

TNAU NEWS



TAMILNADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY NEWS LETTER

Patron : Dr. C. RAMASAMY - Vice Chancellor

Editor : Dr. R. BALASARASWATHI - Director (i/c), Planning and Monitoring

World Food Day 2008 >>>



World Food Day is celebrated on 16th October in more than 150 countries around the globe. The theme for the World Food Day 2008 is "**World Food Security : The Challenges of Climate and Biofuels**". This year at Agricultural University, Coimbatore, a National symposium on Recent Trends in Food Processing & World Food Day, 2008 was organized. The B.Tech. students of (Food Process Engineering) programme, took active role in organizing this event.

Dr.A.Sampathrajan, Dean (Agrl.

Engg.) in his presidential address stressed that the climate change affects everyone, the worst hit will be the farmers, fishers and forest dependent people who are already vulnerable and food insecure. By affecting the availability of land, water and biodiversity, and the price of food, the rising demand for biofuels produced from food crops also has an impact on the poor. Already around 920 million people are undernourished and the impact of climate change will further push the number of hungry even higher in the decades to come.

Mr.J.Prasanna Venkatesh, Sales Manager, M/s. Hatsun Agro Products Ltd., Chennai emphasized in his inaugural address that the entrepreneurs should choose the right product with right quality to reach the lower income people, especially in rural areas and those who do not have access to the quality food at right time. He further highlighted the role of the Food Process Engineers to alleviate this situation by increasing the shelf life of food through cost effective and innovative techniques.

Mr.S.Dharmendra, Sr.Manager (Operations), M/s.Pantaloon Retail (India) Ltd., Coimbatore, in his special address highlighted the role of retail market to reach the consumers. Also he added the increasing scope for the retail markets in India.

About 75 participants from many colleges took part. Papers, posters and models related to novel food processing techniques and climate & Bioenergy in food security were presented. During the various technical sessions, a total of 46 papers, 40 posters and 10 models were presented and discussed. This celebration was partly sponsored by the council for Scientific and Industrial Research, New Delhi.

Book exhibition at HC&RI, Periyakulam

Horticultural College and Research Institute, Periyakulam organized a Book Exhibition on 18.11.2008 for the benefit of students. Book Sellers have displayed large number of books on Horticulture, Agriculture, Social Sciences, Competitive examinations and on

General Knowledge. More than 200 students and staff visited the book exhibition. The Library unit had made arrangements for purchase of quite a large number of books based on the suggestions from individual teachers. The students were allowed to purchase the books on credit basis and the book sellers have extended 20 per cent discount for all purchases. More than



New bio-control lab at AC&RI, Killikulam >>>



A biocontrol laboratory which was constructed at a cost of Rs.70 lakhs under the National Horticultural

Mission was declared open on 7.11.2008 at Agricultural College & Research Institute, Killikulam by

Dr.C.Ramasamy, Vice-Chancellor, TNAU in the presence of Dr.P.Vivekanandan, Dean of the College, Dr.R.Samiyappan, Director (Centre for Plant Protection Studies), Dr. M.V. Ranghaswamy, Director, Water Technology Centre and Er.Sampath Raja, Estate Officer, TNAU, Coimbatore. This laboratory has the facility to produce biocontrol agents such as *Trichoderma viride*, a potential fungal pathogen that can be used against the root rot disease affecting cotton, pulses and oilseed; *Pseudomonas fluorescens*, a bacterial agent that can be used against the Panama wilt disease of banana, sheath rot as well as sheath blight disease of rice, and *Trichogramma*, an insect egg parasitoid that can suppress several caterpillar pests. Farmers from Tirunelveli, Tuticorin and

hundred students have purchased books worth of Rs.52749 during the one day book exhibition organized for the first time in the college. The book exhibition was inaugurated by Dr.S.Natarajan, Dean, HC&RI, Killikulam.

Placement of MBA graduates

Since 1988, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University has the reputation of placements of MBM graduates and from 2001 onwards the MBA graduates. During the year 2008, the batch of 2006-08 students were placed in various firms viz., Commercial Banks (55%), Agribusiness firms (21%), Retail Majors (17%), Consultancy firms (12%) and NGOs (5%). The salary ranges between Rs.3.00 lakhs to 6.00 lakhs for the selected executives. The Tamil Nadu Agricultural University Management Alumni Association is one of the forces to promote the same.



Launching a new scheme on e-Velanmai

The inaugural function of the new scheme on 'e-Velanmai' was held at Sulthanpettai, Palladam on 21.10.08. This new of e-Velanmai model was inaugurated by Thiru. S. R. Rajagopal, President, Kumarapalayam Water Users Association (K-WUA), Sulthanpettai.

Dr. C. Karthikeyan, Associate Professor and Project Leader of the scheme, welcomed the gathering and briefed about the e-Velanmai activities. Dr. Karthikeyan informed that Information and Communication Technology (ICT) based technology transfer called "e-Velanmai" has been introduced in Palar basin of Parambikulam Aliyar Project under TN-IAMWARM project for the period 2007-2012. K-WUA has been selected for operationalisation of the e-Velanmai scheme of technology transfer.

The objective of this scheme is to provide agro-expert advice in a timely manner to the farmers of K-WUA using ICT tools like digital camera,

internet, and mobile phones on regular basis (typically once a week).

Dr. Karthikeyan added that to enhance the participation of farmers in scientific farming, a nominal membership fees based on the size of the farm operated by the farmers of K-WUA was collected for the agricultural extension services by the e-Velanmai project team.

So far 72 farmers of the K-WUA have enrolled in the scheme. The money



will be used for sustainable operation of the e-Velanmai scheme after the project period. After the inauguration, a farmers' discussion meeting was conducted under 'e-Velanmai' project. About 100 farmers belonging to K-WUA attended the meeting.

Jawaharlal Nehru Award for Soil Scientist



Dr.C.Sudhalakshmi, Research Associate, Department of Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry received the Jawaharlal Nehru Award for Outstanding Post- graduate Agricultural Research - 2007 in Natural Resource Management. She did research on "**Genotypic divergence in mobilization of zinc at root – soil interface of rice cultivars**" and evaluated the performance of various rice genotypes for zinc nutrition under field conditions. The award was given away by the Hon'ble Union Minister for Agriculture, Th. Sharad Pawar in an euphoric occasion in PUSA campus, New Delhi recently.

TNAU inks MoU with BPCL

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore and M/s.Bharat

petroleum corporation limited, (A Government of India Enterprise), Noida has signed a MoU to undertake a fully funded collaborative project on the development of micro-algal based bio-diesel production at pilot level from petroleum industrial wastes in the department of Bioenergy. This MoU was signed on 20.10.2008 at TNAU, Coimbatore. The MoU was signed between Dr.M.A.Siddiqui, Executive Director (R&D), BPCL and Dr.C.Ramasamy, Vice-Chancellor, TNAU, Coimbatore.

Vice Chancellor's visit to CRS - Veppankulam



The Vice Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, visited Coconut Research Station,

Veppankulam on 16.10.2008 and reviewed the progress of technical and non-technical events. He emphasized to gear up more research activities on tender coconut development and dwarf x tall hybridization work. During his visit, the Vice Chancellor declared open the "**Golden Jubilee Arch**" and "**Training Hall**". The Vice Chancellor has felt that a new administrative building for Coconut Research Station, Veppankulam is absolutely essential. He sanctioned Rs. 35 lakh for the construction of office building under 50 crore project. Besides, the Vice Chancellor sensitized the scientists to persuade their research for the betterment of farming community.

Interaction with with palmyrah tappers

A DBT funded scheme e n t i t l e d "Entrepreneurship development of edible and non edible products formulation, value

addition and marketing of palmyrah (*Borassus flabellifer*) palm" is in operation at Faculty of Horticulture,

Farm pond technology)))



Farm pond is an important technology for harvesting and utilizing the rain water in dryland agriculture. In Regional Research

Station, Aruppukottai a farm pond has been excavated to harvest and recycle the rainwater with a dimension of 250 m length, 30 m

width and 6 m depth. The total capacity of the pond is about 45000 m³ and at 50 percent filling rate about 20000 m³ (20 million litres) can be stored in a season excluding the natural water loss. During current season, the pond was filled at full capacity level (45000 m³) during the month of October 2008 with the rainfall of 300 mm.

The harvested rainwater can be utilized to cultivate cotton / maize in about 20 acres with drip irrigation system under vertisol condition. Prof.C.Ramasamy, Vice-Chancellor, TNAU, inaugurated the farm pond on 6th November 2008 in the presence of Dr.M.V.Ranghaswamy, Director, Water Technology Centre and other staff members.

Annual Group Meet on Niche Area of Excellence >>>



TNAU is implementing the Niche area of Excellence programme on " **I m p r o v e m e n t a n d P o p u l a r i z a t i o n o f B i o f u e l s**" with a budget outlay of Rs. 149 lakhs for first year and second year onwards with an annual budget of 60 lakhs for five years through the Centre of Excellence in Bio-fuels, Agricultural Engineering College and Research Institute in the main Campus.

As part of this project, the second annual group meet was organized for two days in TNAU on November 7 & 8, 2008. The Deans, Directors, Heads of Departments and scientists of 24 State Agricultural Universities

and four ICAR institutes participated in this meet. The progress of each Niche Area of Excellence project was reviewed and strategies for the future were discussed.

Dr.S.P.Tiwari, Deputy Director General (Education) inaugurated the meet and stressed that this programme concentrates on research, training and education. He also emphasized for the conceptualization of the programme by all the centres. Dr.G.C.Tiwari, Assistant Director General ICAR, New Delhi asked the scientists involved in the programme to think

and work like entrepreneurs. Dr.A.Sampathrajan, Dean, Agricultural Engineering College and Research Institute, Coimbatore during his welcome address explained the progress made by the centre Dr. M. Paramathma, Principal Investigator has presented the Achievements of the project and also informed that the Centre has identified nine high yielding Jatropha cultures. TNAU has developed hybrids and they are under MLTs. It has Biofuels testing laboratories with HPLC, variable compression engine test rig and Biodiesel processing laboratory.

TNAU has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) with University of Saskatchewan, Canada and Technology De Monterry, Mexico in Biofuel Research and Students Exchange Programme. TNAU is offering consultancy services to two private companies and eleven companies in Tamil Nadu were identified for promoting and popularizing Jatropha cultivation. Training is provided to farmers, Agricultural officers, Scientists, NGOs and Entrepreneurs. Dr.M.Paramathma, Professor & Nodal officer of the centre proposed vote of thanks.



TNAU, Coimbatore. Under this scheme, an interactive meeting was organised with palmyrah tappers at Bodipalayam village of Pollachi taluk on 31.10.2008. The programme was jointly organized by TNAU & Coimbatore District Palmgur Federation, Pollachi. Dr. G. M. Lingaraju and Dr. L. Krishnan, DBT

Task Force Members, New Delhi chaired the programme. Dr. Kumari Anandhan, Honourable Chairman of Palmyrah Development Board, Govt. Of Tamil Nadu also participated in the deliberations. In this programme, Around 50 neera tappers participated and interacted on value addition of edible and non edible products. In this interactive p r o g r a m m e Dr. V. Ponnuswami, Professor (Horticulture) and Principal Investigator of DBT funded palmyrah projects highlighted the importance of this drought tolerant palm and eco friendly natural edible products

obtained from palmyrah. In the deliberations, all their queries related to palmyrah and its byproducts including tree climbers and marketing of products were clarified.

Training on Hybrid seed production

NADP sponsored Hybrid seed production training was organized at Tamil Nadu Rice Research Institute, Aduthurai on 15.10.08. 50 Farmers from Thanjavur, Thiruvavur, Nagapattinam, Trichy and Perambalur districts participated in the training. Dr.S.Jebaraj, Director, TRRI inaugurated the training. Dr.K.Thiyagarajan, Professor, Plant Breeding and Genetics coordinated the training.

Campaign on Land and Water use for future

The Tamil Nadu State Land Use Board of the State Planning Commission and Department of Soil and Water Conservation Engineering of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University jointly organized a one day farmers' awareness campaign on "Land and Water use for future" at Vavipalayam village in Tiruppur taluk on 19.11.2008. The professors from Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, officials of the State Agricultural Engineering Department, Agricultural Department, Horticulture Department and 300 progressive farmers participated in the campaign. Dr.S. Santhana Bosu, Professor and Head, Soil and Water Conservation Engineering welcomed the gathering. Mr.M. Eswaramoorthi, President of PAP Irrigation committee presided over the function and briefed about the problems faced by the farmers. Er.V. Sivaprakasam, Superintending

Engineer, Agricultural Engineering Department, Coimbatore delivered the special address. He emphasized the need for adopting modern technologies for conserving water and soil. Mr.N.S. Palanisamy, Ex. MLA of the region participated in the campaign and explained about his experiences on coconut cultivation. Mr.K.V. Palanisamy leading farmer from Kethanur briefed about his experience on advanced method of irrigation for vegetable crops and about organic farming. An exhibition was arranged in the awareness campaign and equipments related to modern irrigation technologies, farm implement for moisture conservation, soil conservation techniques, rain water harvesting, organic farming, farm pond lining were explained to the farmers. Neem and pungam seedlings

were distributed to the farmers for afforestation purpose. The function

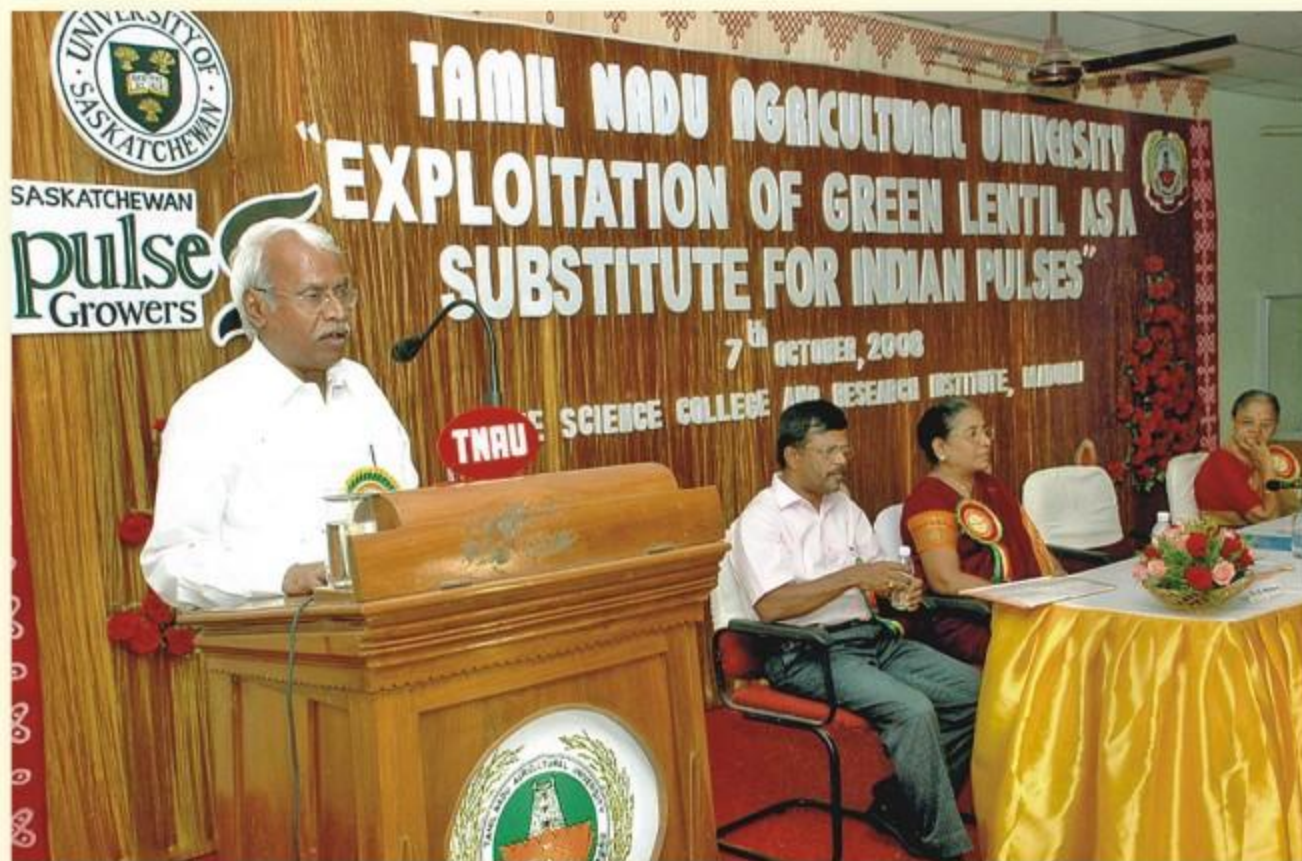


came to an end with the vote of thanks by Dr. D. Tamilmani, Professor, Soil and Water Conservation Engineering of TNAU.

Best Poster Award for TNAU Research scholar

Ms. V. S, Susha, Research Scholar working on nano-herbicides for the management of weeds in rainfed agriculture, has been conferred with

Seminar on green lentil >>>



Methodology seminar for the project on 'Exploitation of Green Lentil as a substitute for Indian Pulse' funded by Saskatchewan University, Canada, was jointly organized by Home Science College and Research Institute, Madurai and Agricultural Engineering College and Research Institute, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore on 07.10.2008 at Madurai campus. Dr. A. Andal, Dean, Home Science

College and Research Institute welcomed the gathering. Dr. G. Pankajam, former Vice-Chancellor, Gandhigram Rural University, inaugurated the seminar and stressed the importance of exploring the possibility of introducing the lentil to the public. Dr. C. Ramasamy, Vice-Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University presided over the seminar and stressed that the project should orient towards the

commercialization of the developed products from green lentil. The Vice-Chancellor also had an interaction session with pulse traders and processors from various parts of Tamil Nadu.

Dr. S. Mohan, Dean-in-charge, Agricultural College and Research Institute, Madurai, delivered the special address. Dr. R. Jeganmohan, Scientist, Indian Institute of Crop Processing Technology, presented detailed outline about improvised milling method of pulses.

An exclusive session on pulse processing and export was conducted with traders and processors from Tuticorin, Madurai, Virudunagar, Dindigul, and other places. They have actively participated in the seminar sharing their experiences in pulse processing and trading. The seminar was concluded with the vote of thanks proposed by Dr.M.R.Premalatha, Professor and Head, Department of Family Resource Management, Home Science College and Research Institute, Madurai.



Best Poster Award at the International Conference on "Magnetic Materials and their Applications in 21st century" organized by Magnetic society Of India, held during October 21-23rd, 2008 at National Physical Laboratory, New Delhi for her paper on

"Mitigating Atrazine, (2-chloro-4-(ethyl amine)-6-(isopropylamine)-s-triazine) herbicide residue in Soil using Palladium and Silver Nanoparticles doped Iron Oxide Nanoparticles with different Stabilizing Agents".

NEW SCHEMES

Name of the Scheme	PI	Amount (lakh Rs.)	Funding Agency
National Horticulture Mission	Dean (Hort)	99.025	TANHODA
ICAR-NAIP on value chain on biomass based decentralized power generation for agroenterprises	Dr.P.Venkatachalam, Professor and Head (Bioenergy)	84.36	ICAR-NAIP
Development of e-Courses for B.Sc (Horticulture) degree program	Mr.R.Venkatachalam, Assistant Professor (IT)	60.53	NAIP
NAIP - Development of e-courses for B.Sc. (Horticulture) degree program	Mr.R.Venkatachalam Assistant Professor (IT)	60.53	ICAR, New Delhi
Design, development and evaluation of pilot scale ethanol production from cassava starch	Dr.N.O.Gopal Professor (Micro)	35.00	Ministry of New and Renewable Energy -GOI
Solar Tunnel drying of Rosemary	Dr.P.Venkatachalam, Professor and Head (Bioenergy)	5.00	NADP Government of Tamil Nadu
Standardization of mat system of cultivation for continuous harvest of banana Cv. Grand Naine	Dr. T.N. Balamohan Professor & Head (Fruit Crops)	5.00	Tamil Nadu Government
Study on nutrient requirement for higher productivity in banana cv. Grand naine	Dr. T.N. Balamohan Professor & Head (Fruit Crops)	5.00	Tamil Nadu State Government
Development of fortified seed pelleting technology for cotton	Dr.A.S.Ponnuswamy, Special Officer (Seeds)	1.01	Rasi seeds, Attur

IMPORTANT VISITORS

- Dr.S.P.Tiwari (Edu.), DDG, ICAR, New Delhi between 7.11.08 and 9.11.08.
- Dr.G.C.Tiwari, AGG, ICAR, New Delhi between 7.11.08 and 9.11.08.
- Dr.G.S.V.Raghavan, Mc. Gill University, Canada between 14.11.08 and 15.11.08
- Arun Pandhi, Sri Ratan Tata unit, Mumbai on 18.11.08.
- Dr.Adrian Johnson, IPNI, Vice-President, Canada between 23.11.08 and 24.11.08.

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