



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:

**Students' Exhibition on Rural Agricultural Work Experience
held at TNAU**

The Students' Exhibition of the Rural Agricultural Work Experience (RAWE) programme was held today (Nov. 5, 2015) at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), Coimbatore.

Dr. C.R. Anandakumar, Acting Vice-Chancellor, TNAU inaugurated the Exhibition and interacted with the students.

Dr. S. Mahimairaja, Dean (Agriculture), TNAU informed that the RAWE Programme is one of the important courses offered during the undergraduate degree programme of B.Sc. (Agri.) during the final year (VII Semester). This year, the RAWE Programme was organized for a period of 90 days from August 6, 2015 to Nov. 3, 2015. The programme details are as follows:

S.No.	Components	No. of days
1.	Village Stay Programme	60
2.	Attachment with O/o Assistant Director of Agriculture (ADA)	10
3.	Attachment with Non-Governmental Organization (NGO)	10
4.	Attachment with Agro Industry	10
	Total	90

Totally 96 B.Sc. (Agri.) students (63 girls and 33 boys) underwent the programme. They were placed in three districts viz., Coimbatore, Tiruppur and Erode as follows:

S.No.	Districts	Number of students		Total
		Boys	Girls	
1.	Coimbatore	14	18	32
2.	Tiruppur	10	18	28
3.	Erode	9	27	36
	Total	33	63	96

A group of nine to eleven students were placed in ten different blocks as detailed below:

S.No.	Districts	Blocks
1.	Coimbatore	Pollachi South
		Anamalai
		Annur
2.	Tiruppur	Dharapuram
		Udumalpet
		Madathukulam
3.	Erode	Bhavanisagar
		Gobichettipalayam
		T.N.Palayam
		Sathyamangalam

Each group (11 groups) of students was under the control of one or two Group Facilitators (Scientists) who monitored the activities of the students during the entire RAWE Programme.

During the Village Stay Programme (60 days), each student was attached with a progressive farmer in the village, who guided the student and facilitated the learning process. The students learnt about the rural situation, cropping pattern, farming systems, soil types, irrigation sources, cultivation practices, problems in farming, marketing of produce, processing, value addition, etc. They interacted with Marginal, Small, Big farmers, and women farmers, and studied their farming practices. Towards the end of the Village Stay Programme the students prepared Farm Development and Village Development plans based on their experiences. During the attachment with ADA (10 days) the students were exposed to the activities of the State Department of Agriculture, its organizational set up, schemes implemented with subsidies, trainings organized, ATMA activities, etc. During their attachment with NGOs (10days), the students were exposed to their activities, schemes, group formation, training methods, and their role in rural development. During the attachment with Agro Industry (10 days), the students were exposed to different agro based industries and agribusiness ventures. The students acquired knowledge on agri business and learnt the practical aspects of application of management techniques in core areas of business management and successful running of a firm.

After completion of the RAWE Programme an Exhibition was conducted, wherein all the groups were allotted space for displaying their learning outcomes, activities conducted, models, farm / village development plans, etc., which were evaluated by a team

of Scientists. Followed by this, a two-day workshop will be held, during which each Group will present their experiences, learning outcomes, etc., which will also be evaluated by a team of Scientists.

The RAWE programme enables the students to have direct experience about farming and extension work in the real world situation. It helps them to gain good confidence about the subject matter, interaction skills with farmers and officials, analytical skills, etc.

Dr. N. Asokhan, Professor and Head, Department of Agricultural Extension and Rural Sociology, Dr. S. Srivara Buddhi Bhuvaneswari, Course Teachers and Group Facilitators, other staff members and students visited the Exhibition and interacted with the students.

Asst. Public Relations Officer