
TNAU Offset Printing Press,
Directorate of Extension Education,
TNAU, Coimbatore - 641 003.

To
Thiru

From
Directorate of Planning and Monitoring,
Tamil Nadu Agricultural University,
Coimbatore - 641 003