

TNAU NEWS



TAMILNADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY NEWS LETTER

Patron : Dr. C. RAMASAMY - Vice Chancellor

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29th CONVOCATION 2008 >>>



The Twenty-ninth Convocation of Tamilnadu Agricultural University was held on 25th July 2008 at 2.00 pm in a grand manner. His Excellency the Governor of Tamil Nadu and Chancellor of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University presided over the Convocation and awarded the prizes and medals to 43 outstanding UG, PG and Ph.D graduates. In this Convocation, totally 996 students were awarded various degrees. Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture, Government of

Tamil Nadu and Pro-Chancellor, Thiru Veerapandi S. Arumugam announced Endowment prizes and released University Publication. Prof. Abhijit Sen, Member of Planning Commission, Government of India, New Delhi was the Chief Guest of the function and delivered the Convocation address. During the Convocation, the degree of Doctor of Science (*Honoris Causa*) was conferred upon to Thiru Ratan N. Tata, Chairman, TATA Group of Companies, Mumbai, Thiru M.

Ramasami, Managing Director, Rasi Seeds, Attur and Th. Bhavarlal H. Jain, Chairman, Jain Irrigation Systems, Maharashtra for their services towards the Agricultural Development in our Country. In this Convocation the "**Best Alumnus Award - 2008**" was awarded to Dr. C. Sylendra Babu, I.P.S., Inspector General of Police, TNPL, Karur by His Excellency the Governor and Chancellor of TNAU. Dr. C. Ramasamy, Vice-Chancellor delivered the welcome address.

CERTIFICATE COURSE ON COTTON PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY

The Valedictory function of the certificate course "**Cotton Production Technology**" was held on 7.7.2008 at the Seminar Hall of the Directorate of Centre for Plant Breeding and Genetics, Tamil Nadu

Agricultural University, Coimbatore under the chairmanship of Th.P.T.Damodharan, Chairman, SIMA, Coimbatore.

Dr.G.Selvaraj, Director, Open and Distance Learning, TNAU welcomed the gathering. In his address, he highlighted the importance of transfer of technology

to the farming community through ODL programmes. He requested the beneficiaries of the programme to popularize the technologies learnt to neighbouring farmers.

Th.P.T.Damodharan, Chairman, SIMA, Coimbatore in his presidential address stressed that 50 per cent of the cotton mills are

ORIENTATION FOR UG FRESHERS >>>



The classes for all the UG degree programmes for the academic year 2008-09 commenced on 23.07.2008. The orientation programme for the first year students was held at Anna Auditorium. The freshers were welcomed by giving flower bouquets. Then they reported to concerned course Co-coordinators. Registration kits were issued to the freshers by the respective course Co-coordinators which includes the registration

card, important telephone numbers and programme of course work for the first semester. The Vice Chancellor, TNAU, Dr. C. Ramasamy welcomed the freshers followed by the Dean (Agriculture) Dr. K. Vanangamudi, the Dean (Horticulture) Dr. N. Veeraragavathatham, the Dean (Agricultural Engineering) Dr. A. Sampath Rajan, the Director (Students' Welfare) Dr. M. Thangaraju, the Controller of

Examination Dr. V. Valluvaparidasan, the Director (CARDS) Dr. K. Palanisamy.

Five laptop firms for purchase of laptops and six banks for availing education loan put up stalls in the lobby of AC & RI building from 23.07.2008 to 1.08.2008. Stalls for the purchase of bi-cycle, uniform cloth, lab coat, Sport Shirts, bed, mattresses etc were also arranged for the convenience of students.

located in Tamil Nadu with a prime objective of satisfying the needs of the state. He also narrated the scenario of cotton productivity and future scope for the improvement of area under cotton. While narrating the importance of quality seeds, he highlighted the role of SIMA in providing quality seeds to the farmers and procuring the materials from farmers with high market cost. The beneficiaries of this certificate course should take appropriate steps in communicating the technologies to the needy farmer thereby creating a best social environment in the village, he added.

Dr.S.Rajarathinam, Professor and Head, Department of Cotton, TNAU in his felicitation, briefly explained the aims and objectives of ODL programmes and requested the farming community

to adopt the technologies besides, communicating the feed back to the University for further refinement of the technologies. While narrating the production and productivity of cotton in the country, he stressed the importance of Bt cotton besides controlling important pests of cotton.

Dr.T.V.Karivaradharaju, Former Director of Research, TNAU and Chief Advisor, SIMA in his felicitation, outlined the utility of awareness programmes organized by SIMA towards enhancing the adoption of recommended practices on cotton production technology by the farmers. He also briefed the role of village cluster approach for effective marking besides, strengthening social linkage and interaction among the farmers.

Dr.T.S.Raveendran, Director, centre for Plant Breeding and Genetics in his special address narrated the importance of skill demonstrations in educating the farmers on latest technologies. He stressed the importance of group approach and utility of regulated market for marketing the agricultural produces with high profit. He also informed that the university has already initiated steps to forecast market price based on the previous records to benefit the farmers. He stated that quality seeds, control of important pests, usage of machineries and facilitation group interaction among farmers are the salient aspects to increase the cotton production.

Dr.K.Selvarasu, Associate Professor, Directorate of Open and distance Learning, TNAU

proposed vote of thanks.

VOCATIONAL COURSE ON MUSHROOM CULTIVATION

The Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Sirugamani has organized a six month vocational training course. The programme was arranged under Open Distance Learning mode of TNAU. The beneficiaries were unemployed rural youth, farm women and school dropouts. 27 participants including 5 women have enrolled in the programme. The vocational programme was inaugurated on 2nd July 2008. The skills in spawn making, varieties of *Pleurotus* spp., installation of low cost mushroom shed and its maintenance, straw bed making, harvest, value addition in mushroom are imparted to the

trainees apart from exposing them to successful entrepreneurship. The response of trainees for the paid programmes was encouraging for the KVK to proceed further on various aspects of advanced training in future.

NEW FLORICULTURE RESEARCH STATION AT KANYAKUMARI DISTRICT

A new Floriculture Research Station at Thoivalai village of Kanyakumari district has been started during July 2008. This research station is located at high rainfall zone of Southern Tamil Nadu. This new station focuses on research in germplasm conservation, crop improvement strategies, crop management and protection aspects and mass

multiplication of planting materials and marketing of flower crops *viz.*, Jasmine, Crossandra, Tuberose, Marigold, Neerium, Chrysanthemum, Celosia, Cut foliages like Maruvu, Dhavana, Ferns and Asparagus and cutflowers like Orchids, Anthurium, Heliconia and Bird of Paradise.

Dr.D.Veeraragavathatham, Dean (Horticulture) outlined the functions of the station. According to him this new station concentrates research and training on hi-tech horticulture aspects like micro propagation, protected cultivation and fertigation techniques. This station will cater to the needs of flower growers of Tirunelveli and Kanyakumari districts.

INAUGURATION OF DIGITAL & ONLINE LIBRARY RESOURCES IN TNAU)))



The Library in Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore, is one of the largest in Asia having large number of Books, Journals, Archives and Dissertations. The Library has been modernized by integrating new monitoring system besides, on-line and digital reading resources. Dr. C. Ramasamy, Vice Chancellor inaugurated the digital

and On-line library facilities on 21.7.2008 in the presence of Dr. M. Thangaraju, Director (Students' Welfare).

Mrs. C. Prema, Assistant Librarian, explained various innovative modules introduced in the library. University officers, faculty and students participated in the inaugural function.

A digital section has been equipped with high frequency computers and digitized reading materials of historical significance that are available at the click of the mouse. About 150 journals are available on-line that can be used by students, faculty and others. In addition, an exclusive CD library has been established encompassing students theses, CD-ROMs on agricultural and horticultural production technologies and farm implements besides, special lectures. In order to have easy access to the materials available in the library, Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) has been installed with touch screen service. The library has RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) Tag facility which is helpful in easy transaction of books. This assists in prevention of missing of books and other reading materials. The advanced library facilities will enable the students and researchers to have an easy access to the reading resources.

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THANKS GIVING BY BANK RECRUITS)))



The students of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University recruited for various banks during January to July 2008 organized a thanks giving tea at the Directorate of Students' Welfare (DSW) on 23.7.2008. The number of

students recruited for banking sector has increased exponentially from 80 in 2007 to nearly double in the year 2008. About 110 students selected from among different disciplines and constituent colleges gathered at

the DSW to arrange thanksgiving tea as a gesture and gratitude. The Vice Chancellor presided over the function and offered his felicitations and distributed the appointment orders. He applauded the activities of DSW which is squarely responsible for the bountiful success in securing zero unemployment in TNAU. Dr. M. Thangaraju, Director (Students' Welfare) congratulated all the successful candidates. Further, he insisted that the students aspiring for banking sector should equip themselves in soft skills to be victorious in their endeavours. Dr. K.S. Subramanian, Professor (Students' Welfare) suggested that the overwhelming achievements in banking placement empowered the DSW to demand for higher salary from agro-based industries for agri-graduates.

NADP TRAINING PROGRAMME

The National Agricultural Development Project on "Establishment of Agri-clinic Cum Mini Soil Testing Laboratories" is being implemented by the Department of Agriculture, Government of Tamil Nadu and Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore at a cost of Rs. 7.168 crores. Under this project, it is proposed to establish Agri-clinic cum Mini STL in 224 blocks of Tamil Nadu covering all blocks in the nine focus districts and 5 blocks each in non-focus districts. Unemployed agricultural graduates are being trained to



establish Agri clinic cum Mini STL at a minimum cost of Rs. 6.00 lakhs per laboratory through bank loan in which a maximum of Rs. 3.00 lakhs will be borne by the NADP as back-ended subsidy.

A five day training programme was organized at the Department of Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry, Coimbatore-3 from 14-07-2008 to 18-07-2008 for the first batch of 30 selected entrepreneurs.

The trainees were exposed to soil sampling techniques, soil, water and plant analytical skills, weed control, pest and disease control, diagnosis and management of nutrient disorders, visual diagnostics kit software, soil health software and Agri-business management. The Vice Chancellor, Dr. C. Ramasamy, while interacting with the candidates, stressed the need for service oriented Agri-business for

Agricultural growth. Dr. S. Natarajan, Director (CSCMS) explained the operational guidelines of the project.

Dr.V.Velu, Professor and Head, Department of SS&AC, Dr. R. Natesan, Principle Investigator, Dr. R. Santhi and Dr. A. Bhaskaran, Co- Principle Investigators of the project trained the entrepreneurs on the laboratory analytical skills and softwares related to Agri-clinic.

MoU SIGNED BETWEEN TRRI AND TAFE

Memorandum of understanding was executed between Director, Tamil Nadu Rice Research Institute, Aduthurai and M/S. Tractor and Farm Equipments (TAFE), Chennai for conducting field test trials on the tractors and attachments offered by TAFE utilizing the farm facilities available at TRRI, Aduthurai on

15.07.2008. Dr. S. Jebaraj, Director, TRRI signed the agreement on behalf of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore.

AWARENESS PROGRAMME

An awareness programme on “IPM on coconut black

caterpillar and Rhinoceros beetle” was conducted on 30.07.2008 jointly by CRS, Aliyarnagar, KVK, Papparapatti and Department of Agriculture at Marandhahalli village of Dharmapuri district. A lecture on “IPM on coconut black caterpillar and Rhinoceros beetle” was delivered by Dr.K.Rajamanickam,

Professor and Head, Coconut Research Station, Aliyarnagar.

A total of 50000 numbers of bracoind parasitoids were disbursed to the selected beneficiaries during this programme. About 50 farmers attended this awareness programme.

COMMERCIALIZATION OF TNAU TECHNOLOGIES AND PRODUCTS)))



The Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) is involved in the development of viable agrotechnologies and products for the benefit of the farming community. In order to ensure that the technologies and products reach the farmers in time and in required quantity, the Directorate of Agribusiness Development of TNAU commercializes them by partnering with private firms. In a function held at TNAU on 21st July, 2008, three firms signed MoU with TNAU in the presence of Dr. C. Ramaswamy, Vice Chancellor. While appreciating the new initiative of commercialization of the TNAU technologies, Vice-Chancellor hoped that the products / technologies developed would reach the farming community quickly.

He also called upon the private

entrepreneurs to come forward to take up more such technologies on commercial scale so that the products / technologies developed at TNAU will be easily available to the farmers.

The three firms are now granted license for the production and marketing of TNAU products / technologies viz., TNAU Panchagavya, TNAU Patent No.19834 - A device to remove insect eggs from pulse seeds and Ready to cook mix and food from pearl millet both technology and machine. **Panchagavya**, made out of ghee, milk, curd, cow dung and urine, sugarcane juice or jaggery, tender coconut water, ripe banana is a biostimulant, gives resistance against pest and diseases, and enhances germination of seeds and vigour index of seedlings, recommended for all the crops as foliar spray at 3% level. **The new**

device to remove insect eggs from pulse seeds developed at Department of Entomology (INDIAN PATENT NO: 198434) can successfully crush the eggs of pulse beetle during storage as pulses are more difficult to store than cereals as the former suffer a great damage during storage by pulse beetle. The technology “**ready to cook mix and food from pearl millet**” is useful to process the pearl millet and to prepare a mix. This nutritious mix can be mixed with water, cooked both in the pressure cooker and in the ordinary vessel over wooden stove and consumed with sambar, rasam or curd / butter milk.

Dr. P. Subbian, the Director of Agribusiness Development in his welcome address highlighted that under this agreement, the firms could use the TNAU nomenclature of the technology/product in the packets / containers / sachets etc and they are responsible for maintaining the quality of the produce. Besides, TNAU has the full rights to check the quality of products / technologies produced and marketed by the company.

The Director, SCMS, Director, CPPS and Dean, Agricultural Engineering of Tamilnadu Agricultural University handed over the details of the technologies to the respective companies in this function. Dr.N.Kumar, Professor (Hort.) proposed vote of thanks.

PLANT TISSUE CULTURE LABORATORY INAUGURATION)))



Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture, Government of Tamil Nadu and Pro-Chancellor, TNAU, Veerapandi S. Arumugam inaugurated the commercial plant tissue culture laboratory at HC&RI, Coimbatore on 25th June, 2008 in the presence of Dr.C.Ramasamy, The Vice Chancellor, Dr.D.Veeraragavathatham, The Dean (Horticulture) and the faculty members. The state-of-the-art facility for the plant micro

propagation through tissue culture, has been established at a cost of Rs.66 lakhs with the Government of India funds, exclusively for commercial micro propagation of quality mother plants in horticultural crops.

The well equipped tissue culture laboratory has been set up in an area of 250m² with exclusive work area for different plant tissue culture operations viz., culture incubation, tissue inoculation, media preparation, media sterilization and wash area. The horticultural crops micro propagated in the laboratory in a commercial way are Banana, Cassava, Stevia, Patchouli, Vanilla and flower crops like Orchids, Anthurium, Chrysanthemum, Petunia, Roses etc.

NEW SCHEMES

Name of the Scheme	PI	Amount (lakh Rs.)	Funding Agency
Empowerment and capacity building of self help group women through establishment of agro processing centre (APC)	Dr.M.R.Premalatha Professor and Head	12.89	DST
Development and popularization of integrated management of Blotch and Thrips in Onion in Perambalur and Coimbatore district	Dr.D.Dinakaran, Professor	11.0	ICAR

IMPORTANT VISITORS

- His Excellency the Governor of Tamil Nadu Th. Surjit Singh Barnala on 25.7.2008.
- Honble' Minister for Agriculture Th. Veerapandi S. Arumugam on 25.7.2008 and 26.7.2008.

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Thiru

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