

TNAU NEWS



TAMILNADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY NEWS LETTER

Patron : **Dr. P. SANTHANA KRISHNAN** - Acting Vice Chancellor

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

Acting VC's visit to CRS, Veppanthattai >>>

Dr. P. Santhana Krishnan, Acting Vice Chancellor & Registrar, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, visited Cotton Research Station, Veppanthattai on 26.03.2009 and reviewed the progress of research activities. He also participated in the field day on "*Precision farming in sunflower*" demonstrations at Essanai Village, Perambalur District and interacted with the farmers

The demonstrations aimed at the effect of drip fertigation of water soluble fertilizer on sunflower hybrids compared to the farmers practice. During the interaction, the participated farmers were convinced about the superiority of drip fertigation in having uniform good crop stand, early flowering and hopeful of getting higher yields. Also the farmers expressed their requirements of farm implements like motorized conoweeder for using in SRI system of rice cultivation. The Acting Vice



Chancellor explained to the farmers about the new interventions made by the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University in marketing like market prize through SMS to the mobile phones of progressive farmers and weather forecasting through TNAU

website which aims at higher net profit to the farmers.

Dr.A.R.Mohamed Haroon, Professor and Head, welcome the gathering and Dr.G.Kathiresan, Professor (Agronomy) proposed vote of thanks.

42nd Research council meeting – 2009

The 42nd meeting of the Research Council was held at Seminar Hall I of TNAU on 02.03.2009. Dr.P.Santhanakrishnan, Acting Vice-Chancellor and Registrar, TNAU chaired the meeting and inaugurated the Research Council Meeting.

Dr.B.Chandrasekaran, Director of Research, TNAU, welcomed the scientists and presented the Agenda comprising the confirmation of the proceedings of the 41st Research Council meeting, research highlights for the year 2008-09 and the new activities carried out during the period under report. He emphasized the efforts taken to conserve germplasm, irrigation and fertilizer

management, development of resistant lines, quality seed production, research reorientation towards market demand and global competitiveness, nanotechnology and biotechnological approaches towards increasing the crop productivity.

Registrar and the acting Vice Chancellor, while appreciating the efforts put forth by the scientists in getting collaborative projects at the national and international level, emphasized the need for the enhanced bio-energy production, more investment in bio-labs, study on the effect of weather on pest and diseases, value addition of products, seed production with public - private partnership, food and nutritional security, electrically operated machineries, post harvest

technology, medicinal plants, patentship and educating young scientists to plan for future farmers' demand oriented programmes.

Dr.S.Jebaraj, Director (TRRI) while proposing vote of thanks appreciated the efforts taken by the scientists in releasing several varieties, management techniques to combat the foes of farmer.

CSISA Workshop at IIRRI

A mega project on "**Cereal Systems Initiatives for South Asia**" (CSISA) funded by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and USAID is going to be operated at Tamil Nadu Rice Research



Institute, Aduthurai representing the rice-rice system of South India. CSISA is a IRRI (Philippines)-CIMMYT (Mexico)-TNAU(India) collaborative project involving India(3sites)and Bangladesh (1 site) Dr.S.Jebaraj, Director, and Dr.R.Rajendran, Professor (Agronomy), TRRI attended

the 1st CSISA planning workshop on objective 2 at IRRI, Philippines on 23rd and 24th March 2009. This mega project is expected to be formally launched at New Delhi during the last week of April 2009.

26th Lighting Ceremony

The 26th Lighting ceremony was celebrated on 23.3.09 at Home Science College and Research Institute, Madurai. Dr.T.Padmini, Staff Advisor welcomed the gathering Dr.A.Andal, Dean (Home Science) in her presidential address emphasized the importance of lighting ceremony which is symbolic

of passing the light of wisdom by which the students carry knowledge on various fields from this institute to different places. Dr.K.Vanangamudi, Dean (Agri), AC&RI, Coimbatore lighted the mother lamp and delivered the key note address. In his message he highlighted the various avenues viz., fashion designing, interior decoration, fruits and vegetable preservation sector, which are having tremendous scope for Home Science Graduates. Further, he stressed the importance of knowledge needed on management aspects for students which could make them fit to start on their own employment ventures. Dr.K.Ramamoorthy, Dean, AC&RI, Madurai, in his felicitation address, highlighted the need to inculcate the self confidence and positive attitude

Agribusiness incubation meet >>>



Agri Business Incubator-ICRISAT and Tamil Nadu Agricultural University have become the harbingers in starting agribusiness incubation in the state of Tamil Nadu. Under the joint efforts of both the organizations, Agri Business Incubation Meet was conducted by the Directorate of Agri Business Development on 18th March 2009 in which agribusiness incubation activities were started officially. Dr.Kiran K.Sharma, Principal Scientist and Head, Agri Business Incubator, ICRISAT was the chief guest. Dr.P.Subbian, Director (Agribusiness), Dr.B.Chandrasekaran, Director of

Research, TNAU, Dr.A.S.Ponnusamy, Special Officer (Seeds), TNAU and many other scientists attended the meet. Agripreneurs looking for business incubation services in various arena attended the meeting.

Dr.P.Subbian welcomed the participants and briefed about the Directorate of Agri Business Development and activities being carried out at the Agribusiness Incubator established under the MoU signed between TNAU and ICRISAT. Mr.R.Bhubesh Kumar, Asst. Manager, ABI-ICRISAT presented the activities carried out,

incubation services to be extended to incubates and future activities.

Dr.Kiram K Sharma, during his speech, highlighted the need for business incubation and stressed that the scientific inventions have to benefit the common man for which, ICRISAT is working and having its slogan "Science with a Human Face". Agri Business Incubators will serve as an effective platform for commercializing scientific inventions. Dr.Sharma specially appreciated the women entrepreneurs who attended the meet.

Dr.B.Chandrasekaran, Director of Research, TNAU during his address elaborated the efforts of TNAU in developing need based technologies. He appreciated the advances made in business incubation under the ICRISAT-TNAU partnership.

Discussion session was also organized as a part of the meet during which Dr.Kiran K Sharma and other officials clarified the queries of entrepreneurs. All the entrepreneurs have expressed their interest to become members of the Agribusiness incubator. Dr.S.D.Sivakumar, Professor, Agricultural Rural Management, TNAU proposed vote of thanks.

Training and awareness programme on 'commodity futures market' >>>

At Madurai

A two day training programme for the Scientists of TNAU and NGOs and a one day awareness programme for farmers and Development Department officials on "Commodity Futures Market" were organized at Agricultural College and Research Institute, Madurai during 5-7, February 2009.

Dr. K. Ramamoorthy, Dean AC&RI Madurai inaugurated the training



programme. Dr. A. Daniel Viswasam Samuel, Professor and Head, Department of Agricultural Economics, AC&RI Madurai welcomed the gathering. Shri.V.V. Ganeshan, Asst. Vice President, NCDEX Mumbai delivered the special address on Commodity Futures Market. Dr. S. Senthilnathan Associate Professor, Department of Agricultural Economics, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore offered vote of thanks. Technical sessions started with introduction of basic concepts about futures market, deviation from the commodity markets and functioning of commodity futures markets. Shri. V.V. Ganeshan explained the management strategies adopted in NCDEX and provided hints on the means and methods for the farmers to take part in the commodity futures market. On the second day, Dr. Prabhakar Patil, Director, Forward Markets Commission, Mumbai spoke about the genesis of commodity futures market in India followed by the description of

activities of Forward Markets Commission in regulating commodity exchanges. He also deliberated on the activities of Forward Markets Commission and how it protects the interests of both buyers and sellers participating in the commodity futures market.

At Coimbatore

A one day awareness programme for farmers and Department officials and a two day training programme for the Scientists of TNAU and NGOs on "Commodity Futures Market" were organized at the Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development Studies, TNAU, Coimbatore during 25-27 February 2009.

Dr.P.Sanathanakrishnan, Acting Vice Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University presided over and inaugurated the training and awareness programme. In his inaugural speech, he mentioned that, as on date, farmers are not getting any prior information about the markets (arrival, quantity and prices) of their products. If the peasants planning some crops now and are very much concerned that price will crash by the time the crop comes in, then if there is futures market, they will have the option to sell their products in it. Price in the futures markets being fixed, by selling products in futures markets they get rid of their worries about the

unexpected price fall. This helps them to take the risk of innovations, by using new high yielding varieties of seeds, fertilizers and new techniques of cultivation.

Dr. M. Chandrasekaran, Director i/c, Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development Studies, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore welcomed the gathering. Shri.V.V. Ganeshan, Asst. Vice President, NCDEX Mumbai delivered the special address on Commodity Futures Market. Dr. S. Senthilnathan Associate Professor, Department of Agricultural Economics, proposed vote of thanks.

Two days training programme for Scientists started with introduction of basic concepts about futures market, deviation from the commodity markets and functioning of commodity futures markets. Shri. V.V. Ganeshan has explained the management strategies adopted in NCDEX and provided hints on the means and methods for the farmers to take part in the commodity futures market. He further emphasized the need for the agricultural scientists to train the farmers on participating in the commodity futures markets in the emerging scenario of agricultural marketing in India. Shri.V.V Ganeshan has expressed his



willingness to provide financial support for the conduct of a series of awareness programmes, preferably in different localities of the state by the Scientists who got trained in this programme.

towards their activities to achieve desired things. Dr.M.R.Premalatha, Professor and Head (Family Resource Management), Dr.S.Parvathi, Professor and Head (Human Development), Dr.P.Banumathi, Professor and Head (Food Science and Nutrition) and Dr.P.Muthiah Moniharan, Professor and Head (Home Science Extension) felicitated the students. Miss C.Narmadha of IV B.Sc. (Home Science) received the best out going students' award. Dr.J.Pushpa, Associate Professor (Agrl. Extension) proposed the vote of thanks.

Training for producers groups from Andaman

A training program on "Modem Vegetable Cultivation" was conducted by the Directorate of Agribusiness Development, for farmers representing Primary Producer Groups from Andaman & Nicobar Islands during 23rd to 26th February 2009. The training was sponsored by



the Community Enterprise Forum International, New Delhi. This training program was conducted as a part of the collaborative business incubation project of Agri Business Incubator ICRISAT and Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU). The training was inaugurated by Dr.P.Subbian, Director, Agribusiness Development.

Various topics viz., nursery technologies, construction of low cost poly houses and shade nets, precision farming and pest and disease

management in vegetable crops were dealt as a part of the program. The sessions were conducted in the field so as to make the trainees well acquainted with the technologies. To provide complete knowledge on the farm business of vegetable cultivation and to start an enterprise, sessions on post harvest management, processing and marketing was conducted. Trainees were taken on field visit to Annur village, where they had hands on experience on hi-tech poly house cultivation of tomato and to Thondamuthur village where they were exposed to precision farming and shade net cultivation practices.

TNAU student for internship in National Parks Board, Singapore

Mr. G. Vivek, I year masters student in Horticulture, Tamil Nadu Agricultural

Training on palmyrah based cottage industries to women SHG members >>>

Faculty of Horticulture, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore has organized a two days training programme to women self group members on palmyrah based cottage industries at Kavor of Kadayam Block, Thirunelveli District on 21st & 22nd March '09 under the DBT funded scheme entitled "Entrepreneurship development of edible and non edible products formulation, value addition and

marketing of palmyrah (*Borassus flabellifer*) palm. Around one hundred women self help group members and palmyrah tappers were participated in the program.

Mr. Natesan, Director, Centre for Peoples' Education of Pavor Chathiram gave introductory remarks about the scope and importance of palmyrah based industries in Thirunelveli,

Thoothukudi and Raamnad Districts. He has visualized a huge marketing potential for palmyrah based food products in national as well as international markets.

In this training programme Dr. V. Ponnuswami, Professor (Hort.) and Principal Investigator of several palmyrah schemes imparted training to the participants about the consumer attractive handicrafts prepared from palm leaves, fruits, roots and petiole. He also highlighted the importance of neera as a chemical residue free natural health refreshing nutritious drink and this can be promoted across the world. In this training programme, the use of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University palm climbing device was demonstrated and the palmyrah tappers were trained. A handout on value addition of palmyrah products were distributed among the participants. In the deliberations, all the queries related to palmyrah and its byproducts including palm climbing device and marketing of all palmyrah products were clarified.



Training to NGOs)))

One day training programme to NGO Personnel by Spices Board was jointly organized by Spices Board, Coimbatore and TRCS, Yethapur on 19.3.2009 at Tapioca and Castor Research Station, Yethapur. About 65 farmers and NGOs were participated and benefited.

In the inaugural function, Th.M.S.Ramalingam Senior Field Officer (SFO), Spices Board, Coimbatore welcomed the gathering. Dr.V.Palanisamy, Professor and Head, Tapioca and Castor Research Station, Yethapur stressed the importance of spices and its development for increasing the production and productivity. Shri. C. Palanivel, Annai Pasumai Bhoomi, Attur in this presidential address, explained about the activities of NGOs and involvement in the organic farming and market led extension. In the technical



session, role of Bio control agents in controlling the pests of spices, turmeric cultivation practices, the quality issues and up gradation practices in turmeric etc., were dealt.

The NGOs like Annai Pasumai Bhoomi, Attur, Tribal Health Initiative, Sittilingam,

Samadanapura, Anupur and Horticulture Self Help Groups, Thirumanur of Salem District have shared their experiences on spices cultivation and organic farming. Apart from the regular proceedings, general discussions were held among the farmers, scientists and NGOs.



University, Coimbatore has been selected for research internship in Centre for Urban Greenery and Ecology, National Parks Board, Singapore. TNAU has

signed a MoU with the National Parks Board, Singapore in August last year to facilitate academic exchanges and support collaborative research activities between TNAU and National Parks Board, Singapore.

The framework includes co-operative programs facilitating student research attachment and developing joint projects and programs in fields related to urban horticulture, urban greenery and urban ecology. Under this MoU, post graduate students will take up their research work in various National Parks of Singapore. During the internship, Mr. Vivek will undertake studies on "standardization of hydroseeding techniques for lawn establishment in urban landscape". The internship will be for a period of 6-12 months starting from July 1, 2009. The student is entitled to round trip air travel to and from Singapore, accommodation and a monthly

allowance of 850 Singapore dollars

Workshop on cashew at KVK, Vamban

An One day "Workshop on Cashew" was jointly organized by the Directorate of Cashewnut and Cocoa Development, Cochin and TNAU-Regional Research Station, Vriddhachalam and Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Vamban on 20.02.2009 at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Vamban, Pudukottai District. Nearly 200 participants comprising farmers, Extension functionaries of State Department of Horticulture, Agriculture, cashew processors, Exporters participated in the workshop.

Dr.S.Jebaraj, Director, Tamil Nadu Rice Research Institute, Aduthurai inaugurated the workshop by lighting the kuthuvilakku. Dr.P.L. Viswanathan, Professor and Head, Regional Research Station, Vriddhachalam welcomed the guests and

participants attending the workshop and gave a brief introductory address about the workshop and the guests invited for the felicitation address.

Dr.S.Jebaraj, Director, Tamil Nadu Rice Research Institute, Aduthurai in his presidential address appealed to the farmers to make use of improved technologies developed for improving the yield. He released the book "Technologies for cashew production" which was received by the Deputy Director of Horticulture, Pudukottai.

Deputy Director of Horticulture, Pudukottai, Professor and Head, National Pulses Research Center complex, Vamban, The General Manager (Project), Sattva Agro Export



Private Limited, Anchor Promoter, Agri Export Zone, Chennai Representative from VL Agencies, Cashew processing equipments Dealer, Coimbatore addressed the gathering.

In connection with the workshop, an exhibition depicting various aspects of cashew production technologies in the

form of charts, models and live specimens were arranged for the benefit of participants.

A total of seven technical presentations viz., High yielding varieties of cashew, softwood grafting in cashew, integrated nutrient management for cashew, Micro irrigation in cashew, cashew management technologies,

Management of Tea Mosquito Bug in Cashew and Management of Stem and Root Borer in cashew were made for the benefit of farmers.

During the workshop the farmers were provided with training material Dr.M.Ramasamy, Professor and Head, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Vamban proposed a vote of thanks.

NEW SCHEMES

Name of the Scheme	PI	Amount (lakh Rs.)	Funding Agency
Promotion of organic farming and organic manure production in Tamil Nadu	Dr. P. Subramanian Professor (ENS)	156.00	Govt. of India
Establishment of Aerosol observatory for assessing the Aerosol Radiative Forcing over India (ARFI)	Dr. C. Udayasoorian Prof. and Head (ENS)	48.00	ISRO-SPL, Thiruvananthapuram
Evaluation of long term effect of TNPL effluent irrigation and remediation of effluent irrigated soil habitat	Dr. C. Udayasoorian Prof. and Head (ENS)	44.52	TNPL, Karur
Establishment of Environmental Observatory	Dr. C. Udayasoorian Prof. and Head (ENS)	41.92	ISRO-PRL, Ahemedabad
Evaluation of effectiveness of organic fertilizers (Profert and Soil Reviva) on crops, soil and environmental quality	Dr. S. Mahimairaja Professor (ENS)	29.99	Grow Green Technologies Ltd, Australia
Up-scaling of Vermiculite based treatment system (VBTS) technologies available at laboratory scale	Dr.R.M. Jayabalakrishnan Young Scientist	18.07	SERC-DST
Formulation and Development of Nutraceutical products from Solanum nigrum	Dr.S.Parvathi Professor and Head	15.00	GOI-NMPB

IMPORTANT VISITORS

- Dr.Masood Ali, Director, IIPR, Kanpur, Dr.B.B.Singh, Project Coordinator, MULLaRP on 12.03.2009.
- Ed Redona, IRRI, Philippines on 19.03.2009.
- Yaguchikue, Japan between 12.3.2009 and 15.3.2009.

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