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'Increase agriculture growth'



for reference:K. Nanda Kishore (second right), Agricultural Production Commissioner and Agriculture Secretary, releasing a book at the Scientific Workers' Conference at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University in Coimbatore on Tuesday. –

COIMBATORE: Agriculture scientists, extension workers, and farmers have faced the vagaries of weather and come out well in terms of agriculture production. The rice production for this year has already exceeded 70 lakh tonnes as against the annual 50 lakh tonnes which was prevalent around 2005. Nevertheless, the existing gaps have to be reduced to further boost agriculture growth in the State, K. Nanda Kishore, Agricultural Production Commissioner and Secretary to Government, Agriculture Department, Government of Tamil Nadu, said here on Tuesday.

Inaugurating the two-day 76th Scientific Workers' Conference at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), he called for renewed focus on increased production, productivity, income of farmers, and reduced input costs.

“Horticulture is doing well in the State. Also, technologies like System of Rice Intensification (SRI), high density farming, etc., are helping farmers reap benefits. Certain important facilities should be transformed into user friendly inputs for use by farmers. They should be made to realise the significance of wastage of agricultural produce, water wastage, water saving techniques and drip irrigation methodologies,” the Commissioner said.

He called for modification or invention of machinery and equipment to augment agriculture. Need-based short-term research was called for vis-à-vis long-term and on-going research. P. Murugesu Boopathi, Vice-Chancellor of the university, said the National Food Security Mission had already made an impact on the output of rice and wheat, but the production of pulses continued to fluctuate.

Among the many threats to food security, climate change and global warming become magnified. “Tamil Nadu has six per cent of India's population, is endowed with three per cent of cultivable land, and 3 per cent of water resources. Considering these statistics, the State still holds record status for productivity in sugarcane, sun flower, cotton, and certain other horticultural crops.”

He stressed the need for timely transfer of technologies for increased agricultural production in the State.

S. Kosalaraman, Commissioner of Agriculture, said the challenge was meeting the requirements of the increasing population. “Producing more food in the face of reduced space and water is becoming more and more difficult. New varieties of crops that have been developed in rice and urad dal have great potential. The Agriculture Minister has announced that 112 lakh tonne food grain production has been set as target for the

State in 2010. National Food Security Mission will be extended to more districts from the present 12,” he said.

B. Chandra Mohan, Director of Horticulture and Plantation Crops, Chennai, said at present 13 lakh hectares in the State was under horticulture. “We are looking at the university in providing quality seeds. Banana and tomato productivity has been very good. Chillies, tomatoes, brinjals, greens, and onions are the most consumed vegetables. These need to be focussed on for procurement of quality seeds.”

He called for fine-tuning and standardisation in the implementation of technologies like precision farming, micro-irrigation, and fertigation in horticulture. He asked the Government to rejuvenate old mango and cashew orchards to increase productivity.

B. Sathiyamoorthy, Assistant Director, Sericulture, Coimbatore, R. Subramanian, Chief Engineer, Agricultural Engineering, Chennai, and V. Kandasamy, Director of Seed Certification (in-charge), Coimbatore, were among those who spoke. Books authored by the faculty and scientists of TNAU were released by Mr. Nanda Kishore.

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## **Cultivate crops in the polluted lands, farmers told**

ERODE: State Planning Commission member G. Kumaravelu has appealed to farmers to cultivate crops such as bamboo in the lands which were polluted due to the discharge of effluents in the water carrying channels.

The mass cultivation of crops such as bamboo would help for the bio-remediation of polluted soil, he said while participating at a meeting held here on Tuesday.

## Fund

Interacting with the farmers and representatives of various farmers' associations on the rehabilitation of the polluted soil, he said that the State Government had allotted Rs. 10 crore for the Environment Protection and Clean Energy Development Fund, which was created to implement programmes aimed at protection of the environment and to take up measures to help mitigate global warming.

## Dyeing units

Mr. Kumaravelu, a full-time member of the Commission, said that the meeting was arranged to particularly discuss the environmental issues with farmers in the district, who were affected due to the pollution caused by the dyeing units in the Kalingarayan water carrying canal.

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## **Call to repay farm loans in time**

TIRUCHI: The Tiruchi District Co-operative Union on Monday conducted members education programme for primary agricultural co-operative credit societies of Thinniam, Thirumanamedu, Manakkal and Ariyur in Tiruchi district.

Presiding over the function, S.Mayandi, Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Lalgudi Circle, appealed to the members of the societies to repay their farm loans in time and get fresh loans. He explained the concessions given to the farmers by the Government . Agricultural loans issued by the primary agricultural co-operative credit societies after April 2009 would bear no interest if the loans are repaid before the due date, he said.He pointed out that joint liability groups were formed for members and small farmers could join these groups and avail group loans. Women self help groups

were also given loans He said that the co-operative societies were encouraged to increase the sale of fertiliser, seeds and other agricultural inputs.

Mr Mayandi honoured the members of the Manakkal and Ariyur agricultural co-operative credit societies who had repaid their crop loans in time. S.Madhivanan, Special Officer of Tiruchi District Co-operative Union, A.James, R.Nagarajan, V. Dharmalingam, co-operative sub-registrars, attended the meeting.

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## **Simple sensor detects pesticide in soft drinks**

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May 25: In a major scientific breakthrough a Tamil Nadu scientist has developed an easy solution for detecting the presence of nanogram levels of hazardous residues in soft drinks and water.

Prof Paramasivam Manisankar, head of the department of industrial chemistry, Alagappa University, Karaikudi, and his team of researchers have developed an electrochemical sensor which can find the presence of even one billionth of a gram of pesticide residue which is quite common in soft drinks and even bottled water. "It functions like a glucose sensor used to detect glucose levels in blood and urine samples. All one has to do is to put the sensor in the soft drink or water sample. You will get to know the exact amount of such compounds," Prof Manisankar told Deccan Chronicle.


“It required complex chemicals and lengthy tests to confirm the presence of impurities. But, our electrochemical sensors will help even a layman find out the residues present in any compounds,” he said. Prof Manisankar made use of the principles of electrochemistry to identify pollutants in the environment.

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**hindustantimes**

 Wed, 26 May 2010

## Weather

Chennai - INDIA

### Today's Weather



Partly Cloudy

**Wednesday, May 26**

Max    Min

40.2° | 28.6°

Rain: Trace

Sunrise: 05:41

Humidity: 75%

Sunset: 18:29

Wind: Normal

Barometer: 1003.0

### Tomorrow's Forecast



Partly Cloudy

**Thursday, May 27**

Max    Min

37° | 29°

### Extended Forecast for a week

Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
<b>May 28</b>	<b>May 29</b>	<b>May 30</b>	<b>May 31</b>	<b>Jun 1</b>



38° | 29°

Partly Cloudy



38° | 29°

Partly Cloudy



37° | 29°

Sunny



37° | 29°

Sunny



37° | 29°

Sunny