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<http://www.thehindu.com/2010/05/19/stories/2010051951550200.htm>

Training in production of fruit products

COIMBATORE: A training in “Commercial Production of Fruit Products” will be held at the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University here on May 25 and 26.

According to a university release, participants will be taught to make squash, beverages, jam, dehydrated fruits, pickles, fruit bar, and candies.

Those interested can send in a fee of Rs. 1,000 by demand draft drawn in favour of Dean (Agricultural Engineering), and addressed to Head, Post Harvest Technology Centre, TNAU, Coimbatore – 641003. Registration ends on May 24.

For details, contact 0422-6611268.

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<http://www.thehindu.com/2010/05/19/stories/2010051951570200.htm>

Know more about landscape gardening

COIMBATORE: A training in landscape gardening will be held at the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University on May 27 and 28.

According to a university release, the participants will be taught the following: lawn making and its maintenance, hands-on training on propagation methods of ornamental plants, plant and non-plant components in landscaping, indoor gardening and maintenance, water and nutrient management in ornamentals, and

pest and disease management of ornamentals.

Those interested can send in a fee of Rs. 2,000 by demand draft drawn in favour of Dean (Horticulture), and addressed to the Head, Department of Floriculture and Landscaping, TNAU, Coimbatore – 641003.

For details, contact 0422-6611230 or S. Velmurugan on 94436-45441.

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Rs. 28-lakh project on wastewater treatment

University's research project to help electroplating units

MADURAI: A project to find out a solution for wastewater treatment in electroplating industries has been sanctioned for Madurai Kamaraj University.

The Department of Science and Technology has provided a grant of Rs.28 lakh for the project 'Bioremediation of Electroplating Industrial Effluents.'

"Laboratory studies on wastewater treatment in electroplating industries will begin soon. The aim is to devise pollution abatement strategies for electroplating industries," P. Gunasekaran, Principal Investigator of the project and chairperson, School of Biological Sciences, told The Hindu on Tuesday.

He said that the two-year research project would be application-oriented and strategies developed for electroplating industry taken to industrial units with the help of Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board and the Tamil Nadu State Council for Science and Technology (TNSCST).

"The focus will be on microbial based bioremediation. There should be a proper

mechanism for heavy metal removal from the industrial wastewater or else it would prove hazardous to the plant system,” Dr. Gunasekaran said.

Two projects on industrial wastewater treatment were already carried out in the university laboratory, “but this particular project is of large scale.” Consultative meetings would be organised with the industries with help from the TNSCST on ways to prevent pollution and handle toxic metals, Dr. Gunasekaran said.

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DECCAN
Chronicle *On The Web*

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Official stain in Theni water

May 19 2010

May 18: Access to potable water still remains a mirage in the rural habitations of Theni district thanks to the callous attitude of three vital bodies — Tamil Nadu water supply and drainage (TWAD) board, local bodies and public health.

Apathy and utter lack of coordination between the three departments has led to the break out of cholera which has claimed four lives and affected several others. Deputy chief minister M.K. Stalin went on record in the Assembly that contaminated water claimed the life of 10-year-old Pavithra at Uthamapalayam. Mixing of sewerage with water supplied under the Uthamapalayam combined drinking water supply scheme led to the hospitalisation of 83 people on Wednesday of whom Pavithra died of diarrhoea, he had said. It was later confirmed that she died of cholera.

Till Sunday, cholera deaths continued. According to collector P. Muthuveeran, 10 out of 14 people tested positive for cholera. Influx of patients continued with another 49 getting admitted to the government hospitals in Cumbum, Chinnamanur and Uthamapalayam on Monday.

Dr R.T. Porkaipandiyam, director, public health, said, “Two blocks — Kombai and Odaipatti — have been affected.” A week has passed but the district administration has failed to take action against employees who supplied the contaminated water to these blocks. While the TWAD board passes the buck to the town panchayats for distributing water without chlorinating it, the local body officials hold the TWAD board responsible.

According to Dr Porkaipandiyam, four grams of chlorine should be added to every 1,000 litres of water. However, sources said the water sample test revealed that it had not been chlorinated and contained faecal matter. Sources said public health officials, whose job is to monitor the chlorination process, had also failed in their duty. The worrying sign is, despite Mr. Muthuveeran’s warning, Uthamapalayam and other town and village panchayats continue to let drainage into Mullaiperiyar river, the only drinking water source in the region.

Source URL:

<http://www.deccanchronicle.com/chennai/official-stain-theni-water-914>

THE TIMES OF INDIA

Low attention span in kids linked to pesticides

AP, May 18, 2010, 12.40am IST

CHICAGO: A new analysis of US health data links children's attention-deficit disorder with exposure to common pesticides used on fruits and vegetables.

While the study couldn't prove that pesticides used in agriculture contribute to childhood learning problems, experts said the research is persuasive. "I would take it quite seriously," said Virginia Rauh of Columbia University, who has studied prenatal exposure to pesticides and wasn't involved in the new study.

Children may be especially prone to the health risks of pesticides as they're still growing and they may consume more pesticide residue than adults relative to their body weight.

In the body, pesticides break down into compounds that can be measured in urine. Almost universally, the study found detectable levels: The compounds turned up in the urine of 94% of the children. The kids with higher levels had increased chances of having ADHD, attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder, a common problem that causes students to have trouble in school.

The kids may have eaten food treated with pesticides, breathed it in the air or swallowed it in their drinking water. Experts said it's likely children who don't live near farms are exposed through what they eat.

So far, 2010 is warmest ever in recorded history

PTI, May 18, 2010, 11.28am IST

WASHINGTON: The year 2010 is turning out to be the warmest ever in recorded history, with the first four months reporting an average temperature of 13.3 degrees Celsius which is 0.69 degrees above the 20th century average.

The combined global land and ocean surface temperatures for the period between January and April were the warmest on record, and April was the warmest individual month ever, America's climate agency has said in its latest report.

The combined April global land and ocean average surface temperature was the warmest on record at 14.5 degrees Celsius (58.1 degrees F).

This is 0.76 degrees Celsius above the 20th century average of 13.7 degrees Celsius, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), said.

The earth's temperature for January-April at 56.0 degrees Fahrenheit (13.3°C), is 1.24 degrees Fahrenheit or (0.69°C) above the 20th century average, it said.

While the global ocean surface temperature was 0.57 degrees C above the 20th century average of 16 degrees and the warmest on record for April, the global land temperature was 1.29 degrees Celsius above the 20th century average of 8.1, the third warmest on record for April.

The report said the warmth was most pronounced in the equatorial portions of major oceans, especially the Atlantic.

Warmer-than-normal conditions dominated the globe, with the most prominent warmth in

Canada, Alaska, eastern US, Australia, South Asia, northern Africa and northern Russia.

Cooler-than-normal places included Mongolia, Argentina, far eastern Russia, the western contiguous United States and most of China, it said.

The El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO), a climate pattern that occurs across the tropical Pacific Ocean on average every five years, weakened in April, as sea-surface temperature anomalies decreased across the equatorial Pacific.

The climate pattern is known for its association with floods, droughts and other weather disturbances in many regions of the world, which vary with each event.

The weakening contributed significantly to the warmth observed in the tropical belt and the warmth of the overall ocean temperature for April.

According to NOAA's Climate Prediction Center, El Niño is expected to continue through June.

The agency said the Arctic sea ice was below normal for the 11th consecutive April, and 2.1 per cent below the 1979-2000 average extent. It was, however, the largest April Arctic sea ice extent since 2001.

Further, satellite observations showed snow cover extent was fourth-lowest on record since 1967.

Weather

Chennai - INDIA

Today's Weather



Cloudy

Wednesday, May 19

Max Min

36.4° | 28.7°

Rain: Tracemm in24hrs Sunrise: 05:43

Humidity: 60% Sunset: 18:27

Wind: Normal Barometer: 1008.1mb

Tomorrow's Forecast








Tstorm

Thursday, May 20

Max Min

35° | 28°

Extended Forecast for a week

| Friday | Saturday | Sunday | Monday | Tuesday |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| May 21 | May 22 | May 23 | May 24 | May 25 |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 35° 28° | 38° 29° | 38° 30° | 39° 30° | 39° 30° |
| Tstorm | Cloudy | Cloudy | Partly Cloudy | Cloudy |