



TNAU NEWS

TAMIL NADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY NEWS LETTER

Patron: **Dr. K. Ramasamy**, Vice Chancellor
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Planning & Monitoring

ஊருக்கெல்லாம் உணவளிக்கும் உத்தம உழவர்களுக்கு
உதவிக்கரம் நீட்டும் பல்கலைக்கழகம்

Scientific Workers' Conference – 2014



The 80th Scientific Workers' Conference was held at TNAU, Coimbatore on 29th and 30th of May, 2014. On the first day technical presentations and interactions sessions were held involving both the Officers from the development Departments and the TNAU scientists. Entire day's activity was moderated by the Dr. K. Ramasamy, Vice Chancellor, TNAU, Dr. M. Rajendran, IAS, Director of Agriculture, Thiru. S. Suresh Kumar, IAS, Director (i/c), Agricultural Marketing and Agribusiness and Th. Sathyapratha Sahoo, IAS, Commissioner of Horticulture. Thiru. Agri. S.Krishnamoorthy, Honourable Minister for Agriculture, Government of Tamil Nadu, Th. Pollachi V. Jeyaraman, Hon'ble Deputy Speaker of the Tamil Nadu Assembly, Members of Parliament, Dr. Sandeep Saxena, IAS, Agricultural Production Commissioner & Principal Secretary to Government of Tamil Nadu Members of Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly participated in the plenary session on 30.5.2014. More than 350 participants including TNAU scientists, Department officials, ICAR scientists and farmers participated. Books on Research

priorities of TNAU, Guidelines for Direct Seeded Rice in Cauvery Delta Zone, Package of Practices including Processing of Carnation and Protray Nursery and Production Technology of Turmeric were released on the occasion. Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture exhorted the officials to have determination and to add values to the thoughts of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to achieve the goals of doubling of crop production and tripling of farmers income.

Honorary Colonel Rank in NCC Conferred on TNAU Vice chancellor



On approval of Government of India, the “Honorary Rank of Colonel” in NCC was conferred on Dr. K. Ramasamy, Vice Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore. The “Piping Ceremony” was conducted in a grand manner in the presence of Colonel Irshat A. Khan, Commander, NCC Group Head Quarters, Coimbatore, Lieutenant Colonel B. S. Ahluwalia, Commanding Officer and Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Antony Administrative Officer, 4 Tamil Nadu Battalion NCC, Coimbatore on April 21, 2014 at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore. Colonel Irshat A. Khan, in his Presidential Address pointed out that in the armed forces, the “Colonelcy” of the Regiment is an honour normally conferred upon distinguished and very senior officers and it has been published in an extract of the Gazette of India. The Vice Chancellor accepted the honour and in his acceptance speech indicated that among the many awards and recognitions, this was one of the most prestigious titles that he received in his life. He motivated the young generation of India to work hard to ensure that the Science and Technology are used for socio-

economic development of our people. He stressed that the feel of oneness could alone be the only word that would bring wholesome improvement to India and progressive days ahead. The Vice Chancellor thanked the Government of India, the Ministry of Defence, DG and DDG NCC and all the ranks of Armed forces, for conferring this honor on him. NCC cadets of the University presented an impressive Guard of Honour to the Vice Chancellor after the conferment of the Honorary Colonel rank. Lt. K.M. Sellamuthu, NCC Officer of the University made the arrangements for the successful conduct of the function.

Demonstration on Composting of Water Hyacinth



A Live demonstration on “Integrated Management of water hyacinth and agro wastes through a composting technology” was conducted at the Soil and Water Management Research Institute, Thanjavur on 21.03.2014 under the ATMA scheme. Farmers from nearby areas attended the function. Dr. R. Rajendran, Director i/c (TRRI), in his Inaugural Address stressed the need for community approach for composting water hyacinth by integrating with crop wastes (paddy straw/ chaffy grains). The project details were briefed by Dr. R. Natesan, Professor of Soil Science, TRRI, Aduthurai. Dr. V. Ravi, Professor and Head, Soil and Water Management Research Institute, Thanjavur, Thiru. J. Sekar, Joint Director of Agriculture, Thanjavur and Thiru. Ramadass, Deputy Director of Agriculture spoke on the importance of composting of water hyacinth since all the surface water bodies of Thanjavur district are infested with this aquatic weed. The methodology of composting of water hyacinth

along with other agricultural wastes was demonstrated by Dr. K. Saravanan, Assistant Professor (Soil Science), Coastal Saline Research Institute, Ramnathapuram. Farmers' queries were addressed during the demonstration. Dr. A. Saravanan, Professor, SWMRI, Thanjavur welcomed the gathering and Dr. A. Bharani, Assistant Professor (ENS), TRRI, Aduthurai proposed a formal Vote of Thanks.

Farmers Feedback Meeting in Agmet Scheme



A Farmers' feedback meeting under the AGMET scheme was held at Tamil Nadu Rice Research Institute (TRRI), Aduthurai on 28.03.2014. Medium term forecast for a duration of five days is made by TRRI for Cauvery Delta farmers. Farmers feedback on the forecast if usefulness for farm operations. Dr.G.Senthilkumar, Assistant Professor (Agronomy), TRRI explained about the weather based agro advisory for agricultural management. Dr. A. Thennarasu, Assistant Professor, Animal Husbandry delivered a lecture on weather based advisory for livestock management. Dr. P. Parasuraman, Professor and Unit Head, Agronomy welcomed the gathering. Dr. R. Rajendran, Director (i/c) TRRI delivered the Inaugural Address. Dr. E. Subramanian, Assistant Professor (Agronomy) proposed a formal Vote of Thanks.

Field Day on Pulpwood Species

A TNPL sponsored project on "Demonstration of suitable pulpwood species for Cauvery Delta Region" is being operated at Tamil Nadu Rice Research Institute, Aduthurai. Four tree species namely, Casuarina, Acacia, Eucalyptus and Dalbergia are demonstrated and evaluated for



selecting suitable tree species for the region. A Field Day was conducted under this project on 28.03.2014. Dr. P. Parasuraman, Professor and Unit Head, Agronomy welcomed the gathering. Dr. R. Rajendran, Director i/c., TRRI delivered the Inaugural Address and emphasized the importance of tree crops. Thiru G. Ravi, Manager, TNPL explained about the activities of TNPL and Thiru. P. Chezhan, Assistant Manager, TNPL explained about the cultivation technologies of pulp wood species. Besides, field demonstration, the officials from TNPL and scientists of TRRI explained the suitability of Pulp wood species for Cauvery Delta Region. Dr. E. Subramanian, Assistant Professor (Agronomy) proposed a formal Vote of Thanks.

Closing Workshop of ICAR - NAIP Floriculture Project



The Closing Workshop of the project 'Value chain on flowers for domestic and export markets' supported by the National Agricultural Innovation Project (NAIP) of the ICAR, New Delhi operated in the Department of Floriculture and Landscaping, Horticultural College and Research Institute, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore was conducted at TNAU, Coimbatore on 26th of March, 2014. Stakeholders numbering 250 including

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flower growers, entrepreneurs and women SHGs from Coimbatore, Madurai, Dindigul, Nilgiris and Erode districts of Tamil Nadu attended the workshop.

Dr. K. Ramasamy, Vice Chancellor, TNAU Presided over the Workshop. He reiterated the opportunities in the Floriculture sector and emphasized the need for flower growers, entrepreneurs and the University to work in collaborative approach. Dr. S. Mariappan, Dean (i/c) (Hort.) of TNAU highlighted the contributions made by the project for floriculture promotion in the state. Dr. M. Jawaharlal, Consortium Principal Investigator of the project and Professor and Head, Department of Floriculture and Landscaping, TNAU narrated the achievements made in the NAIP project and he acknowledged the support received from ICAR - NAIP, New Delhi and all stakeholders associated with the project.

Dr. T. Thangaraj, Consortium Advisory Committee Chairman and former Dean (Hort.) of TNAU, Dr. M. Maheswaran, Nodal Officer of NAIP Projects at TNAU and Director of Research (i/c) of TNAU and Dr. M. Chandrasekaran, Chairman of CMU of the Project and Director of Planning and Monitoring (i/c) of TNAU appreciated the consortium mode of implementation of the project which facilitated effective and rapid transfer of technology to the end users.

An exhibition was arranged with posters depicting the technologies developed in the project. Various dry flower products and models of export packaging technology for jasmine developed through the project were also exhibited. The farmers were taken on a field visit to the research trial plots under the project besides, the jasmine concrete extraction pilot plant established under the project. Video documentaries of the most prominent success stories pertaining to the project were screened during the workshop.

A book entitled 'Value addition in flowers' and two compact discs on 'Value addition in dry flowers' and 'Success stories of carnation growers' were released and the copies of the same were distributed.

Earn While Learn Programme at AC & RI Coimbatore



A function was organized at Dept. of Agronomy, Directorate of Crop Management, TNAU, Coimbatore on 29.04.2014 to distribute the profit earned by the B.Sc (Agri.) students under the course AGR 301 Practical Crop Production (0+1) as incentive. Dr. K. Ramasamy, Vice Chancellor, presided over the function and distributed the incentives to the students. Dr. N. Asoka Raja, Professor and Head, Department of Agronomy welcomed the gathering and briefed about the course. Dr. S. Mahimairaja, Dean (i/c), AC & RI, Coimbatore, Dr. V. P. Duraisamy, Special Officer (i/c) (NRM) and Director (i/c) (CM), felicitated the students. The profit earned by the students' ranged from Rs. 650 to 1200. Highest amount of Rs.1209 was obtained by Ms. T. Venupriya, for both rice and maize cultivation organized under the course. Dr. C. Jayanthi, Professor and Head, Department of Farm Management proposed a formal Vote of Thanks.

Entrepreneurs Meet



To facilitate the farmers and to get good market price for their agricultural produce, the KVK, Madurai arranged a orientation programme on 30.4.2014 for the members engaged in production of value added products through an entrepreneur meet. Dr. C. Chinnusamy, Dean i/c Agricultural College and Research Institute, Madurai inaugurated the meet and stressed that processing and value addition will always fetch an additional income to the producers besides, stabilizing the prices with good economic returns. Dr. T. Rangaraj Programme Coordinator, KVK, Madurai advised the farmers if quality of the produce is maintained it will be clearly distinguished from the competitor and will lead to better consumer preference. Dr. S. Kamalasundari, Subject Matter Specialist (Food Science and Nutrition) organized the programme and explained the implication of food laws and regulations. To encourage entrepreneurs and to adopt, the Dean, AC & RI, Madurai distributed labels to the entrepreneurs for marketing their products with their own brand name and FSSAI Registration number printed on the label.

Best Centre Award to AICRIP on Rice Physiology



Paddy Breeding Station, TNAU, Coimbatore was adjudged and awarded the 'Best AICRIP Centre Award in Rice Physiology for the year 2013-14' during the Inaugural Session of the 49th Annual Rice Group Meeting held at Hyderabad on April 6th 2014. This award was given, based on overall accomplishments in rice physiology research, among the 14 Rice Physiology Centres at the national level. The award was presented by Dr.J.S.Chauhan, Additional Director General (Seeds), ICAR.

Best Seed Technology Research Centre



During the XXIX Annual group meeting of AICRP-NSP (Crops) held at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir on 24.04.2014, the TNAU Seed Centre was awarded with the "Best Seed Technology Research Centre" award of ICAR - NSP (Crops) for the year 2013-14 among 23 centres of State Agricultural Universities and ICAR Institutes of the country. The award was given in appreciation of the various seed technological research works carried out at this centre which contributed for the State and National level recommendations to address seed related issues and benefitting the farmers and other stakeholders. The award was given by Dr. S. K. Dutta, Deputy Director General (Crop Science), ICAR, New Delhi and Dr. S. Rajendra Prasad, Project Director, Directorate of Seed Research, Mau, UP and received by Dr. M. Bhaskarn, Special Officer (Seeds) (i/c) and National Seed Project scientists of Seed Centre.

Rat Eradication Campaign at Cuddalore



A rat eradication campaign was conducted at Kumaramangalam Village of Cuddalore District on 13.05.2014 and seventy five farmers participated in this campaign. Dr. K. Ramarasu, the Director (i/c) (CPPS), TNAU, Coimbatore delivered the Presidential Address. Dr. S. Kuttalam, Professor and Head, Department of Agricultural Entomology, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore explained the integrated rat management techniques. Dr. V. K. Mathirajan, Assistant Professor, Tamil Nadu Rice Research Institute, Aduthurai outlined the rat eradication measures and demonstrated the effective control measures. Dr. C. Dureessamy, Professor, Sugarcane Research Station, Cuddalore a delivered lecture on rat management in paddy and sugarcane fields. Dr. P. Indraganthi, Assistant Professor, Regional Research Station, Vriddhachalam explained the rat management measures in homes and storage godowns. A technical bulletin on rat control measures was released on the occasion and farmers were given a copy. Dr.T. Saravanan, Assistant Professor (Plant Pathology) proposed a formal Vote of Thanks. Dr. R. Arunachalam, Professor and Head, KVK arranged the campaign and field demonstrations.

Demonstration on New Introduction of Peach Varieties



Demonstration on new introduction of low chilling peach varieties was organized at HRS, Kodaikanal on 08.05.2014. The high yielding, best performing peach varieties viz., Shan-i-punjab, Partap and Sharbati introduced at HRS,

Kodaikanal were explained. The fruit growers of Kodaikanal witnessed the performance of the peach varieties at flowering, fruit set and full bearing stages. Dr. J. Rajangam, Professor and Head, highlighted the commercial exploitation and marketing potential of peach in future. Dr. B. Senthamizh selvi, Dr. G. Sathish and Dr. P. Vetrivel Kalai explained the nutrient management, top working, canopy management and plant protection in peach cultivation. Miss. R. Muthuselvi demonstrated the in situ propagation techniques for commercial multiplication. The progressive fruit growers of upper and lower Palani hills participated and benefited.

Hands on Training to Students of Central University of Tamil Nadu



The students of Central University of Tamil Nadu (CUTN), Thiruvarur numbering 42 visited Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Needamangalam on 17.5.2014. The students were trained on water sampling, water measurement, water spraying, effective utilization of water, etc. The students were also exposed to Automatic Weather Forecast, and hands on training in the demonstration units and net house cultivation. The visit was organized by the course teacher Dr. S. Anandhakrishnaveni, Assistant Professor (Agronomy) of this Kendra.

Training on Mushroom Production



In order to increase the livelihood of the farmers, youth and farm women of Thiruvarur District, a one day On Campus Training on Mushroom production techniques and value addition was conducted on 13.05.2014 by KVK, Needamangalam. The training was organized by Dr.T.Dhamodharan, Associate Professor (Agricultural Extension) in which 70 people participated. Hands on trainings on oyster and milky mushroom production techniques given included, practical exercises on making mushroom bed, seeds placing, sterilization and placing the bed. The participants were also trained in preparation of value added products such as; pickle, samosa, chilly mushroom and soups by Smt. D. Reka, Programme Assistant.

Training on Roof Top Garden



In order to effectively utilize the empty spaces on roof and to promote cultivation of vegetables by the urban population of Thiruvarur District, a one day On Campus Training on Roof top gardening was organised at KVK, Needamangalam to farmers, farm women and urban people numbering 50 from Thiruvarur district on 27.05.2014. In the Presidential Address, Dr. K. Chozhan, Professor and Head reiterated the importance of vegetables in the diet. Hands on trainings on roof top gardening techniques, which included seedbed preparation, nursery techniques, fertilizer application, irrigation techniques and plant protection were given by Dr. V. Sivakumar, Assistant Professor (Horticulture).

Training on Mechanized Cotton Picker



With a view to double the yield and triple the income of the farmers of Thiruvarur District, Off Campus training on Operation and maintenance of Cotton Picker was given at KVK, Needamangalam to 30 farmers of Arasavanangadu village on 22.05.2014. Dr. A. Kamaraj Assistant Professor (Agricultural Engineering) organized the programme. Farmers were trained to operate the Cotton Picker. They were also taught about the advantage of clean cotton over conventional manual picking. Also the farm women expressed that they felt safe while operating the cotton picker which prevents injuries caused during manual picking. The training was given jointly with the Department of Agriculture.

Joint Surveillance on Tapioca Mealy Bug Incidence at Erode and Salem District



Intense surveillance on the outbreak of papaya mealybug on tapioca and papaya in Erode and Salem district was carried out on 02.05.2014. The joint surveillance team Headed by Dr. K. Ramaraju, Director i/c, Centre for Plant Protection Studies, TNAU, Coimbatore, included Dr. S. Kuttalam, Professor and Head, Dr. P. Karuppuchamy, Professor, Department of Agricultural Entomology, TNAU, Coimbatore,

