



TNAU NEWS

Patron; **Dr. P. Murugesha Boopathi**, Vice Chancellor
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TAMIL NADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY NEWS LETTER

HRS, Kodaikanal celebrated Golden Jubilee function



Horticultural Research Station, Kodaikanal which was originally established as Apple Research Station during 1961 – 62, attained its 50 years of yeomen service. In commemoration, of its 50th year, a Golden Jubilee celebration was conducted on 2nd February, 2012. During the function, Golden Jubilee Arch was opened by Thiru. K.S.N. Venugopal, MLA, Palani in the presence of Dr. P. Murugesha Boopathi, Vice

Chancellor, and Mr. V.S. Govindan, Chairman, Kodaikanal Township.

Our Vice Chancellor, highlighted the research contribution of HRS, Kodaikanal to the development of temperate crop research and emphasized the ICAR Network project on temperate fruit crops operated successfully for the benefit of fruit growers in Upper Pulney hills. Former Deans and Heads of HRS, Kodaikanal were felicitated. About 500 progressive farmers from Lower and Upper Pulney hills, entrepreneurs, Self

Help Group members and eminent scientists participated. In this occasion, exhibition, agro based stalls and demonstration units were organized for the benefit of farmers.

Dr. N. Kumar, Dean (Hort.), HC & RI, Coimbatore welcomed the gathering and Dr. J. Rajangam, Associate Professor and Head, HRS, Kodaikanal proposed the vote of thanks.

National Seminar at HRS, Kodaikanal

National Seminar on “New vistas in aromatic crops- Priorities and Research accomplishments” was held at HRS, Kodaikanal during 24th to 26th February, 2012 on the eve of Golden Jubilee celebration. The seminar was jointly organized by South Indian Horticultural Association and Directorate of Arecanut and Spices Development, Calicut. In this seminar, 130 delegates from all over the country including ICAR institutes, SAUs, Central Government Institutes, Entrepreneurs in the field of aromatic and essential oil industries and research scholars participated.

In his inaugural address, the Dr. H.P. Singh, Honourable Deputy Director General (Hort.), ICAR, New Delhi highlighted that understanding the industrial values and its related molecules of essential oil which are necessary for the development of aromatic industries. Besides, he narrated the unique feature of horticulture that it has emerged as the best option for nutritional security, employment opportunity and enhancing farm income.

Dr. P. Murugesha Boopathi, Honourable Vice-Chancellor, in his presidential address highlighted the importance of aromatic plants in world trade and suggested that integration of horticulturalists, phytochemists and plant



protection scientists is needed to solve the farmers' problems. Dr. M. Tamil Selvan,

Director, Directorate of Arecanut and Spices Development, Calicut, offered a special address.

Dr. N. Kumar, Dean, HC&RI, TNAU, Coimbatore welcomed the delegates and Dr. R. M. Vijayakumar, Professor & Head, Dept. of Medicinal and Aromatic crops proposed the vote of thanks.

Programme at KVK, Virudhunagar

Field day in Kudiraivali



Field Day was conducted in Front line demonstrations plot on "Popularization of Kudiraivali variety Co - 2" at farmers

field of Chidambarapuram village. Dr. V. K Paulpandi, Programme Co-ordinator welcomed the gathering. Dr.S.Rathika, AP (Agronomy) explained the packages of practices to be followed in Kudiraivali production and enlightened the special features of Co 2 which is highly drought tolerant, non lodging, suitable for value addition and gives 23 per cent higher yield than Co 1. More than 40 farmers attended. Mrs. M.Kavitha, Programme Assistant, proposed the vote of thanks.

Ranikhet disease control in Desi chicken



An off campus training programme was conducted on "Ranikhet disease control in Desi chicken" at Pulvoikarai village.

Dr.S.Rathika, AP (Agronomy) explained the importance of poultry rearing for improving the welfare of the farming community. Dr. Murugan, Veterinary Doctor

high lighted the poultry diseases and their management. During the programme, vaccination was given to more than 450 poultry birds and Lasota eye drops to 200 chicks.

Parthenium eradication campaign

As we know, Parthenium is a poisonous, problematic, allergic and aggressive weed posing a serious threat to human beings and



livestock. Hence, Parthenium eradication campaign was jointly organized by KVK and ADA, Virudhunagar at Andipatti village. Dr.V.K Paulpandi, Programme Co-ordinator welcomed the gathering. Dr.S.Rathika, AP (Agronomy) narrated the history of invasion in India, enlightened the ill effects of parthenium and demonstrated the various control measures. Mrs. Natchiar, Agriculture officer proposed the vote of thanks. About 50 farmers participated in this campaign.

Method demonstration on Tapioca harvester

Method demonstration on Tapioca harvester designed by Agricultural Machineries Research Centre, Tamil Nadu



Agricultural University was organized by TCRS on 3.2.2012 at Mettupatty village of Salem district. Dr.V. Rajendran, Professor & Head Yethapur explained the tapioca harvester machine to the farmers. He elaborated that by using the machine, two to three acres of tapioca can be harvested per day at the sufficient moisture level and the cost of harvesting will be Rs.1000/ acre. Dr.S.Manickam, Programme Co-ordinator, KVK. Scientists of TCRS and officials of Department of Horticulture participated in the demonstration.

NADP ((RKVY)-INSIMP training programme at KVK, Virinjipuram



The training programme for beneficiary farmers of NADP((RKVY), 2011-2012 under the scheme on “Initiative for Nutritional Security through Intensive Millet Promotion (INSIMP) was conducted at KVK, Virinjipuram in association with Dept. of Agriculture, Vellore. Dr. S. Nanthakumar, Programme Co-ordinator, KVK, Virinjipuram, Mr. Tamilselvan, Joint Director of Agriculture, Vellore, 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 for the benefit of farmers. Exposure visits were also arranged to the fields of progressive farmer.

Training on 'Nursery Technologies' to Officials of Sugar factories



The Govt. of Tamil Nadu has allotted Rs.40 lakhs to the Directorate of Extension Education to train 3000 farmers from different districts of Tamil Nadu on Sustainable Sugarcane Initiative Technology with a financial outlay of Rs.30 lakhs and 1000 farmers / officials of Co-operative and Private Sugar mills to train on SSI nursery technology with a financial outlay of Rs.10 lakhs. In this regard, The first batch of training on SSI Nursery Technologies to the Cane Officers of Co-operative and Private Sugar Mills was conducted on 13 &14th Feb2012.

The training was inaugurated by our Vice-Chancellor, TNAU, Coimbatore on 13.02.2012. Director (WTC), DEE, JDA, i/c, Coimbatore, P&H, Training Division, DoEE, Scientists and 34 Cane Officers participated.

Famers Mela cum Field demonstration at SWMRI, Thanjavur.

The farmers mela cum field demonstration on “Advance pulse production technology” was organized Jointly with NABARD, Department of Agriculture and Dhanuka Agritech limited at SWMRI, Thanjavur on 03.02.2012 under Lead crop Scheme. About 900 farmers participated in the mela. Dr. B. Chandrasekaran, Professor & Head welcomed and explained the activities on promotion of pulse production activities.



The DRO presided over the function and distributed the inputs to the NABARD farmers. The AGM, NABARD, Thanjavur explained about the achievements and progress of SWMRI on lead crop scheme. The JDA, Thanjavur, DD State scheme, ADA, AO and AAOs of Thanjavur district participated in the meeting. Dr. S. Geetha, P&H, NPRC, Vamban elaborated the technology for achieving higher production, productivity and profitability by the farming community.

The main aim of conducting the mela and demonstration was to create awareness among the farmers on selection of variety, designer seed technology, machine sowing through multicrop seeder and Turbo seeder at rice stubbles, weed management, sprinkler irrigation, and pulse wonder spray through demonstration. Dr. S. Vallal Kannan, AP (Agronomy) proposed the vote of thanks.

The scientists of NPRC, Vamban and SWMRI demonstrated all the improved production technologies and provided information to the farming community through interaction.

Programme at TCRS, Yethapur

DOR Scientist visit to TCRS, Yethapur



Dr. A. J. Prabhakaran, PI (Castor) and Head, Seed section, Directorate of Oilseed Research,

Hyderabad visited TCRS, Yethapur on 7.2.2012. He made a field visit and inspection to FLD field at Elaichipalayam, Karumanthurai, Edapatty and Sokkanathapuram. At Edapatty, he addressed the gathering of Tribal farmers on castor cultivation. Dr. V. Rajendran, P&H, TCRS and Scientists working in AICRP Castor scheme, Dr.S.R. Venkatachalam, Associate Professor (PB&G), Dr. K. Thirukumaran, AP (Agronomy) participated.

NADP Training on oilseeds and Pulses



One day training programme was conducted under the NADP scheme on Farmers

Participatory seed production demonstration on oilseeds and pulses at Konganapuram village of Salem district on 15.02.12. Dr.V.Rajendran, P&H, TCRS explained the hybrid castor cultivation under drip fertigation and the market potentialities of castor. Dr.S.R.Venkatachalam, Associate Professor (PB&G) explained the special features of hybrid castor and its cultivation aspects. Dr. P. Arutchenthil, AP (PB&G) and 50 farmers participated.

Participation of TCRS Scientists in off campus training

One day off campus training was organized by State Department of Agriculture at Thuraiyur of Trichy district on 21.02.2012. Thiru. R. Chandrasekaran, DDA and Thiru.S. Rajasekar, ADA, Thuraiyur block organized and attended the training. Dr. S. R. Venkatachalam,

Associate Professor (PB&G) Dr. P.Arutchenthil, AP (PB&G) delivered lectures on importance and special



features of hybrid castor and the production technologies to 75 farmers.

GOI sponsored model training course at DARS, Chettinad

At Dryland Agricultural Research Station, Chettinad, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, New Delhi



supported eight days Model Training Course on **Good Agricultural Practices for Rainfed Crop Production** organized from 1st – 8th February 2012. ADA and AOs (27 Nos) participated from all rainfed Districts of Tamil Nadu. During the inauguration on 1st February 2012, the Course Director and P&H, Dr.P.Balasubramaniyan welcomed and explained the importance of the training programme, Dr.K.Vairavan, Dean, AC&RI, Madurai released the training manual. Prof. SP. Palaniappan, Former Director (SCMS), TNAU delivered the special lecture. Field demonstration on rainfed technologies and field trips were arranged on integrated dryland farming system, forage production, agro-forestry and medicinal garden. This training programme was coordinated by Dr.P.Arunachalam and Dr. P. Kannan AP's of DARS, Chettinad.

Activities of the Directorate of Students Welfare

Civil Services Workshop

The Directorate of Students Welfare organized civil services workshop on 03.02.2012. The Director of Students Welfare, Dr. T.Rathakrishnan inaugurated the workshop. Manidhaneyam IAS Academy, TIMES IAS Academy Chennai, Ranganathan IAS

Additional Chief Secretary Visit to HRS, Kodaikanal



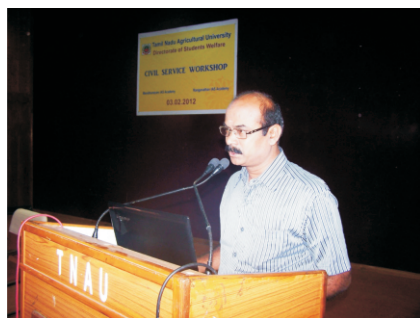
agriculture. Besides, he also stressed on the commercial venture of vermi-composting, bee keeping and button mushroom production and integrated farming in the hill region .

During this occasion Th. D. Sambath, I.F.S., District Forest Officer, Kodaikanal and Th. Sampathkumar, Joint Director of Agriculture, Dindigul district were present. The ICAR Network

Thiru. R. Vijayakumar, I.A.S., the Additional Chief Secretary (Planning & Development), Government of Tamil Nadu visited Horticultural Research Station, Kodaikanal on 12.03.2012. During this occasion, the various research and development programmes on temperate fruits, vegetables and Medicinal & Aromatic crops were explained. The Additional Secretary emphasized the views on the introduction of eco-friendly organic cultivation in farmer's clusters for the development of sustainable

programmes, research on cut flowers, strawberry, grapes and other temperate vegetables were explained by Dr. J. Rajangam, Associate Professor and Head and scientists of Horticultural Research Station, Kodaikanal.

The secretary appreciated the HRS research activities and motivated to do more programmes and extension works. Tree planting of apple variety 'Mayan' was also taken up during his visit.



Academy Coimbatore, participated. Mr. Senthil from TIMES, Mullai Muhilan IRS Trainee , Dr. K. Panneer Selvam,

Scientist, Institute of Forest Genetics & Tree Breeding, Coimbatore and Dr. P.Sivakumar, Chief Executive Officer, Ranganathan IAS Academy made presentations on the preparation for civil services preliminary examination, main examination and for final interviews. All the student aspirants of TNAU campus got motivated by this workshop.

Career guidance Workshop

A two days career guidance workshop was organized on 08.02.2012. Dr. P. Subbian, the Registrar, TNAU delivered a special address and the Director of Students Welfare Dr. T.Rathakrishnan welcomed the gathering. Dr. K.Alagusundaram, Director, IICPT,

Thanjavur delivered a motivational talk on Higher Education Overseas, Mr. D. Shankar, Shankar IAS

Academy Chennai, delivered a talk on Civil Services – A Cake Walk for Agricultural Graduates, Dr. Vimala, Department of Extension, Career Guidance & Students Welfare, Bharathiyar University, Coimbatore, presented on How to face an interview, Mr. V.Balakrishnan, IPS, Superintendent of Police, Tirupur made a presentation on Nuances of Facing Civil Service Interview and Mr. T. Sethupati, M.Sc. (Ag.), Secretary, Tamil Nadu Mango growers foundation, Pollachi made a presentation on Entrepreneurship Development – An Exciting Experience. All the 1100 final year students of all the colleges of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University participated and benefitted.



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Job fair for Agri. engineering students:



On 22nd February 2012, the **First Job Fair** exclusively for Agricultural Engineering students was organized by the Directorate.

The special talk was delivered by Dr. T.Rathakrishnan, Director Students Welfare Dr.S.Santhanabosu Dean, (Agri.Engg) and the companies Viz., Reliance BIJ, Hand in Hand, Jain Irrigation, TEXMO and International Tractors Ltd (Sonalika International) participated in the job fair. Totally 106 final year Agricultural Engineering students attended the processes which included written examination, group Discussion and Interview. Out of which 64 candidates have been short listed on that day.

Workshop on Personality Development



The third Workshop on Personality Development was conducted for two days from 27.02.2012 to 28.02.2012. Totally 276

students of III year from all UG degree programmes of Coimbatore campus and III year & final year students of FC&RI, Mettupalayam were benefited. Dr.S. Hariharan, Professor of English welcomed the gathering Dr. N. Kumar, Dean (Horti) in his inaugural address, stressed the need for students developing Communication Skills to face the changes and challenges of the present era. Dr. A. Rajarajan, Dean (Agri) advised the students to develop their knowledge, and hone their employability skills and develop good attitudes to become a complete personality.

A team of six resource persons from Zeal Consultancy, Chennai conducted the workshop for two days on four topics viz., Presentation Skills, Preparing a winning resume, Group Discussion (Practices) and Interview simulation. The students found the sessions useful and rewarding to develop their employability skills.

Cornell University students delegation in HRS, Ooty



Under the International Agricultural and Rural Development (IARD) delegation

programme from the Cornell University, USA, about 35 Post Graduate Scholars along with 8 staff members visited the HRS, Ooty on a four days training programme on Organic Farming. During their visit, hands on training on the preparation of biodynamic compost, panchagavya and dasagavya were imparted. The students were also taken to organic tea gardens and tea plucking competition was organized and prizes distributed. Later they were taken to one of the commercial floriculture unit efficiently managed by the marginal farmers at Kappachi village and hands on training on packaging techniques of cut flowers like Carnation, Statice and *Eustoma* was given. They visited Kenthorai village where they interacted with the women self help groups and the students learned the Badaga dance with the women self help groups.

Farmer's Day Programme



A 'Farmer's day' programme was held at Kookalthorai under the HADP scheme 'Promotion of

Sustainable Agriculture at Kookalthorai watershed' on 7.2.12. Dr. N. Ajjan, Director, CARDS, Coimbatore, has told that the farmers of Nilgiris will be connected to the DEMIC of TNAU. Under this project the daily market rate of potato, carrot, garlic and other vegetables will be provided to the farmers of Nilgiris through sms. This will help the farmers to plan in advance the time of planting of different vegetable crops according to the market demand and to maximize their profit. Dr. N. Selvaraj, P&H, HRS, Ooty expressed that due to extensive cultivation of commercial horticultural crops. There is total reduction in the cultivation of samba wheat,

ragi, samai and buck wheat thereby leading to malnutrition of children and farmers of the Nilgiris. Dr. A. Nirmalakumari, Professor (PB&G) elaborated on the significance of ragi, samai and wheat and requested the farmers to switch back to traditional grains cultivation in the kitchen garden which are highly nutritious and to have their own seed bank. She also told that food varieties suitable to the modern days such as noodles, ready mix powder and chips can be prepared and consumed from traditional food grains. Mrs. Shanthi, Panchayat Union Chairman, and Ms. Sathyabama, Municipal Chairman Udthagamandalam distributed the bioinputs and seeds of traditional grains to 230 beneficiaries of Kookalthorai. Programme Co ordinator of UPASI-KVK and representative from Keystone, Kotagiri, participated.

Training on Sustainable Integrated Farming System for Rainfed Ecosystem



Training programme on “Sustainable Integrated Farming System for Rainfed Ecosystem” was organized by Aruppukottai under NADP Scheme. This training was conducted in three phases to the farmers of Aruppukottai, Reddiyapatti and Kariapatti blocks.

Dr.N.Chellaiah, P&H RRS, inaugurated the training programme and highlighted the importance of IFS under rainfed ecosystem. Dr. V.Rajaram, Professor (Entomology) elaborated the honeybee rearing and IPM practices. Dr.S.Rathika, Assistant Professor (Agronomy) Dr.A.Jeyakumar, Professor (Extension), Dr.P.Vivekanandhan, Professor (Plant breeding), Dr.Juliet Hepzibha, Associate Professor (Plant breeding), and Dr.I.Geethalakshmi, Assistant Professor (Horticulture) delivered the technologies for sustainable integrated farming system for rain fed area.

Dr.R.Karthikeyan, Dr.Ramesh and Dr.R.Murugesan Veterinary Doctors participated. More than 150 farmers participated in this training programme.

Preparation of Pearl millet Value Added Products

Training programme on preparation of pearl millet value added products to the Women Self Help Groups was organized at KVK, Aruppukottai under Initiative for Nutritional Security through Intensive Millets Promotion (INSIMP) scheme. Dr.V.K. Paulpandi, Programme Co-ordinator inaugurated the training programme and indicated the importance of pearl millet production in India and Tamil Nadu. Dr.S.Rathika, AP (Agronomy), Miss. M.Aruna Devi and Mrs. M.Kavitha Technical Assistants demonstrated the preparation of different pearl millet value added products. More than 50 Women from SHGs participated.



Field demonstration of “IPDM in Paddy” in villages of Madurai East block

A field demonstration on “Integrated Pest and Disease Management in Paddy” was taken up at Pattanam



(Madurai East Block) during November 2011 to February 2012 by the Department of Agricultural Entomology, AC&RI, Madurai. The demonstration trial was conducted by Dr.R.Nalini, Dr.M.Shanthi and Dr.I.Yesuraja. Under this project a field day was organized at Pattanam on 01.02.2012 to motivate the rice farmers in adopting the IPDM module. A team of scientists Dr. K.Vairavan, Dean, Dr.R.K.Murali Baskaran, P&H Dept. of Ento., Dr.A.Sankaralingam P&H Dept. of Pl. Pathology and Dr.A.Veeraputhiran, AP (Agronomy) delivered technical information and highlighted the ecofriendly approach of the IPDM module.

Similar field days were also conducted at Valachikulam, Andaman and Kalimangalam on 16.02.2012, 22.02.2012 and 23.02.2012 respectively to motivate the rice farmers in adopting the IPDM module. Totally 200 farmers benefited.

New schemes

Name of the scheme	Principal Investigator	Amount (Lakh ₹.)	Funding Agency
Efficacy evaluation and phytotoxicity of Bispyribac sodium 10% SC in transplanted rice and its residues	Dr.A. Velayutham Professor and Head, Farm Management, TNAU, Coimbatore	4.31	M/s. Crystal Phosphates Ltd., New Delhi
Integrated Pest Management of cabbage aphid, <i>Brevicoryne brassicae</i> (L) and mustard aphid, <i>Lipaphis erysimi</i> (Kalt.)	Dr. G. Preetha, Assistant Professor (Agrl. Entomology), FRS, Thovalai	5.16	Science and Engineering Research Board, New Delhi
Training on agricultural input production and soil fertility management for sustainable livelihood of small and marginal farmers and self help group members of Perambalur and Ariyalur District	Dr. R. Kavimani, Professor and Head,	2.30	NABARD, Chennai
Exploitation of antibiotics and ACC-deaminase producing PGPR strains against biotic (root rot and wilt) and abiotic stress (parawilt/drought) in Cotton	Dr. T. Anand, Assistant Professor, (Plant Pathology), VRS, Veppanthattai	19.15	DST, NEW Delhi
Modernization of Dairy engineering Laboratory under the scheme Modernization and removal of obsolescence (MODROBS)	Dr. V. Thirupathi, Associate Professor (FAPE),	5.00	All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE), New Delhi

Important visitors

- ★ Dr. Mukesh Doble, Prof & Head, Department of Biotechnology, IIT, Chennai visited CPMB& B, on 3-02-2012.
- ★ Dr. Tiwari, Former DDG, ICAR, New Delhi visited CPMB& B, on 21-02-2012.
- ★ CAFT trainees from Department of Agricultural Microbiology visited Department of Plant Biotechnology on 21-02-2012.

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From
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