Tamil Nadu Agricultural University
Coimbatore – 641 003

Dr. P. Murali Arthanari Ph.D., FSKV,
Public Relations Officer
Mobile: 94890 56730

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

To
The Editor,

Date: 25-10-2019

Sir,

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

Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. Banwarilal Purohit declares open the Demonstration Plot on Ultra High Density Planting in Mango at TNAU

Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. Banwarilal Purohit, inaugurated the Demonstration Plot on Ultra High Density Planting (UHDP) in Mango in the College Orchard of Horticultural College and Research Institute (HC&RI), Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), Coimbatore on Oct. 25, 2019, in the presence of Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. R. Doraikkannu, Dr. N. Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, TNAU, Thiru. Gagandeep Singh Bedi, IAS., Agrl. Production Commissioner & Principal Secretary to Government, Agriculture Department, Board of Management Members, Staff and Students of TNAU.

Hon'ble Governor planted the first mango graft (Banganapalli) inside the Demo Plot, which was followed by planting by undergraduate, Masters and Ph.D. students, and Staff Members.

Mango is one of the most important fruit crops cultivated in Tamil Nadu. It is generally cultivated in an area of 1.6 lakh hectares (ha), with production and productivity of 11.56 lakh tonnes and 8.7 tonnes per ha respectively. Major mango growing districts in Tamil Nadu are Dharmapuri, Krishnagiri, Salem, Vellore, Theni, Tirunelveli and Tiruvallur. With increased demand for mango, shrinking land availability and increasing population, there is a need to increase the productivity per unit area.

Ultra High Density Planting (UHDP) is a new planting technique developed especially for orchard trees, whereby fruit trees are planted at a closer distance than

conventional spacing, combined with improved orchard management practices, for the purpose of utilizing the natural resources of land, light, water and nutrients more efficiently, so as to achieve increased productivity. UHDP combined with micro irrigation, fertigation, canopy management by proper training, and pruning can play an important role in achieving quick, high, stable and sustainable yields in mango orchards.

TNAU has established a Demo Plot in 1.5 acres with UHDP in mango in the College Orchard of HC&RI at TNAU, Coimbatore with closer spacing of 4 X 2 m, which means 4 m spacing between rows and 2 m spacing between two plants, so that 500 plants can be grown in an acre. Whereas, in conventional method of planting, mango is planted with 10 m X 10 m spacing, thereby accommodating only 40 plants per acre. Mango varieties *viz*., Salem Bangalora, Imam Pasand, Banganapalli and Bangalora have been planted in the Demo Plot.

Benefits of UHDP method of planting include: increase in productivity (up to 2-3 times) to the extent of 5-12 tonnes per acre (12.5-30 tonnes / hectare), optimizing the use of vertical and horizontal space, increased water-use efficiency by reducing irrigation water use by upto 50%, increased fertilizer-use efficiency and consequent saving of upto 30% of applied fertilizers, effective weed control as water is applied only to the root zone, and allows for intercropping during early years thereby making orchard crops profitable as other cash crops. The UHDP Demo Plot will be utilized for educating students and farmers, and also for conducting research studies.

The arrangements for the programme were made by Dr. L. Pugalendhi, Dean, HC&RI and his Team. The programme was attended by Board of Management Members, Students and Staff Members.

Public Relations Officer