



TNAU NEWS

TAMIL NADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY NEWS LETTER

Patron: Dr. K. Ramasamy, Vice Chancellor
Editor: Dr. M. Chandrasekaran, Director (i/c),
Planning & Monitoring

ஊருக்கெல்லாம் உணவளிக்கும் உத்தம உழவர்களுக்கு
உதவிக்கரம் நீட்டும் பல்கலைக்கழகம்

HON'BLE FOOD MINISTER VISITS KVK, NEEDAMANGALAM.



A district level awareness demonstration on "Pro Tray Nursery rice machine planting" was organized at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Needamangalam on 21st February, 2015. The demonstration was presided over by the Hon'ble Food Minister of Government of Tamil Nadu. Thiru S.Kamaraj. He emphasized the advantages and the need to have mechanized rice cultivation. The demonstration was initiated by the Thiruvarur district Collector, Dr.M.Mathivanan, I.A.S., who also spoke on the importance of Agriculture education and the opportunities available to the farmers.

Eighty participants from different parts of Thiruvarur attended the demonstration. Pro tray nursery making machines, pro tray rice planting machines were exhibited and the demonstration of the above said machines was done for proper understanding of the machines. Dr.K.Chozhan, the Professor and Head, Needamangalam welcomed the gathering. JDA, Thiruvarur and other officials from line departments also participated. All arrangements were made by the SMS's of KVK.

TRAINING ON IMPROVED AGRO TECHNOLOGIES FOR MILLETS



A one day awareness programme cum training on "Improved agro technologies for millet production and processing " was organized on 6th February 2015 at Dryland Agricultural Research Station, Chettinad under TN-IAMWARM programme. Fifty farmers from 12 blocks of Sivaganga district were trained on millet varieties and growing seasons, improved soil and crop management technologies to maximize the millet production, integrated pest and disease management, post harvest processing and value addition in millets. The training programme was inaugurated by Dr.C.Swaminathan, Professor and Head, Mr. P.Ganesan, ADA, Kallal block delivered the Special Address while Mr.P.Chithambaram, President, Kanadukathan town panchayath delivered Presidential Address. The technical sessions were conducted by Dr. P.Kathirvelan, Assistant Professor (Agronomy), Dr.P.Kannan, Assistant Professor (SS&AC), Dr.R.Sasikala, Assistant Professor (PBG), Dr.M.Paramasivan, Assistant Professor (Plant Pathology), Dr. P.Sudha, Assistant Professor (FPE) and Dr.E.Tamilselvi, Assistant Professor (FSN). Dr.M.Sivaprakash, Assistant Professor (Forestry) proposed a formal Vote of Thanks.

PONGAL VIZHA AT DARS, CHETTINAD

The 'Pongal vizha' was celebrated in traditional way at Dryland Agricultural Research Station, Chettinad on 27th January 2015 with the objective to create good harmony among all staff members



and field workers. Pancha bhootha worship was performed for expressing our gratitude and thanks to nature. Various events and competition were organized for all the incumbents of the station. Mr.R.Manivannan, Assistant Director of Agriculture, Sakkottai block, Sivaganga District was the Chief Guest and distributed prizes to the winners. Dr.M.Paramasivan, Farm Manager made elaborate arrangements.

DARS AT REGIONAL AGRI MELA, MADURAI



Dryland Agricultural Research Station, Chettinad participated in the "Regional Agri Mela-2015" held at Agricultural College and Research Institute (AC&RI), Madurai from 23rd to 25th January 2015. An exhibition stall was arranged by using live specimens to exhibit the dryland technologies to the farmers viz., farm pond technology, biochar technology, soil and moisture conservation through mulching, INM and IPDM, IFS, alternate crops for Sivaganga district, cultures in the pipeline for groundnut and agroforestry technologies. More than 1500 visitors covering farmers, school children, other stakeholders and entrepreneurs visited the DARS stall. The objectives and the role of Food Processing Research and Training Centre (FPRTC),

Chettinad were given publicity by distributing handouts and by giving pasteurized flavoured milk samples to the visitors. Food products developed by FPRTC viz., millet based extruded products, flavoured millet milk and millet kheer in retort pouches and other millet based products were exhibited in the stall. Many entrepreneurs showed their interest and enrolled their names for further interaction and training.

DEMONSTRATION OF MILLET MILL



An awareness program cum demonstration of CIAE - Millet Mill was jointly organized by DARS, Chettinad and KVK, Kundrakudi on 17.02.2015 at Kundrakudi for the benefit of millet farmers. Dr.S.Balasubramanian, Principal Scientist, CIAE, ICAR, Coimbatore explained the various unit operations and processing of small millets using the mill and new products developed from small millets. The barnyard millet and foxtail millet grains brought by the farmers were dehusked through a live demonstration. The millet mill for dehusking has a capacity of 100 kg/hr and is suitable for small millets with 10—13 per cent moisture content. It operates with 1 hp single phase motor. It is able to dehusk even just 100g of grains at a time. Dr.A.Vijayarajan, programme coordinator, KVK, Kundrakudi welcomed the gathering. Dr.C.Swaminthan, Professor and Head, delivered Special Address. Dr.P.Kannan, Dr.R.Sasikla, Dr.P.Sudha and Dr.E.Tamilselvi, Scientists of DARS, Chettinad attended the demonstration of millet dehusking. Progressive millet farmers from five blocks of Sivaganga district participated in the programme.

EARN WHILE YOU LEARN PROGRAMME



Earn while Learning an innovative programme was inaugurated by Dr. V. Iraianbu, I.A.S., on 01.12.2014 under the presidentship of Dr. K. Ramasamy, Vice Chancellor. About 50 students of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University registered and participated in the programme. Earlier Dr. H. Philip, Special Officer (i/c) (P & PR) narrated the facilities of University Library and highlighted the Earn while Learning programme. Dr. N. S. Vannamuthu, Librarian welcomed the gathering and Dr. M. Sankar, Assistant Librarian proposed a formal Vote of Thanks.

MEGA BOOK EXHIBITION 2015



A book exhibition was organized by the TNAU library from 11.02.2015 to 13.02.2015 at Coimbatore. Dr. K. Ramasamy, Vice-Chancellor, inaugurated the programme and Dr. H. Philip Special Officer (i/c) (P & PR) narrated the purpose of organising Mega Book Exhibition. In all, 29 leading book publishers, book sellers and book distributors, participated and displayed the books. During the programme "Best Library User Awards 2014" were distributed by the Vice-Chancellor

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to the selected scientists and students who frequently utilized documents of University. Thousands of students and staff members participated in the Mega Book Exhibition 2015.

E – NOSE TECHNOLOGY IN JASMINE



Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore and Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C–DAC), Kolkata, jointly organized a one day users meet on “Quality Evaluation of Jasmine Flowers and Concrete by Electronic Means” at Coimbatore on 05.02.2015. More than 200 participants from various fields like; farmers, industry representatives, scientists from both Electronics and Horticulture field, Academicians, Post Graduate students, Research Scholars and Policy makers from Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DEITY) under the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology (MICT), Government of India and Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) were present in the meet.

Dr.K.Alagusundaram, DDG (Agriculture Engineering) ICAR, presided over the function. The dignitaries Col. (Retd.)A.K.Nath, Executive Director, C-DAC, Kolkata, Mr. Pardeep Chopra, Senior Director, Department of Electronics and Information Technology, MICT, Govt. of India and Prof. E. S. R. Gopal, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore graced the occasion. Dr. S. Mariappan, Dean (i/c), HC & RI, TNAU, welcomed the gathering. A brief appraisal of the project was given by Dr.M.Jawaharlal, Special Officer,(i/c) HC & RI (W), TNAU, Trichy which was followed by

two Technical Sessions viz., Non-destructive quality estimation in agro produces and Information and Communication Technology intervention in Agriculture in which presentations were made by Dr. Nabarun Bhattacharyya, Associate Director, C-DAC(K), Dr.K.R.Rajadurai, Assistant Professor, TNAU, Mrs.Hena Ray, Senior Engineer, C-DAC(K), Prof. Rajib Bandyopadhyay, Jadavpur University and Mr. K.S.Prasanna, Kisangates, Hyderabad. A Panel Discussion and Live Demonstration of the Hand Held Electronic Nose (HEN) instrument for quality testing of jasmine flower and concrete was held. Dr. M.Kannan, Professor and Head, Department of Floriculture and Landscaping proposed a formal Vote of Thanks.

DEMONSTRATION ON WHITE FLY MANAGEMENT IN HILL VEGETABLES



Demonstration on whitefly management in hill vegetables was organized by Horticultural Research Station, Kodaikanal at Shenbaganur village on 16.02.2015. Dr. J. Rajangam, Professor and Head, highlighted the need for the control of white fly menace in hill vegetable crops in view of increase in the yield and quality of the produce. The farmers were exposed to different aspects of damage symptoms, economic yield loss, and integrated management techniques in open as well as protected cultivation through lectures cum demonstrations by Dr.N.Seenivasan, Assistant Professor (Nematology). Dr. G. Sathish, Assistant Professor (Horticulture) demonstrated the yellow sticky trap technique for the white fly management in vegetables under protected structures.

Dr. B. Senthamizh Selvi, Assistant Professor (Horticulture) and Dr. G. Ashok Kumar, Assistant Professor (Horticulture) explained the hi-tech cultivation techniques in beans and peas under open condition. Totally 50 students from Vanavarayar Institute of Agriculture, Pollachi and vegetable growers participated in this programme.

WORKSHOP ON “VOLUMETRIC MEASUREMENT OF IRRIGATION WATER”



The Water Technology Centre, TNAU and State Planning Commission, Government of Tamil Nadu, Chennai jointly organized a one day workshop on “Volumetric measurement of Irrigation water” on 13.2.2015 at Coimbatore. The participants from various State and Central Government departments viz., Agricultural Engineering Department, PWD, TWAD, Department of Agriculture, Central Water Commission and Scientists from TNAU attended.

Dr.B.J.Pandian, Director (i/c) welcomed the participants and briefed about the importance of Volumetric measurement in the context of growing water scarcity in Tamil Nadu. Dr.R.Murugesan, Director (i/c) (Agri Business Development) offered felicitation and pointed out that the volume of water can be reduced by using soil less media techniques like Aeroponics and Hydroponics. Dr.K. Palanisami, Director (IWMI) and Chairman of technical session during his introductory remarks, mentioned that no focus was given on volumetric measurement during last few decades and now the Government of Tamil Nadu has taken the initiatives to overcome this. Dr.J.Chandrashekhar, Chief Engineer, Central Water Commission, Govt

of India in his Inaugural Address pointed out that storage capacity of the reservoirs and share of irrigation water are in a reducing trend and the competition for water in all the sectors are increasing at an alarming rate.

Papers were presented on various topics related to volumetric measurement of Irrigation water. Dr.K.R.Jahanmohan, HOD (APP), SPC, Chennai proposed a formal Vote of Thanks. Dr.A.Raviraj, Professor (SWCE), and Dr.A.Valliammai, Assistant Professor (SWCE) coordinated the training programme.

TRAINING PROGRAMME ON “PARTICIPATORY IRRIGATION MANAGEMENT”



Six days training programme cum exposure visit on “Participatory Irrigation Management” to Middle Level Officers of Rajasthan Minor Irrigation Improvement Project (RAJAMIIP) under Commissionerate of Agriculture, Government of Rajasthan, Jaipur was conducted at Water Technology Centre, Coimbatore between 16.2.2015 and 21.2.2015. Dr.K. Ramasamy, Vice Chancellor, TNAU presided over the programme and emphasized the need for participatory irrigation management activities in the drought areas for sustainable development of agriculture and also the role of Water User Association (WUAs) in water management. Dr.K. Palanisami, Director, International Water Management Institute, Hyderabad Inaugurated the training programme. Dr. B. J. Pandian, Director (i/c) (WTC) welcomed the gatherings and gave introductory remarks about the training programme.

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A technical hand book on “Participatory Irrigation Management” was released on the occasion. Dr.A.Raviraj Professor (SWCE), Dr.P.Jothimani Assistant Professor (ENS), Dr.A.Valliammai, Assistant Professor (SWCE) organized the training programme.

AWARENESS CAMPAIGN ON “SERICULTURE”



To enhance the farmer’s income while being within the cropping system, one day “Awareness Campaign on Sericulture as an alternate enterprise for income generation” was conducted at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Needamangalam on 24.02.2015. The Awareness Programme was inaugurated by Dr.M.Mathivanan, I.A.S., Collector of Thiruvarur district who delivered the Inaugural Address and pointed out that Cauvery Delta farmers could go for sericulture as this crop could generate high income in short time. Thiruvarur district Revenue Officer; Joint Director of Agriculture, Salem Zone Sericulture Research Station; Joint Registrar of Co Operatives and District Development Manager, NABARD, also spoke on the importance of sericulture in development of farmers. Elite farmers, numbering 80 from various places attended the Awareness Programme. Dr.K.Chozhan, Professor and Head, welcomed the gathering and explained in brief about the concept of sericulture. An exhibition on sericulture was arranged for the participants. Dr.R.Ramesh, Assistant Professor (Agricultural Entomology) delivered a formal Vote of Thanks.

INAUGURATION OF ARYA PROGRAMME

ARYA programme (Attracting and Retaining Youth in Agriculture) was

inaugurated at Rajappayyan Chavadi in Needamangalam block of Thiruvarur District. Oneday Training, demonstration and exhibition of various agricultural activities that have potential for youth were done on 05.02.2015. Dr. M.Rajendiran, I.A.S., Director of Agriculture, inaugurated the programme and delivered the Inaugural Address. He exhorted the youth for involving themselves in agriculture. Dr.M.Madhivanan, I.A.S., Collector, Thiruvarur district during his Presidential Address highlighted that involving youth in agriculture is a boon to production and productivity.



Dr.K.A.Ponnusamy, Director of Extension Education (i/c), Dr.K.Samiyayyan, Special Officer, AC&RI, Thanjavur, Mr.K.Mayilvaganan, Joint Director of Agriculture, Mr.K.C.Ravichandran, Thiruvarur District Joint Registrar of Co Operatives spoke on the occasion and explained about the suitability of agriculture to youth. Two hundred participants from different areas of Thiruvarur attended and other officials from line departments also participated in the function. Dr.K.Chozhan, Professor and Head, Needamangalam welcomed the gathering.

IDRC PHASE II INCEPTION WORKSHOP

The inception workshop for anchoring the CIFS RF project was held in Bangalore during January 21-23, 2015, involving scientists from all six partnering Institutes. The workshop was designed to discuss and deliberate various aspects of the project and set milestone for the next 3.5 years of project period. Dr. K. Ramasamy, Vice Chancellor, TNAU inaugurated and narrated the importance of Canadian Government funding to TNAU and India for various innovative projects since 1970’s. He appreciated and thanked

DFATD-IDRC for funding both Phase I and II of the project which benefitted TNAU in equipping infrastructure and research skills in the fascinating field of nano science and technology. Dr. Sara Ahmed, Senior Program Specialist, IDRC Regional Office in New Delhi, explained the role of IDRC in addressing food security issues through innovative projects in Asia, Africa and Caribbean.



During the inaugural session, the lessons learned from the Phase I of the project was presented by Dr. K.S. Subramanian, Principal Investigator (PI) for TNAU and issues to be addressed in the Phase II by Dr. Jayasankar Subramanian, overall PI of the Project from University of Guelph, Canada. Dr. Kevin Tiessen, Senior Program Specialist from Ottawa provided technical input to refine the activity milestone. The results of the Phase I provided solid scientific base to evolve nano-matrices to regulate the release of hexanal which may lead to a development of nano-packaging. The PIs from other partnering institutes shared their experiences in relevance to their respective countries. The leading farmers Thiru AP. Karuppiah, Theni, Thiru Sitrarasu, Krishnagiri, Thiru Santhakumar, Santhur besides women farmers who have directly benefitted from the mango value addition training provided feedback on the benefits of the project. The farmers expressed that the hexanal formulation is helping in retention of mango fruits and the sprayed trees remained green and healthy. Preliminary experiments have shown that the formulation is extending shelf-life of banana fruits as well.

During the workshop, a “Biosafety Manual on Hexanal” was released by Mr. Sidney Frank, Canadian Consul General

from Bangalore and first copy of the same was received by Dr. Anindya Chatterjee, Asia Regional Director, IDRC, New Delhi. The authors of the manual Dr. K. Gunasekaran and his graduate student Ms. Karthika were appreciated for bringing out a nice piece of work. The biosafety manual is one of the requirements for scaling up the technology. The Consul General and the Director, IDRC, congratulated the team of scientists of Canada, India, Sri Lanka, Kenya, Tanzania and Trinidad & Tobago for their active involvement and participation

TRAINING CUM AWARENESS PROGRAM ON PPV&FRA 2001



The Department of Plant Genetic Resources, CPBG, TNAU, Coimbatore organized two one day training cum awareness programmes on “Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers’ Rights Act (PPV&FRA) 2001” with the funding support from PPV&FR Authority, New Delhi on 4th and 5th February, 2015. In the first training programme, 100 scientists of TNAU from different research stations/departments representing the disciplines of Plant Breeding and Genetics, Biotechnology, Seed science and technology and Horticulture participated. Dr. C. R. Ananda Kumar, Director (i/c) (CPBG) welcomed the gathering and Dr. M. Maheswaran, Director of Research (i/c), highlighted the salient features of PPV&FR Act 2001 and its implications on crop improvement. Dr. K. Ramasamy, Vice Chancellor in his Presidential Address insisted that the young scientists of TNAU should understand the importance of indigenous traditional knowledge pertaining to land races of crops and stressed the need for initiating research programmes for

the utilization of land races for nutritional and medicinal benefits. He also released a book “Compendium of Genetic Resources in Ramiah Gene Bank”, which includes all the registration and passport data of more than 25,000 germplasm lines being conserved in the Ramiah Gene Bank of TNAU. Four special lectures explaining the various sections of PPV & FR Act and its implications, modalities of implementation of the Act, DUS testing procedures related to crop variety registration and geographical indicators as a means of protection were delivered by the experts Dr. Z. Abraham, Retired Officer in charge, NBPGR, Thrissur, Dr. V. A. Amal Raj, Retired Principal Scientist, SBI, Coimbatore, Dr. S. Manickam, Principal Scientist, CICR, Coimbatore and Dr.C.R.Ananda Kumar, Director (i/c) (CPBG), TNAU. During the second training programme, one hundred farmers from various villages such as Annur, Vellakinaru, Thondamuthur, Jamin Kaliyapuram, Kinathukadavu, Pollachi, Somanur and Palladam participated. In this training, the experts delivered lectures on the outline of PPV&FR Act and its implications to Indian farming. The experts also delivered lectures on the role of farmers in the conservation of plant genetic resources along with the explanations on the modalities of registration of farmers varieties and its benefits to the farming community in Tamil. An exhibition was organized in which different land races of rice conserved by

Mr. Nel. Jayaraman, State Co-ordinator of Save Our Rice Campaign were displayed for the benefit of the farmers and scientists. Dr. A. John Joel, Professor and Head, Department of Plant Genetic Resources proposed a formal Vote of Thanks.

FELLOW AWARD TO TNAU SCIENTIST



The Indian Society of Extension Education (ISEE), New Delhi organized a National Seminar on “Extension Innovations and Methodologies for Market - led Agricultural Growth and Development” during February 26-28, 2015 at Rajmata Vijayaraja Scindia Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya(RVSKVV), Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh. During the occasion, the most prestigious “ISEE FELLOW AWARD” was conferred on Dr. C. Karthikeyan, Professor (Agricultural Extension), Directorate of Extension Education, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore, in recognition of outstanding contributions made by him in the field of extension education. The ‘Fellow Award’ included a certificate and a memento.

Important visitors

- ◀ Dr. Krishan Pal Singh, Director, Directorate of Floricultural Research, Pune, Maharashtra visited the Horticultural Research Station, Ooty on 28.02.2015 to review the All India – Co-ordinated Research Project on Floriculture.
- ◀ The Indo Swiss Cassava Project scientists visited the Tapioca and Castor Research Station, Yethapur and progressive Cassava grower’s field on 14-02-2015.

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