

THE HINDU

Date:01/03/2010

URL: <http://www.thehindu.com/2010/03/01/stories/2010030150970200.htm>

Guava farmers should ensure quality control: VC



FOR UPLIFT OF FARMERS: Vice-Chancellor of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University P. Murugesha Boopathi (second left) handing over farm equipment to a guava farmer in Coimbatore.

COIMBATORE: Taking advantage of the processing and export opportunities in guava, farmers should give top priority for quality control and produce guava fruits according to the specifications of the export market, P. Murugesha Boopathi, Vice-Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), said here recently.

He was inaugurating a training on "Production, Post-Harvest and Marketing of Guava" at the university. The programme was part of the project "Value Chain on Mango and Guava for Domestic and Export Market" sponsored by Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

Distributing farm equipment to guava growers, the Vice-Chancellor said the handsome economic returns the fruit gave, prompted farmers to take up guava cultivation on a commercial scale.

Lamenting on the poor awareness Indian farmers had about pesticides, Mr. Boopathy said, though India used only one-tenth of the pesticide used by the U.S., the awareness about indiscriminate use of pesticides and pesticide residue toxicity was relatively poor here.

“Several farmers bring the produce to the market the very next day after they apply pesticides, which is very hazardous to the consumers”.

Speaking about the Pesticide Residue Testing Laboratory at the university, he said the laboratory was not sufficient to meet the requirements of the State. “Therefore, TNAU has proposed to establish four regional pesticide residue testing laboratories in four locations.

The university will be submitting this proposal to the Government soon. Farmers can utilise the services of these laboratories to test their produce before marketing them”, the Vice-Chancellor said.

T.N. Balamohan, Head, Department of Fruit Crops, TNAU, said the training was organised to create awareness among farmers about the Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) in production, processing, value-addition and marketing.

V. Ponnuswami, Dean, Horticultural College and Research Institute, Periyakulam, and M. Paramathma, Director of Research, spoke.

Date:01/03/2010

URL:

<http://www.thehindu.com/2010/03/01/stories/2010030150341201.htm>

March 1, 1960: Budget 1960-61

Introducing the budget for 1960-61 in the Lok Sabha on February 29, the Finance Minister, Mr. Morarji Desai, reminded the nation that the coming financial year was the last year of the Second Five-Year Plan and care must be taken to see that the economy was in a state of healthy balance when the year ended and the Third Plan commenced. The Finance Minister announced that the Defence expenditure next year was estimated at Rs.272.26 crores as against the revised estimate of Rs.243.70 crores – an increase of Rs.28.56 crores. He said that the estimates of the Defence Services have been prepared against the background of the present threat to our borders. He reviewed the estimates of the current financial year and outlined the budget estimates for the coming year. He said the budget for the current year had estimated revenue at Rs.780.10 crores and revenue expenditure at Rs.839.18 crores leaving a revenue deficit of Rs.59.08 crores.

Date:01/03/2010

URL: <http://www.thehindu.com/2010/03/01/stories/2010030160480300.htm>

Siruvani water

This refers to two reports about drinking water position and taking over of Siruvani water scheme by the Coimbatore Corporation (Feb. 24). The first report says the drinking water position is comfortable and water supply on alternate days in the city area will be continued. It is therefore evident that there is no shortage of water at present. We, in the Veerakeralam Panchayat area, get Siruvani water once in 15 days and that too only for an hour. Many residential colonies have sprung up in the area and the population has increased manifold. But the quantum of Siruvani water allotted to our panchayat remains the same, as it was about 15 years ago. The district administration, TWAD Board and the panchayat authorities do not seem to realise that the per capita requirement of water is the same, whether in the panchayat area or in the city area. The Supreme Court had, a few years ago, remarked that the right to drinking water should be considered a fundamental right.

The second report is about the move of the Coimbatore Corporation to take over the Siruvani drinking water scheme. As correctly pointed out by the TWAD Board Workers' Union, if the Corporation takes control of the Coimbatore water supply scheme, which is meant for many other local bodies also, it will be detrimental to the panchayats. The Corporation will try its best to ensure 24-hour water supply in the city area and the fate of those in the panchayat areas can well be imagined. I therefore request the government not to allow the Coimbatore Corporation to take over the Siruvani drinking water scheme from the TWAD Board.

P.V. Sridharan, Veerakeralam.

Evil of drink

The article 'The state and the evil of drink' by Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer (Jan. 12) is timely. It is a forceful tirade against alcohol which is the root cause of poverty and most of the crimes, domestic and social, and an impassioned plea for ending the menace. For the government, alcoholic beverages are a source of sizeable revenue. But then, revenue alone is not everything. Worthy values in life such as peace, clear and right thinking, sobriety etc. must have their place in an enlightened, ordered, purposeful and progressive life. Without these life will be in a shambles. Awareness on evils of drinking must be created among people. Once an all-out effort is made by the government, it is bound to have a good response.

S. Venkatachalam,

Kavundampalayam.

Neglected Ramnagar

We, residents of Ramnagar, have been writing to various departments and also meeting officials for redressal of our problems. But all our representations have gone in vain. Here are our problems: 1. All roads in Ramnagar are bad.

The roads are full of ruts, bumps and trenches. These need immediate relaying. 2. No action has been taken for 15 years on our requests for an overhead water tank for Ramnagar and Kattur areas. 3. There are no indications about street names throughout the area and a visitor finds it difficult to locate an address. Our complaints in this regard have been pending for over six years without any action being taken. 4. Our proposals to streamline traffic in Ramnagar have not been considered at all. 5. Drains are filled with debris and waste material. As a result, drains overflow in rain and roads get inundated and damaged. Sewer lines laid about 60 years ago have outlived their utility owing to increase in population.

T.V. Kalyanakrishnan,

President, Ramnagar Residents' Welfare Association, Ramnagar.

Overhead cables

Overhead cables of private internet service providers are kept in reels on the poles and strewn on the side of roads in many parts of the city. This causes a lot of hurdles for pedestrian and vehicle movement. The Corporation should ask the companies concerned to properly keep the cables.

S. Balasubramanian, Ganapathy (Readers can mail to cbereaders@thehindu.co.in with address and phone number)

Date:01/03/2010

URL: <http://www.thehindu.com/2010/03/01/stories/2010030151020200.htm>

Beauty, joy in full display at flower arrangement

Three-day exhibition as part of the Japan cultural festival



Enchanting: Bharatanatyam exponent Alarmel Valli looks at a display at the Ikebana exhibition held at the Lalit Kala Akademi, Chennai, on Friday.

CHENNAI: Dried plants and tree branches hold utmost beauty to them, while spaces, lines, mass and surface are important features of their arrangement. Students from the Sogetsu School of Ikebana showcased their creativity in the Japanese art of flower arrangement, which was inaugurated by Bharatanatyam exponent Alarmel Valli at the Lalit Kala Akademi here on Friday.

The three-day exhibition is being organised as part of the Japan cultural festival by ABK-AOTS Dosokai, Sogetsu Study Circle in association with the Consulate General of Japan. In Meenakshi Sarin's arrangement Asia lily, ginger lily and aesthetically cut cane swirls merged to stand out in a ceramic vase.

Ambika Chandrasekar went a step further by making her exhibit eco-friendly. Eucalyptus leaves took shapes when arranged on the recycled paper basket.

Besides learning a new hobby, participants said how the art has helped them add a new dimension to their personal and professional life. Ashoka Bhupathy who has a boutique is among the few men who have been learning Ikebana from Malathi Pandurang. "In my store I match a new outfit with the arrangement. It stands out as well as brings in more curious customers," says Mr. Bhupathy, who makes a new Ikebana style every three days.

Chitra Thyagarajan has completed her basic and advanced course in Ikebana and says the art makes one explore further, even when driving. "I have around 25 ceramic, glass and other containers at home where I try different arrangements. It is the beauty and joy that this art brings out for the entire household," she says.

Others like Seethalakshmi Asaithambi specially placed order for a granite vase to coordinate with her flower arrangement.

Earlier Alarmel Valli recalled her memories of Japan, her association with Malathi Pandurang and how Ikebana, dance and poetry come together.

Date:01/03/2010

URL: <http://www.thehindu.com/2010/03/01/stories/2010030152200500.htm>

Change in focus of forestry training



Proud moment: C. Sivasankar Reddy (second right), Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Managing Director of Andhra Pradesh Forest Development Corporation, presents the topper's gold medal to Om Prakash (left) of Himachal Pradesh at the convocation of Central Academy for State Forest Service in Coimbatore on Friday. —

COIMBATORE: With the change in the forestry scenario, there is also a change in the forestry training. It has become more complex and dynamic with the focus shifting to social uplift rather than mere conservation and protection, C. Sivasankar Reddy, Principal Conservator of Forests and Managing Director, Andhra Pradesh Forest Development Corporation, Government of Andhra Pradesh, said here on Friday.

Delivering the convocation address of the IX Batch of Forest Range Officer trainees at the Central Academy for State Forest Service, Mr. Reddy said the shift was necessary considering the vast area of forest vis-À-vis the needs of the people.

Vast area

“Twenty-three per cent of Coimbatore is under forest cover. The public are increasingly keen to know what they get from this vast area. The Forest Department is under scanner by the public, politicians, non-governmental organisations, judiciary and the press. Hence, forest officers should be deft in handling situations,” Mr. Reddy said.

He cautioned them against new situations for which there were no precedents to follow. “Certain forest areas are not safe. Forests in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh are filled with anti-social elements. Handling them is very important. There have been cases of attacks and killings of forest officials. Such cases should not be handled in a docile manner. Young officers who come into the service with much energy lose the verve after five or six years. This should not be the case,” he said.

Urging the fresh officers to be proud of their job, he told them to consider the forest as a land and space resource. Only then could they come up with innovative ideas.

A.S. Jaffry, Chief Conservator of Forests and Director of Tamil Nadu Forest Academy, said Coimbatore was the seat of forestry and those who trained here were well known not only for their knowledge, but also for their ability to tackle problems.

He released 'Santaroma', a literary magazine.

Ajay Kumar, Director, Forest Education, Dehradun, and Jose T. Mathew, Principal of the academy, spoke.

Date:01/03/2010

URL: <http://www.thehindu.com/2010/03/01/stories/2010030159130300.htm>

Water level

MADURAI: Water level in the Periyar dam on Sunday stood at 109.70 feet (full level 136 feet). There was no inflow, while there was a discharge of 225 cusecs. The level in Vaigai dam was 37.60 feet with no inflow and a discharge of 60 cusecs. There was no rainfall, officials said.

Date:01/03/2010

URL: <http://www.thehindu.com/2010/03/01/stories/2010030153680300.htm>

Mettur level

TIRUCHI: The water level in the Mettur dam stood at 74.72 feet on Sunday against its full level of 120 feet. The inflow was 1,371 cusecs and the discharge, 1,800 cusecs.

Date:01/03/2010

URL: <http://www.thehindu.com/2010/03/01/stories/2010030153850300.htm>

Farmers get agricultural inputs

Tuticorin: Tamil Nadu Integrated Agriculture Modernization and Water bodies Restoration Management (TN-IAMWARM) has been implementing a scheme with the assistance of the World Bank in the Shencottaiyar sub-basin at Vilathikulam taluk in Tuticorin district.

At a function organised by the Department of Horticulture in Vilathikulam block on Friday, R. Gurumurthy, Assistant Director of Agriculture (farmers' training centre), distributed agricultural inputs worth Rs. 45,000 to 15 beneficiaries.

© Copyright 2000 - 2009 The Hindu