



Tamil Nadu Agricultural University
Coimbatore – 641 003

Dr. M. Jegadeesan, Ph.D.,
Assistant Public Relations Officer
Mobile: 94890 56730

Phone: 0422 - 6611302
Fax: 0422 – 2431821
E-mail: pro@tnau.ac.in

To
The Editor,

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Sir,

I request that the following matter may kindly be published in your esteemed daily:

**TN Heading towards Second Green Revolution – says Agri Minister in
TNAU Farmers Day**

Farmers Day 2016 and New Crop Varieties and farm machinery release function was organized in TNAU Convocation Hall on 8-1-2016.

An exhibition depicting the farm technologies for doubling the productivity and tripling the income was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture Minister and Pro Chancellor of TNAU Mr. R. Vaithilingam in the Technology Park.

Thiru. Sakthivel, Pollachi West Secretary, Thiru. Malaravan, MLA offered felicitations. Mr. A.K. Selvaraj, Member of Parliament, Govt. of India in his felicitation address told that Tamil Nadu is only state where 100% subsidy is given for drip irrigation. Per capita income of the farmers should be raised to minimum 4 lakhs per annum, he added.

Mrs. Archana Patnaik, IAS., Collector, Coimbatore requested the farmers to spread the message of new technologies to their fellow farmers. Corporation Mayor Dr. Ganapathy P. Rajkumar in his address appreciated the farmers and scientists for their concerted efforts in increasing agricultural production.

Dr. M. Rajendran, I.A.S., Director of Agriculture, Govt. of Tamil Nadu in his address revealed the facts that unlike any other state, New Crop varieties and management technologies are released in front of farmers only in Tamil Nadu.

Consecutively for the past 3 years, food grain production has enormously increased to 101, 110 and 128 lakhs metric tonnes in Tamil Nadu which has not been seen for the past 30 years. Tamil Nadu has received Krishi Karman Award from the central Government for the last year and also current year Tamil Nadu stands first in India in the productivity of sugarcane, paddy and groundnut due to the concerted efforts and farmers. Due to the impetus given for millet production, minor millet production has increased to 30 lakhs tonnes. Soil testing and assessment of nutrients and balanced fertilizers application has been done in Tamil Nadu which is adopted as a model by Govt. of India for other states. Certified seeds to farmers in the name of Amma seeds and promotion of roof gardening in Chennai, Trichy, Madurai and Coimbatore are path breaking efforts to get quality produce. Sending selected farmers to foreign countries for undergoing training in new technologies is being done in Tamil Nadu. Preservation of fruits and vegetables is the area in which research work is to be carried out in future.

Dr. K. Ramasamy, Vice-Chancellor, TNAU, Coimbatore in his presidential address said that farmers are the real back bone for achievement in Tamil Nadu since they grow more food from the Shrinking land and water resources. 42 per cent farmers in Tamil Nadu should adopt new technologies and keep agriculture as the prime sector. He reiterated that there should be year round availability of water for irrigation and also efforts to increase area under vegetables and fruits with their preservation measures to be taken up so that vision 2023 may be achieved even before in next 3 years. Tamil Nadu is a fore runner in agriculture among the States of India, he added.

In his special address, Pollachi V. Jayaraman, Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Tamil Nadu Assembly said that entire Coimbatore district should be made to adopt drip irrigation throughout the year like Israel technology through Parambikulam Aliyar Project.

Hon'ble Minister for Municipal Administration, Rural Development, Law, Courts and Prisons Thiru. S.P. Velumani in his special address brought out the

concern of the government towards improvement of farming community like subsidy for drip irrigation, drought relief, crop insurance etc.

Hon'ble Agriculture Minister and Pro Chancellor of TNAU Thiru. R. Vaithilingam in his Farmers' Day address said that though urbanization has taken toll of farm lands, with shrinking land and water resources, agriculture production has not suffered in Tamil Nadu due to the efforts of government, path breaking technologies of the University and adoption by farmers. Soil and Water management technologies in Tamil Nadu has been a model to other States in India. 100 selected farmers are taken to countries like Israel and Netherland for advanced training in farm technologies. Agricultural loan to farmers to a tune of 5500 crores has been given last year with free of interest for 8 months. In 33 years, 3 new agriculture and one Horticultural College has been opened to promote agricultural education and research.

8 crop varieties and 3 farm machinery were released by Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture and Pro Chancellor of TNAU. Then the seeds of new crop varieties were distributed to 10 farmers.

Five farmers were given young farmer achiever awards and five farmers were given Velan Semmal awards.

9 Semmal awards for organic farming, agro forestry and various crops including Paddy, Hill Banana, Sugarcane, Guava, Banana, Pomegranate and Mango sponsored by different organizations were distributed. Best donor award was given to CRI Pumps, Coimbatore.

Earlier, Dr. H. Philip, Director of Extension Education welcomed the gathering. Finally, Dr. M. Maheswaran, Director of Research proposed formal vote of thanks.

Interactive sessions on various topics including coconut production technologies, farm machinery, crop protection technologies, organic farming, soil

health management for sustainable agriculture, crop varieties, improved pulse production technologies were conducted. More than 1000 farmers participated and were benefited in this occasion. And also Members of Legislative Assembly, Members of Parliament and Board of Management Members of TNAU participated.

Asst. Public Relations Officer