

# TNAU NEWS



## TAMILNADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY NEWS LETTER

Patron : **Dr. C. RAMASAMY** - Vice Chancellor

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

### XXVIII CONVOCATION, 2007

The Twenty Eighth Convocation of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University was held on 13<sup>th</sup> November, 2007 at Kalaingar Arangam, TNAU Main Campus, Coimbatore. His Excellency the Governor of Tamil Nadu and Chancellor Th. Surjit Singh Barnala, presided over the Convocation and presented the awards for 29 students who have excelled in their studies. Hon'ble Union Finance Minister Th. P. Chidambaram was the Chief Guest and delivered the Convocation address. Dr. G. S. Vijaya Raghavan, James McGill Professor, Canada was the special guest and was presented with the Honorary degree of Doctor of Science (*Honoris Causa*) for his outstanding contribution and achievements for the cause of Agriculture. Th. Veerapandi S. Arumugam, Hon'ble Minister for



Agriculture and Pro-Chancellor announced the new Endowment of prizes and medals. Th. Pongalur N. Palanisamy, Hon'ble Minister for Rural Industries, Government of

Tamil Nadu as a special guest released the University Publications. A total number of 904 candidates have been awarded the degree during the Convocation.

### AWARDS FOR OUTSTANDING STUDENTS

Mr. Prashant Kumar Jha, 2002-2003 batch student of Anbil Dharmalingam Agricultural College and Research Institute, Tiruchirappalli was adjudged as the "**Outstanding Meritorious Student**" of B.Sc (Ag.) of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore and also he was awarded with '**Gold Medal**' by His Excellency the Governor of Tamil Nadu, at the 28<sup>th</sup> Convocation held on 13.11.07 at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore. He has also won three medals viz., '**Kirithi Singh Medal**', '**1963 Batch students' Medal**' and '**Tamil Nadu State Government Medal**'.

Selvi.V.Anusheela, another student of the 2002-2003 batch has won the '**Gold Medal**'

### STUDY TOUR TO NBSS & LUP, NAGPUR

The I M.Sc & I Ph.D students of the Department of Soil Science &



Agricultural chemistry were taken to National Bureau for Soil Survey and Land Use Planning, Nagpur from 12.11.07 to 19.11.07. The students were exposed to remote sensing techniques and the soil survey activities using remotely sensed data by the satellites, soil macro monoliths representing different regions of India in museum, pictures and photographs explaining factors of soil formation etc. The students were given hands on experience with sophisticated instruments like XRD, ICPA and C:N Analyzer.

The students were also taken to the Regional Remote Sensing Service Centre, Nagpur wherein the students were exposed to various satellites,

**INAUGURATION OF SEED CENTRE BUILDING**

The new Seed Centre building was inaugurated at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore by the Honourable Minister for Agriculture Th. Veerapandi. S.Arumugam on 13-11-2007. The Member of Board of Management of TNAU Thiru K.P.Ramalingam, the Vice-chancellor and the Agricultural Production Commissioner of Tamil Nadu were present during the function. The Special Officer (Seeds) Dr.A.S.Ponnuswamy explained the activities of Seed Centre through an exhibition arranged in the new Seed Centre building. The Seed Centre building which includes, laboratories, seed storage room



and training hall has been provided under ICAR-Mega Seed Project. constructed utilizing the funds

PSLV and GSLV and the principles of remote sensing and its application in agriculture. They learnt about remote sensing and GIS for soil mapping and also about the latest software used to predict crop suitability for specific areas. They were also exposed to the operating principle of Total N Analyser, Particle Size Analyser and the Atomic Emission Spectrometer.

**MEXICAN TEAM'S VISIT TO HC&RI, PERIYAKULAM**

A team of Mexican delegates led by Dr.Mario Orozco Santos, Investigator, Fitopatologia Tropical (INIFAP), Colima, Mexico, visited Horticultural College and Research Institute, Periyakulam on 23.11.2007 and 24.11.2007. The team interacted with the Dean and scientists and visited the



college farm and farmers fields at Cumbum to see tamarind trees. They interacted with the farmers and traders of tamarind. They also visited the cold storage unit at Theni.

**PADDY TRANSPLANTOR, A BOON TO FARMERS**

Paddy is cultivated in about 30,000 ha every year in Virudhunagar district. Labour scarcity at the time of transplanting along with a high cost of labour is common phenomena which drastically reduce the area of cultivation under rice. In order to overcome this situation, RRS, Aruppukkottai along with KVK and Department of Agriculture of Virudhunagar district organized a demonstration with paddy transplanter at Cotton Research Station, Srivilliputtur on 13.11.07. About 350 farmers of Virudhunagar district along with the District Collector and officials of Department of Agriculture participated in the demonstration and witnessed the usage of the paddy transplanter. The District Collector emphasized the need of paddy transplanter and to follow the instructions given by the programme coordinator, KVK, the

Professor and Head and other University Officials in reducing the cost of cultivation in different crops. The 8 row paddy transplanter is Diesel drawn, covers one acre in 3 hours. A special mat nursery has to be raised for this transplanter. The cost of the paddy transplanter is Rs.1.4 lakhs and the adoption of this machine for transplants reduces the cost of cultivation in irrigated transplanted paddy thereby increasing the hope of the resource poor farmers of this district.

**TRAINING PROGRAM ON NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

A twenty one day training programme on "Natural Resource Management for Sustainable Agriculture A New Paradigm" was conducted by the Department of Agronomy,



## TNAU SIGNS MoU WITH UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE



TNAU has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Adelaide, Australia for academic cooperation, research exchange and cooperation in furtherance of their mutual interests in teaching, research and scholarship and as

a contribution to increased international co-operation between them. The purpose of this MoU is to establish a framework within which cooperation may develop between the two institutions, covering matters such as,

Research collaboration in Agricultural Science, Exchange of students and staff, Participation in seminars and academic meetings and Joint quality assurance and benchmarking

Recently Dr. R. Chandra Babu, Dean (SPGS) visited University of Adelaide, Australia as a followup of this MoU and discussed with Mr. Andrew Bain, Senior Executive Officer and Dr. Jennifer Watling, Assistant Dean International (Research), University of Adelaide for further discussion on the modalities of joint degrees and research projects. He also visited University of South Australia (UNISA) to follow up on the collaboration in education and research. He visited several labs in Mawson Lakes campus, UNISA, Adelaide.

Coimbatore from 15<sup>th</sup> October to 4<sup>th</sup> November, 2007. Seventeen scientists from across the country attended the training programme. The training programme was inaugurated on 15<sup>th</sup> October, 2007. Dr.S.Natarajan, Director, Centre for Soil and Crop Management Studies welcomed the gathering and highlighted the importance of rational use of natural resources for sustained production and productivity in agriculture and allied fields.

The training programme was inaugurated by Prof. C. Ramasamy, Vice-Chancellor, TNAU. During the inaugural address, the Vice-Chancellor underlined the need for the adoption of innovative management practices in the use of natural resources at macro and micro levels. Further, he stressed the need for maintaining biodiversity and precision application of inputs for higher and sustainable production.

The training included a wide range of topics and also hands on training to the participants. The participants visited the various research farms in the main campus to have first hand knowledge on the research activities in the areas of natural resource management.

The valedictory function was held on 4<sup>th</sup> November, 2007. Dr.S.Natarajan, Director, Centre for Soil and Crop Management Studies delivered the presidential address and distributed the certificates and training manuals to the participants.

### L-RAMP SENSITIZATION TRAINING

A special sensitization training



programme was organized at Agricultural Research Station, Bhavanisagar on 20.11.2007 in collaboration with Department of Agricultural Extension, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore. Thirty innovative farmers from different parts of Erode district attended the training programme. Dr.M.Balusamy, Professor and Head, Agricultural Research Station, welcomed the gathering. Dr.R.Ganesan, Professor and Head, Department of Agrl. Extension explained the importance of implementation and benefits of L-Ramp (Lemelson Recognition and Mentoring Programme) programme in bringing out the innovative ideas of rural folk into action. The importance of ITK in evolving appropriate rural welfare technologies was stressed by Dr.M.Muthuraman, Professor of Entomology. The participants shared their innovative ideas on developing simple techniques and equipments for simplifying agricultural operations.

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Dr.M.Asoken, Associate Professor (Agrl. Extension) proposed vote of thanks.

**IMPARTING TRAINING BY TNAU SCIENTIST**



Dr.G.RAVI, Associate Professor (Entomology), Tamil Nadu Rice Research Institute, Aduthurai has visited East Timor from 06.11.07 to 11.11.07 and trained Scientists and Extension officials on the aspects of Integrated Pest Management in Rice. The training programme was organized by German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) under Timor Leste Food Security Programme.

**TRAINING ON HYBRID CASTOR**

A one day seminar on Hybrid castor cultivation technology was

conducted at Surandai of Tirunelveli district on 14.11.2007. Fifty farmers have attended the seminar. In the seminar a press meet was held with manager of Vivasayigal Ulagam, Tamil publication and the profitability on hybrid castor cultivation to the farmers was included by them for publishing in the edition. The seminar was organized by Professor and Head, Dr.S.Venkatesan, TCRS, Yethapur, Associate Professor, Dr.S.R.Venkatachalam, (PB&G), along with M/s.Mother India Pvt. Agency Ltd. A group discussion was also held with farmers, scientists and marketing agency of castor seeds.

**TRAINING TO FARMERS**

Under comprehensive development of Agricultural lands of SC & ST farmers of Thoothukudi District, a two days pre seasonal training was organized at AC&RI, Killikulam on 1.11.07 and 2.11.07 by a Pilot scheme, funded by TAHDCO. The training was presided by Dr.P.Vivekanandan, Dean Agricultural College and



Research Institute, Killikulam. Mr.S.Arumugam, Joint Director of Agriculture, Thoothukudi district inaugurated the training. 27 participants of Thoothukudi district have attended the training programme. Dr.M.Arumugam, Professor of Agronomy welcomed the gathering. Dr.C.Ponniah, Professor and Head, Department of Soil and Crops delivered the facilitation address and Dr.R.Veeraputhiran, Assistant Professor of Agronomy proposed vote of thanks.

**DIRECTOR'S VISIT TO HYDERABAD A HUB OF SEED INDUSTRIES**

Dr. M. Thangaraju, Director (Students' Welfare) and Dr. K.S. Subramanian, Associate Professor (Students' Welfare) visited various seed and biotech

**NCC DAY CELEBRATION**



Dr.K.Vanangamudi, Dean (Agriculture) AC & RI, Coimbatore was presiding over the NCC day celebration on 25.11.07, Sunday as a part of the

NCC activities of 4 and 5 Tamil Nadu Battalion NCC, Coimbatore. He also hoisted the National Flag and administered the Anti Dowry Pledge to the

Senior division boys and girls cadets of the University. A tree planting programme was carried out at the Eastern block of the University to commemorate the NCC day.

As a part of NCC day celebrations, the NCC cadets took out a rally emphasizing the importance of conserving natural resources and saving Mother Earth. Placards highlighting the problems of land, water and air pollution were taken by the cadets inside the University premises. Captain A.Palaniswamy and Lieutenant S.Manonmani, Associate NCC Officers of Senior division boys and girls made the arrangements for the NCC day celebrations.

Hyderabad recently as per the direction of the Vice Chancellor. During their visit, they briefed about our university profile, courses offered, capacity building of students and special features of our curriculum that makes an edge over other degree programs. They visited a wide range of agro-based industries which include Bioseeds, Vibha Seeds, Agri-business Incubator, Seed Works (US Agri-

Seeds), Prabhat Agri Biotech, Heritage Foods, Nagarjuna Fertilizers & Chemicals Ltd, besides Sathguru Consultants and CRIDA. Their visits will likely to attract at least 12 companies for upcoming Campus Interviews or Job Fair in 2008.

Their visit also sensitized the performance of our students already placed in various seed

industries in Hyderabad. Many employers expressed that our graduates are doing excellently well and their performance was consistently commendable invariably in all sectors. Hyderabad is being the hub of seed industries, we strongly believe that these companies will participate in the upcoming campus interviews which promote employability of our graduates.

### AWARDS FOR TNAU SCIENTISTS



Dr.V.Saravanakumar, Assistant Professor of Dept. of Agril. Economics was awarded the best research paper in the International conference held at the Post Graduate Institute of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka held during 14-16<sup>th</sup> November, 2007 for his paper entitled “**A Pricing Model for Milk based on Cost of Production**” which suggested that the pricing of milk is to be determined based on the cost of production instead of existing dual axis pricing policy. He has also secured “**Dr. Doshi Foundation Award**” for the best research paper presentation in the recently held Agricultural Economics Research Association at Dharwad, Karnataka.



Association for the Improvement in Production and Utilization of Banana confers '**Fellow of AIPUB**' award to Dr.N.Kumar, Professor (Horticulture) recently during the National conference on Banana, in recognition of the contributions made for the improvement of banana through breeding and improved production technologies. He has made significant contributions in the field of banana research. He is responsible for developing two banana hybrids namely viz., H-212 and NPH 02.02 which are known for their resistant reaction to Fusarium wilt and nematodes. He has also standardized High Density Planting and fertigation techniques in banana.

### IMPORTANT VISITORS

- ▶ His Excellency the Governor of Tamil Nadu, **Th.Surjit Singh Barnala** on 13.11.07.
- ▶ Hon'ble Union Finance Minister, **Th. P. Chidambaram** on 13.11.07.
- ▶ **Th. Veerapandi S. Arumugam**, Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture, Govt. of Tamil Nadu on 13.11.07.
- ▶ **Th. Pongalur N. Palanisamy**, Hon'ble Minister for Rural Industries, Govt. of Tamil Nadu on 13.11.07.
- ▶ **Dr. G. S. Vijaya Raghavan**, James McGill Professor, Canada on 13.11.07.
- ▶ Members of National park of Singapore on 20.11.07.
- ▶ A team comprising scientist and farmers from Mexico from 22.11.07 to 25.11.07.

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## NEW SCHEMES

Name of the Scheme	PI	Amount (lakhs)	Funding Agency
Harnessing the potential of Biopesticides against phytonematodes: Institute Industry linked programme for greater uptake in Horti-Segment	Dr.E.I.Jonathan Professor (Nematology)	23.80	DBT, GOI
Invitro & in vivo nutrition studies in amla through gamma rays	Dr.V.Ponnuswami, Professor (Hort.)	17.70	BARC of BRNS, Mumbai
Development of salt tolerant high market valued rice mutant varieties	Dr.S.Geetha Professor and Head (Crop Improvement)	13.03	BARC, Mumbai
Management of Cotton Bollworms by Entomo-Pathogenic Nematodes	Dr. N. Seenivasan, Asst. Prof. (Nematology)	5.53	Life Sciences Research
Demonstration of pit method of sugarcane cultivation under drip fertigation system; paired row method of sugarcane cultivation; an mini portable sprinkler irrigation system for the coastal sandy soils of Tamil Nadu	Dr.S.Mahendran, Professor (Agronomy)	5.25	Ministry of Water Resources, GOI
Seed and seed crop fortification with KCPL secondary proteins	Dr.R.Umarani Asst. Prof. (SST)	3.38	Kerala Chemicals & Proteins Ltd., Cochin
Post Harvest studies in tomato & rose with celfresh 0.8% tablet (1-MCPA)	Dr.V.Ponnusami Professor (Hort.)	2.50	Excel crop care Ltd., Mumbai
Biological testing of sea weed base of EM&MA gel type in tomato & banana	Dr.L.Pugalendhi Prof. & Head (Vegetables)	2.50	Bioorganic technology, Mumbai
Appraisal of State Horticulture Farms	Dr.D.Veeraragavathatham, Dean (Hort.)	2.45	TANHODA, Chennai.
Breeding for PRSV resistance in papaya through inter generic hybridization	Dr.T.N.Balamohan. Professor (Hort.)	2.30	M/s.Senthil papain & Food Products P Ltd, CBE
Pilot project on Comprehensive Development and Agricultural lands of SC&ST in Thoothukudi district.	Dr.J.Sundersingh Rajapandian, Prof. (Agronomy)	2.25	THADCO, Chennai
Large scale field trails for evaluation of Bt Brinjal hybrids	Dr.L.Pugalendhi Prof. & Head (Vegetables)	1.50	RCGM, DBT, GOI
Technical evaluation of private nurseries in Tamil Nadu for supplying Planting Materials to TANHOPE	Dr.E.Vadivel, DEE	1.40	TANHOPE, Chennai

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