



TNAU NEWS

TAMIL NADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY NEWS LETTER

Patron: Dr. K. Ramasamy, Vice Chancellor
Editor: Dr. G. Kathiresan, Director, Planning & Monitoring

ஊருக்கெல்லாம் உணவளிக்கும் உத்தமர் உழவர்களுக்கு
உதவிக்கரம் நீட்டும் பல்கலைக்கழகம்

33rd CONVOCATION, 2012



the convocation and awarded 52 prizes and medals to the outstanding UG, PG and Ph.D graduates. Dr. K. Ramasmy, Vice-Chancellor delivered the welcome address. In this convocation, totally 1134 students (in person 813 and in absentia 321 students) have been awarded various degrees. Dr. S. Ayyappan, Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and Education and Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Ministry of

The thirty third convocation of the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University was held on 19th December, 2012. His Excellency Dr. K .Rosaiah, the Governor of Tamil Nadu and Chancellor of TNAU presided over

Agriculture, Government of India, New Delhi was the Chief Guest of the occasion and delivered the convocation address. Dr. P. Subbian, Registrar of this University announced Endowment prizes and Medals.

TNAU inks pact with Kraft foods for cocoa research



Dr. K. Ramasamy, Vice-Chancellor, signed an agreement with Kraft Foods UK R&D Limited, Birmingham, UK on Wednesday,

9th January 2013 for taking up cocoa research programmes for sustainable cocoa production in India for a period of 3 years. Dr. P. Subbian, Registrar, TNAU, Dr. N. Kumar, Dean (Horticulture), HC&RI, Coimbatore who is the nodal officer for the scheme, Dr. P. Paramaguru, P&H (Spices) and Associate Nodal Officer Mr. K. P. Magudapathy,

Associate Vice President of Cadbury India Limited, Mr. R. Rajesh, Manager of Cadbury India Limited, Mr. T. Bellie, Advisor, Cadbury India Limited were present during the function.

Training on Ginger cultivation

Department of Spices and Plantation Crops, HC & RI, Coimbatore organized a GOI –NHM – DASD sponsored training programme



on "Technologies for quality ginger production" at Thalavadi, Erode District on 28.12.2012.

Laying foundation stone for Administrative Block at HC&RI, Periyakulam



Agricultural University delivered the inaugural address

Dr. Santhosh Babu, Commissioner of Horticulture and Plantation Crops and Dr. K. S. Palanisamy, the District Collector, Theni delivered special address.

Th. S. Damodharan, Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture released the book "Pazhankalin urpathi, pathapaduthuthal matrum mathipu kootuthal" and was received Th. O. Panneerselvam, Hon'ble Minister for Finance.

Foundation stone for construction of the second floor in the Administrative block was laid on 04.11.2012 by the Hon'ble Minister for Finance, Th. O. Panneerselvam.

The Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture, Govt. of Tamil Nadu Th. S. Damodharan, presided over the function and delivered the presidential address. Hon'ble Minister for finance, Th. O. Panneerselvam laid the foundation stone and addressed the gathering. Dr. K. Ramasamy, Vice-Chancellor, Tamil Nadu

Dr. N. Kumar, Dean, Horticultural College & Research Institute, Coimbatore, Scientists of TNAU and officials of various development departments of the Government of Tamil Nadu, representatives of the local bodies and many farmers attended the function.

Dr. V. Ponnuswami, Dean, Horticultural College & Research Institute, Periyakulam welcomed the gathering. and Dr. M. Selvarajan, Professor & Head, Department of Fruit Crops, delivered the vote of thanks.

About 100 farmers from Thalavadi block of Erode district participated. In the inaugural function, P&H, Department of Spices and Plantation Crops welcomed the participants. Dr. P. Subbian, Registrar, TNAU inaugurated the training, released the booklet on ginger cultivation and delivered the presidential address. Dr. N. Kumar, Dean (Hort.), HC&RI, Dr. M. Anadharaj, Director, IISR, Calicut and Dr. P. Alagesan, Programme Co-ordinator, Myrada KVK offered the felicitations. The scientists from IISR, Calicut and Professors from TNAU discussed the topics on varietal wealth, production technology and plant protection in ginger. Besides, senior field officer from Spices Board and ADH, Thalavadi block highlighted the schemes of Spice Board and Government of India. Dr. S. Subramanian, Professor (Hort.) proposed vote of thanks.

Campaign on drought management in Paddy

One day campaign on drought management on paddy was jointly organized by TNAU and Department



of Agriculture, Cuddalore on 13.12.2012 at Alamelumangapuram village of Parangipettai block which is irrigated by Cauvery water

through Veeranam. In the campaign, Dr. R. Panneerselvam, P&H, SRS, Cuddalore explained the importance of foliar spray of one per cent Potassium chloride and the benefits on paddy crop to tolerate water stress for shorter period coupled with irrigation management to protect the standing withering paddy crop. Dr. T. Kalaimani, Professor & Head, VRS, Palur demonstrated the preparation of one per cent Potassium chloride solution. Subsequently foliar spray was done in paddy crop in an area of 6.0 acres. In this demonstration, Thiru V. Chandramohan,

Deputy Director of Agriculture, Thiru V. Mathivanan, Assistant Director of Agriculture, team of scientists, progressive farmers Thiru Manoharan, Thiru Kamaraj, Thiru Ramasamy along with 50 farmers participated.

Three days Capacity building training on Agro export and domestic trade

The Registrar, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University inaugurated the three days capacity building training program funded by Government of India Scheme - District Watershed Development Agency, Tiruvannamalai and organized by Department of Trade and Intellectual Property,

TNAU at Farmers Residency on 04.12.2012. The training was conducted in two batches 4 - 6 Dec., 2012 and 12 - 14 Dec., 2012.



Totally 220 trainees comprising famers, self help group women, watershed users attended. The resource persons from Department of Organic Certification, Federation of Indian Export Organizations (Ministry of Commerce, New Delhi), Alibaba, Com and Faculty of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University presented the lectures on Agro Export Potential from Tamil Nadu,

State Level Workshop on organic farming at TNAU



State Level Workshop on Organic Farming was organized by the Department of Market Extension, during 27-29, November 2012.

With the objectives of cataloguing the technologies developed for organic farming by TNAU and to facilitate sharing of experiences of the progressive organic producers in a common platform, the three day convention was arranged at TNAU, Coimbatore. Around 220 farmers hailing from all the districts of Tamil Nadu attended the workshop. The inaugural function held on 27.11.2012 was presided by Dr. K. Ramasamy, Vice-Chancellor. The workshop was inaugurated by the Nature Scientist Thiru. G.Nammazhvar.

The Vice-Chancellor, TNAU in his presidential address highlighted the utmost need for reviving back

the organic farming practices from the standpoint of preserving the environment. He also added that the University would continue to strive hard for the benefit of organic farmers in uplifting their socio-economic status. The Nature Scientist Thiru.G. Nammazhvar after releasing a Book on "Organic Farming Salient Technologies" made an introspection of the conventional farming practices and the impact of chemicals in modern agriculture. He also stressed the

need for reviving back to natural farming in order to maintain the ecological balance.

The other invitees who spoke on the occasion were Dr. A. S Anand, Chairman of Karnataka Organic Farming Mission, Bengaluru, Dr. R. Elangovan, Senior Scientist, Regional Research Station, Pattambi, Kerala, Thiru. G. Sither, Naturopathist, Thiru. D. Ramakrishnan, Progressive Organic Farmer, Thiru. K. K. Krishnamurthy, President of Society for certification of organic products, Thiru. S.Durairaj, organic input producer and Thiru.S.Krishnaraj, Deputy Director of Organic certification.

Initially Dr. P. Kalaiselvan, Director of Extension Education welcomed the gathering and at the end Dr. SP. Ramanathan, Professor & Head, Dept.of Market Extension, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University proposed the vote of thanks.

International trade certification standards, importance of organic products and its production, export procedures, patent details and Government Agro Export Schemes.

Programme at TCRS, Yethapur

Principal Scientist and Head-Social Section, DOR, Hyderabad visit

Dr. M. Padmaiah, Principal Scientist and Head – Social section, Directorate of Oilseed Research, Hyderabad visited TCRS, Yethapur on 04.12.2012 and 05.12.2012. He made field visit and inspection on FLD at Elaichipalayam and the fields under Tribal sub plan scheme at Karumanthurai, Edapatty and Sokkanathapuram of Pethanaickenpalayam block. At Karumanthurai, he addressed the gathering of tribal farmers on castor cultivation and appreciated them for raising castor. Dr. V. Rajendran, P&H and Scientists working in AICRP Castor scheme, Dr. S. R. Venkatachalam, Associate Professor (PB&G), Dr. V. Jayalakshmi, Associate Professor (PI. Pathology) and Dr. K. Thirukumaran, AP (Agronomy) participated in the field visit and also in farmers meeting.

AICRP-Castor Project Director visit



Dr. K. S. Varaprasad, Project Director, AICRP-Castor, DOR, Hyderabad visited on 14.12.2012. He reviewed the FLD and witnessed the AICRP-Castor field trials in the station. He discussed with the scientists about area expansion under castor cultivation in Tamil Nadu.

Variety and Technology Release Committee visit



Tamil Nadu Agricultural University variety and technology release committee visited on 19.12.2012 to evaluate the varieties and

technologies to be released. The committee comprised of DR, TNAU, Coimbatore, and Director of Center for Plant Breeding and Genetics, Dr. A. Natarajan, Professor (Agrl. Entomology) and Dr. Kumar, Professor (PB&G) visited the fields in Vazhapadi for new Me 833 tapioca variety, in Mettupatti, Salem district for designer seed technology in castor and for castor PGR consortia (Castor Gold) in farmers fields in Elachipalayam block of Namakkal district.

NRC Citrus scientist visited HRS, Kodaikanal

Dr. N. Vijayakumari, Principal Scientist, National Research Centre for Citrus, Nagpur (ICAR) visited HRS, Kodaikanal on 27.12.2012



pertaining to research and development on mandarin orange in Upper and Lower Pulney hills. The station activities including research and development programmes were explained by Dr. J. Rajangam, P&H. A special lecture on citrus exotic germplasm collection and in-vitro shoot tip grafting was delivered by the principal scientist. During this occasion a field demonstration on correction of micronutrient deficiencies in mandarin orange was organized in collaboration with Coffee Board at Perumalmai for the benefit of fruit growers. Later, farm advisory services were also rendered in mixed and pure cropping systems at Vadakavunji, Pethuparai and Adukkam villages of Kodaikanal.

Programmes at TRRI, Aduthurai

Water stress mitigation programme on Paddy

One day training programme on “Water Stress Management Strategies for Samba / Thaladi paddy in Cauvery Delta Zone” was conducted under Clima rice scheme at TRRI, Aduthurai on 27.12.2012. Dr. T. Jayaraj, Director, inaugurated the training programme and explained the technologies implemented by TNAU to mitigate water stress due to non-receipt of canal water coupled with failure of North

East monsoon. Dr. V. Ravi, Professor (Agronomy) explained in detail on spraying of Pink Pigmented



Facultative Methylo troph (PPFM) and 1% Muriate of Potash to alleviate water stress for paddy. Dr.T. Senguttuvan, Professor (Entomology) emphasized the

use of boom sprayer in mitigating the water stress for samba paddy. Dr. T. Ramesh, AP (Agronomy) narrated scheme objectives, besides rainfall status in CDZ and research activities carried out at TRRI, Aduthurai on drip irrigation for paddy crop. Dr. E. Subramanian elaborated on the aerobic rice technology for rice crop. Scientists from TRRI, Aduthurai, SRS, Cuddalore and 40 farmers participated in the programme.

Demonstration on water stress management components



Demonstration on spraying of yeast sludge extract was undertaken on 15.12.2012 by TRRI, Aduthurai

on pilot scale basis at two locations in Thiruvarur district and one location in Nagapattinam district to support standing rice crop suffering for want of water. Dr. T. Jayaraj, Director, TRRI inaugurated the event and explained the purpose of the spraying to overcome water stress by the paddy crop. Dr. K. Saravanan, AP (SS&AC) demonstrated the spray in all the three locations. Dr. V. Ravi, Professor (Agronomy), Dr. D. Sassikumar, AP (PB&G), Dr. T. Ramesh, AP (Agronomy) participated in the demonstration. Large gathering of farmers and extension personnels witnessed the events and got benefitted.

Demonstration on recycling of water hyacinth biomass

Field demonstrations were conducted on 21.12.2012 and 22.12.2012 at Kunnalur village of Thiruvarur



district on successful recycling of water hyacinth biomass removed from surface water bodies. The demonstration was conducted by Dr. K. Saravanan, AP (SS&AC) under the guidance of Dr. T. Jayaraj, Director, TRRI with the funding from ATMA, Department of Agriculture, Thiruvarur. More than 50 farmers participated in the field demonstration.

Programmes at KVK, Needamangalam

Hon'ble Chief Minister's Special Package Demo

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu special package on paddy to mitigate the water stress in standing Samba crop of Thiruvarur District by boom sprayer, rain gun sprayer and mobile sprinkler was inaugurated by the District collector of Thiruvarur Th. S. Natarajan in the presence of Dr. T. Jayaraj,

Director, TRRI, Aduthurai and Nodal Officer of the programme on 12.12.2012 at Korkai Village of Thiruthiraipoondi block. Trainings and large scale demonstration at various locations throughout the district were conducted from 12.12.2012. Packages such as PPFM spraying and MOP spraying were done in all the places.



NRTT Littlemillet field day at Javadu hills

Samai field day was organized at Melnellimarathur village in Javadu Hills of Thiruvannamali district on 03.01.2013 under the project, "Upscaling popularization of littlemillet in Javadu Hills of Thiruvannamalai district, Tamil Nadu for enhancing the livelihood of tribal farmers" being operated at Department of Millets, Coimbatore with the funding of Navajbai Ratan Tata Trust, Mumbai and a total of 95 samai growing farmers participated. In an area of 1300 hectares, samai demonstrations were conducted with CO (Samai) 4 high yielding variety in about 1500 beneficiary farmers' fields. Dr. R. Ravikesavan, P&H, Department of Millets, stressed the significance of such field days to motivate the farmers and to exchange the ideas. Dr. A. Nirmalakumari explained the importance of high yielding varieties and improved technologies to obtain the highest productivity in samai. Ms. G. Kannagi, ADA, Polur, emphasized on the market value of the samai grain and the need for value addition.

New schemes

Name of the scheme	Principal Investigator	Amount (Lakh ₹.)	Funding Agency
Evaluation and dissemination of improved nutrient management practices through web and mobile phone applications of nutrient manager for rice in the Cauvery delta, Tamil Nadu	Dr.P.Kalaiselvan, Ph.D., Nodal Officer TNAU, Coimbatore – 3 Dr.R.Rajendran, Ph.D., Professor & Head KVK, Sikkal – 611 108 Nagapattinam	10.45	International Potash Institute, Israel
Evolution of high yielding and nutrient rich oat variety suitable for value addition	Dr.A.Nirmalakumari, Professor, Department of Millets, Centre for Plant Breeding and Genetics, Coimbatore- 641003.	37.60	MARICO Limited
Evaluation of suitable Integrated Farming System Components for Wetland situation in Erode district of Tamil Nadu	Dr. K. Ramah Assistant Professor (Agronomy), Agricultural Research Station, Bhavanisagar.	14.5	DST – SERB Fast Track
Integrated assessment of climate change impacts on principle crops and farm household incomes in Southern India	Dr.V.Geethalakshmi, Professor, Agro Climate Research Centre, TNAU, Coimbatore. Dr.A.Lakshmanan, Professor, DNST, TNAU, Coimbatore Dr.R.Krishnan, Professor, AC&RI, Killikulam	70.00	AgMIP (DFID, USDA) through ICRISAT

Important visitors

- Mr. Stephen Peterson, Agriculture Consultant, Alaska, USA visited Department of Agricultural Entomology from 11.12.2012 to 14.12.2012
- Dr.K. Rosaiah, His Excellency the Governor of Tamil Nadu, participated in the 33rd Annual Convocation, TNAU from 17.12.2012 to 19.12.2012
- Dr. Emmanuel Iruthayathan, Technical Expert in Food Safety, Belgium visited Department of Agricultural Microbiology from 25.12.2012 to 3.01.2013
- Dr. Anumantha Kanthasamy, Director and Distinguished Professor, Iowa State University, USA visited various Departments of TNAU on 26.12.2012

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To
Thiru

From
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Tamil Nadu Agricultural University,
Coimbatore - 641 003