



Tamil Nadu Agricultural University
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To
The Editor,

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Sir,

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

**5 Percent Growth Rate in Agriculture in Tamil Nadu –
says VC, TNAU**

36th Annual Convocation was held at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) Convocation hall on Aug. 17, 2015. Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture and Pro Chancellor of TNAU Thiru. R. Vaithilingam declared open the Convocation.

Dr. K. Ramasamy, Vice-Chancellor, TNAU welcomed the gathering and highlighted the achievements of the University in education and research branches. He said that research focus of the University has shifted from irrigated agriculture to dryland agriculture. In spite of 32 Districts of the State being drought prone in 2011-12, the production of 103 lakhs metric tonnes was achieved. Followed by that 112 lakhs metric tonnes in 2012-13 and 128 lakhs metric tonnes in 2013-14 which fetched Krishi Karman award. Tamil Nadu has achieved 5% growth rate in agriculture and 19% primary productivity in the sector which is first of its kind in the past 26 years. An exclusive research fund is to be allotted by the Government to foster innovative research in Agriculture in frontier areas. Certification and labeling of agricultural produce is to be taken up and NABL accredited laboratory is to be initiated for the purpose. Central Government is to channelize through World Bank 2900 crores for training faculty and scholars in India.

Honorary degrees of Doctor of Science (Honoris Causa) was conferred on Dr. Susan McCouch, Professor, Department of Plant Breeding and Genetics, Cornell University, USA, Dr. Pedro Medrano Rojas, UN Assistant Secretary-General and Senior Coordinator, New York, USA and Thiru. Ashok Bakthavathsalam, Chairman & Managing Director, K.G. Information Systems Pvt. Ltd., Coimbatore

In their acceptance speech Dr. Susan McCouch, Professor, Department of Plant Breeding and Genetics, Cornell University, USA said that her research was on genome mapping of rice and biotechnology can prize way for safer nutritionally rich grains and pest and disease free crops. And also she said that empowerment is sharing what one

has with others. Knowledge sharing is essential to foster development in agriculture. She called for the students to take up innovative research to benefit farmers.

Dr. Pedro Medrano Rojas, UN Assistant Secretary-General and Senior Coordinator, New York, USA was former UN Assistant Secretary general and in-charge of world food programme and was responsible for programmes relating to combating hunger, poverty allocation through world food programme of the United Nations.

Thiru. Ashok Bakthavathsalam, Chairman & Managing Director, K.G. Information Systems Pvt. Ltd., Coimbatore devised solar and biomass energy leaved desalination plant which got international acceptance and also took the Information Technology sector of Tamil Nadu in the fore front. He remembered the works of Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam that small aim is a crime and scholars should have big dream and accept challenge.

111 Ph.D graduates, 199 post graduate students 860, under graduates were conferred degrees. 33 students got Gold Medals for their achievements.

Dr. K. Ramasamy, Vice-Chancellor, TNAU mentioned the endowments to be instituted this year including Arima Agricultural Innovation Chair at Agricultural College & Research institute, Kumulur for 22 crores for fostering agriculture research development. Combined efforts of Government schemes, students, scientists, extension workers and farmers have moved this college to a positioning No. 1 in the Country and the save will take the University to No. 1 in the Globe.

NCC, NSS volunteers, students, scientists and staff of TNAU participated in this function. The function ended with the National Anthem.

Asst. Public Relations Officer





