

TNAUnews

May & June 2021

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University Coimbatore – 641 ØØ3





Tamil Nadu Agricultural University feels proud and priviledged to render a warm welcome to Thiru. Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin as the Honourable Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, the son of diligent, hardworking, assiduous and veteran Chief Minister Late Dr. M. Karunanidhi, who has had a long term vision and mission mode approach to absolve the aggrieved farmers' fraternity. He had taken all out efforts in a war footing basis to

bring pragmatic changes by announcing an exclusive budget for agriculture, which seemed to witness a ray of hope to the scientists, policy makers and other multi stakeholders to experience a tangible benefit. This would also address the burning issues to support the farming community with the long term set goals for a decadal progression in agricultural revamping.

Our Honourable Chief Minister is composed and emotionally balanced, provided greater opportunity and responsibility to the alumni of TNAU in key positions for augmenting the Agricultural research, education and extension. Under the auspices of his dutiful regime, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, a century old institution in its golden jubilee year, would harvest more success and reach greater heights and milestones with a well defined tailor-made framework of roadmap to progress further in all its endeavours. We wish his tenure would bestow more laurels and achievements in the days to come.

VOL: 73 No. 05 & 06

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Dr.N.Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, TNAU handed over the contribution of TNAU employees and students amounting to Rs.Two Crores to Thiru.M.K.Stalin, the Honourable Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu on 31.05.2021 in the presence of Thiru.M.R.K.Panneerselvam, Honourable Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Shri.C.Samayamoorthy, IAS, Agricultural Production Commissioner and Secretary as a contribution to the 'Tamil Nadu Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund' to support the State Government's initiative to fight against the Covid pandemic. Through voluntary contribution of their two days salary, employees of TNAU expressed their willingness to support the initiatives of the State Government. Students have also added on their part in extending the helping hands. This proactive contribution of teaching and non teaching staff, farm workers and students of TNAU set an example among other organizations. The Chief Minister thanked the Vice-Chancellor for the contribution made to the Government of Tamil Nadu.

Hon'ble Agriculture Minster's Meeting for Kuruvai Package



In connection to the announcement of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu about the release of Cauvery water on 12, June 2021, a meeting was held on 07.06.2021 at the District Collectorate, Thanjavur to review the preparatory activities for the ensuing *kuruvai* season cultivation in the Delta districts of Thanjavur, Thiruvarur, Nangapattinam and parts of Cuddalore, Trichy and Ariyalur under the Chairmanship of Thiru.M.R.K. Panneerselvam, Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Government of Tamil Nadu.

Dr.Govi. Chezhian, Chief Korada, Mr.S.S.Palanimanickam, M.P. Thanjavur constituency, Mr.S.Ramalingam, M.P. Mayiladuthurai constituency and MLAs of delta districts attended the meeting. Shri.C.Samayamoorthi, Agricultural Production Commissioner and Principal Secretary to Government, Dr.N.Kumar, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, TNAU, Coimbatore, Shri.V.Dakshinamoorthy, Director of Agriculture, Shri.M.Govinda Rao, District Collector Thanjavur, Th.A.Justin, Joint Director of Agriculture Thanjavur, Dr.V.Ambethgar, Director, TRRI, Aduthurai, Dr.A.Velayutham, Dean, AC&RI, Eachankottai, and Mr.M.Subbiah, Director of Organic Certification and various Govt. Officers participated in the meeting.

VC Desk...

Most part of these two months were under lockdown period and farm activities were geared up to have a continuous flow. Efforts were taken to discuss with the Programme Coordinators of KVKs, Heads of the Research Stations / Departments and Deans and Directors to finalize the cropping programme and for effective utilization of land, labour and resources. Advices were made to keep the ongoing summer trials weed free and directions were given to raise the seedlings / nurseries wherever required for Kharif season. Certain Research Stations experienced deluge



(even 20 to 30 cm a day) which resulted in lodging of standing crops. Swift actions were taken to recover the crops amidst Covid 19 pandemic. Crops raised during Summer 2021 season were nurtured and harvesting of produce was attempted.

Green manure crops were raised in the fields of Research stations like RRS, Tirur, CRS, Srivilliputhur for augmenting the soil base and revenue. In majority of the units, labour strength was decreased to 50 per cent to undertake the essential farm activities like crop husbandry maintenance, milch and draught animals maintenance, upkeep of storage godowns, threshing floors, farm vehicles and drying of farm produce, field bunds maintenance, harvest of crops etc.

As indicated during the last year, advice was given to all the officers maintaining farms to have a cropping intensity of 250 per cent amidst pandemic to augment revenue. Besides, scientists were encouraged to write research articles, book chapters and books during the lockdown period besides attending the online classes. They were also informed to participate in the webinars of relevance to hone their knowledge.

In addition, circulars were also sent to sensitize the staff of TNAU to administer vaccine for Covid 19 and the details on the staff getting vaccinated were shared to the Government of Tamil Nadu. Certain Colleges like AC&RI, Coimbatore and Madurai, ADAC&RI and HC&RI (W), Trichy, Research Stations like ARS, Bhavanisagar have taken strenuous efforts by organizing special vaccination camps to get the TNAU staff vaccinated. Fear among certain staff of TNAU in getting vaccinated was cleared by counseling. Staff infected with Covid 19 both on and off campus were also suitably counseled to adopt self isolation to avert its spread.

Besides, APC reviewed the state sponsored projects on 04.06.2021. I chaired the 145th Academic Council Meeting of TNAU on 10.06.2021. I also participated in a discussion meeting as a member of the Nanaji Deshmukh ICAR Award for Outstanding Interdisciplinary Team Research in Agricultural and Allied Sciences 2020 on 15.06.2021. The Finance Committee Meeting and the Board of Management Meeting of this University were held on 16.06.2021 and 28.06.2021 respectively. I also inaugurated the International Conference on Sugarcane Research (CaneCon2021) on 19.06.2021 at Sugarcane Breeding Institute, Coimbatore. Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare, Govt. of Tamil Nadu reviewed the progress of the University on 22.06.2021. I also participated in the 253rd Governing Body Meeting of ICAR on 29.06.2021.

(N. Kumar)

With wishes,

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Events Organized at TNAU Main Campus

50th Foundation Day and launching of Golden Jubilee Year

The 50th Foundation Day and launching of Golden Jubilee year of TNAU was held on 01.06.2021 through virtual mode. Dr.A.S.Krishnamoorthy, Registrar, TNAU welcomed the gathering. Thiru.M.R.K.Panneerselvam, Honourable Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare and Pro-Chancellor of TNAU participated as Chief Guest and launched the Golden Jubilee year celebrations. Honourable Minister in his Foundation day address emphasized the importance of TNAU in agriculture sector of the country and applauded the TNAU graduates



who are in different positions both in private and public sectors. Dr.N.Kumar, Vice-Chancellor in his address recollected the path traversed of TNAU over 50 years and its transformation as an University of Global Eminence. Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra, Secretary (DARE) & Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi appreciated TNAU's achievements in setting an example to all other agricultural institutions of the country. Thiru.C.Samayamoorthy, IAS, Agricultural Production Commissioner & Secretary to Government of Tamil Nadu in his address lauded the University's contribution to surpass the state food grain production to 100 lakh tonnes from 50 lakh tonnes during 1971. Dr.M.Ramasami, Chairman & Founder, Rasi



Seeds Pvt. Ltd, Attur felicitated the gathering and insisted on collaborative research through public private partnership mode. Dr.K.S.Subramanian, Director of Research, TNAU proposed vote of thanks.

Scientists' Meets Organized

a. Agricultural Engineering Scientists' Meet

The 9th Agricultural Engineering Scientists' Meet was held during 3-4th May, 2021 through online. Dr.K.S.Subramanian, Director of Research welcomed the gathering. Dr.N.Kumar, Vice-Chancellor offered the opening remarks. He suggested that agricultural engineering plays a pivotal role in agricultural and horticultural production systems that face herculean challenge of a cute labour shortage. Complete mechanization and farm automation is the order of the day and the Agricultural Engineers help in design and delivery of farm implements, machineries for food processing and simple gadgets for soil and plant health monitoring. The action taken report on the 8th Scientists' Meet was



presented by Dr.B.Sridhar, Dean, AEC & RI, Coimbatore. During the pre-review, the Deans of the two Agricultural Engineering Colleges and technical Directors reviewed the ongoing University Research Projects (44), action plan projects (9), core projects (7), AICRPs (9) besides external agency funded projects (49). The outcome of the review process was presented by the Heads of Departments. Dr.V.Thirupathi, Dean, AEC & RI, Kumulur, proposed a formal vote of thanks.



During this Scientists' Meet on Agricultural Engineering, a booklet containing the data base on 'TNAU farm power sources and farm machinery' collected and compiled by the Department of Farm Machinery, Agricultural Engineering College and Research Institute, Coimabtore was released by Dr.N.Kumar, Vice-Chancellor in the presence of Dr.B.Shridar, Dean, Agricultural Engineering College and Research Institute, Coimbatore, Dr. K. S. Subramanian, Director of Research, Dr. A. Surendrakumar, Professor and Head, Department of Farm Machinery and Power Engineering and Dr. Balaji Kannan, Associate Professor, Water Technology Centre. This booklet contains a total data on 1847 implements available at TNAU.

b. Community Science Scientists' Meet

The 8th Community Science Scientists' Meet was held online during 3-4th May, 2021. Dr.K.S.Subramanian, Director of Research welcomed the gathering. Dr.N.Kumar,



Vice-Chancellor appreciated the scientists of Community Science College & Research Institute, Madurai in developing several value added products and drudgery reduction tools for women besides releasing five technologies for commercialization. Some of the millet based products and immune boosters are to be scientifically validated and clinically tested prior to the pronouncement of health benefits of the products. The action taken report on the 7th Scientists Meet and the proposed Action Plan (2021-22) was presented by Dr.S.Amutha, Dean, CSC & RI, Madurai. During the pre-review, the Dean of the CSC & RI and technical Directors reviewed the ongoing University Research Projects (19), action plan projects (10), core projects (2), AICRPs (2) besides external agency funded projects (12). The outcome of the review process was presented by the Heads of Departments. Dr.P.Geetha, Associate Professor (FSN), PHTC, AEC & RI, Coimbatore proposed a formal vote of thanks.

c. Social Scientists' Meet

The 9th Social Scientists' Meet was held virtually during 6-7th May, 2021 at TNAU, Coimbatore connecting all the TNAU campuses. Dr.K.S.Subramanian, Director of Research welcomed the gathering and flagged off issues relating to social science. He emphasized the significance of social scientists in addressing current scenarios on agricultural production systems. The action taken report of the 8th Social Scientists' Meet was presented by



Dr.K.R.Ashok, Director, CARDS. During the prereview, the Director, CARDS and Heads in that Directorate reviewed the ongoing University Research Projects (39), action plan projects (54), core projects (8) besides external agency funded projects (25). The outcome of the review process was presented by the Heads of Departments. Dr.D.Sureshkumar, Professor and Head (Agrl. Economics) proposed a formal vote of thanks.

d. Forestry and Sericulture Scientists' Meet

The 31st Forestry and 12th Sericulture Scientists' Meet was held during 6-7th May, 2021 at TNAU, Coimbatore through online connecting all the scientists across the University Campuses. Dr.K.S.Subramanian, Director of Research welcomed the gathering and flagged off issues relating to forestry and sericulture. The action taken reports of the 30th Forestry & 12th Sericulture Scientists Meets were presented by Dr.K.T.Parthiban, Dean, FC & RI, Mettupalayam. During the pre-review, the Dean and technical Directors reviewed the on-going University Research Projects (9), action plan projects (14),



core projects (9), AICRPs (5) besides external agency funded projects (24). The outcome of the review process was presented by Heads of Departments. Dr.K.T.Parthiban, Dean, FC & RI, Mettupalayam, proposed a formal vote of thanks.

e. Millets & Forage Crops Scientists' Meet

The 39th Millets and Forage Crops Scientists' Meet was held virtually during 9-11th June, 2021 at TNAU, Coimbatore. Dr.K.S.Subramanian, Director of Research welcomed the gathering and delivered the opening remarks. Dr.N.Kumar, Vice-Chancellor inaugurated the event and highlighted the status of millets in the State and the country. The action taken report of the 38th Scientists' Meet was presented by Director (CPBG), Director (Crop Management) and Dr.Senthilvel, Assistant Professor (Plant Pathology). During the prereview, the technical Directors reviewed the ongoing University Research Projects (63), action plan projects (7), core projects (12), AICRPs (5)



besides external agency funded projects (8). The outcome of the review process was presented by Dr.S.Geetha, Director (CPBG), Dr.S.Mohankumar, Director (CPMB), Dr.S.Sundareswaran, Director (Seeds), Dr.V.Geethalakshmi, Director (Crop Management), Dr.R.Santhi, Director (DNRM) and Dr.K.Prabakar, Director (CPPS). Dr.T.Kalaimagal, Professor (PBG), Department of Millets proposed a formal vote of thanks.

f. Allied Agriculture Scientists' Meet

The Second Allied Agriculture Scientists' Meet was held on 18.06.2021 involving 64 scientists from the disciplines of Tamil (6), English (5), Mathematics (11), Statistics (7), Physics (4), Organic Chemistry (1), Computer Science (12), Library Science (6), Physical Education (9), Agricultural Chemicals (2) and Journalism (1). Dr.N.Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, TNAU offered opening remarks and suggested that every faculty should contribute directly or indirectly towards the upliftment of the University and farmers. Dr.K.S.Subramanian, Director of Research emphasized the importance of allied faculty in undertaking research in emerging areas. He presented the action taken report as well as the outcome of the preview meeting conducted by the Research Advisory Committee members comprising of Dr.M.Kalyanasundaram, Dean, AC&RI, Coimbatore, Dr.T.Raguchander, Dean, Students' Welfare, Dr.B.Shridar, Dean AEC&RI, Coimbatore and Dr.M.Ananthan, Director, ODL under the chairmanship of the Director of Research. Dean, Students' Welfare proposed a formal vote of thanks.

g. Scientists' Meet on Production Oriented Projects

The 4th Scientists' Meet on Production oriented Projects was held on 18.06.2021 involving scientists handling Venture Capital Schemes (VCS), Revolving Funding Schemes and Seed Hubs. Dr.N.Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, TNAU appreciated the scientists who are involved in the revenue generation that helps the University and the Department in meeting expenditure towards recurring expenses. Dr.K.S.Subramanian, Director of Research indicated that more numbers of VCs have been implemented in the past one year and the revenue generation increased during 2020-2021 with a net gain of Rs. 85 Lakhs despite pandemic

and frequent lockdowns. Dr. SD. Sivakumar, Director, Agri-Business presented the Action taken Report. Dr.S.Geetha, Director, CPBG, Dr.S.Sundareswaran, Director, Seeds, Dr.R.Santhi, Director, DNRM, Dr.L.Pugalendi, Dean, HC&RI presented the outcome of the review. Dr.Shantha Sheela, Associate Professor (Agrl. Extension) proposed a formal vote of thanks.

Workshop on Emotional Intelligence

Workshop on 'Emotional Intelligence for Personal and Professional Success' was organized by the Directorate of Planning and Monitoring, TNAU, Coimbatore for the Non Teaching staff during 4-5th May, 2021. Dr.J.Venkata Pirabu, Director, Planning and Monitoring welcomed the participants and gave the introductory note. Dr.N.Kumar, Vice-



Chancellor, TNAU presided over the function and delivered the Presidential address. Dr.A.S.Krishnamoorthy, Registrar and Ms.S.Sasikala, Comptroller, TNAU, Coimbatore offered felicitations. Resource persons were Mr.Narasimha Iyengar, Freelance Corporate Trainer cum Consultant and Dr.R.Deepa, Associate Professor and Head, Faculty of Human Resources, PSG Institute of Management, Coimbatore. Dr.R.Kalpana, Associate Professor, Directorate of Planning and Monitoring proposed vote of thanks.

Training on Online Practical Assessment through Microsoft Teams

In order to assess the knowledge gained through the practical portions through online, a webinar was organized to all the PG course teachers, PG Co-ordinators and Heads of the Department offering PG programs to give training about creating quiz, uploading of images, creating mathematical equation and sharing the link to students for conducting the final practical examination in the prescribed pattern on 03.06.2021. Dr.J.S.Kennedy, Dean, School of Post Graduate Studies, TNAU moderated the session; an expert from Microsoft teams handled the webinar session, the PG course teachers and Head of Departments and more than 200 scientists participated in the training session. In continuation of the webinar, an online practical assessment was conducted successfully from 07.06.2021. More than 450 students of 2020-21 batch attended the online practical examinations through Microsoft Teams.



A sensitization meeting cum training on 'Modality of conducts of exams and uploading of question papers' in the EFH module was organized to the PG course teachers and Heads of the Departments offering PG programs on 30.06.2021. Dr. K. Soorianathasundaram, Controller of Examinations, TNAU welcomed the gathering and Dr. J.S. Kennedy, Dean, School of Post Graduate Studies, TNAU felicitated the teachers on use of digital pedagogy. Experts from

EFH Applications delivered on site information about the modality and uploading of question papers in the EFH App.

International Webinar cum Workshop on "Seed Quality Enhancement"

An International Webinar cum Workshop on 'Seed Quality Enhancement' under the aegis of Indo-German Bilateral Cooperation on Seed Sector Development was organized at Seed Centre, TNAU, Coimbatore during 23-25th June, 2021. In the inaugural session, Dr.N.Kumar, Vice-Chancellor emphasized the importance of seed quality on production and productivity. Shri. Ashwani Kumar, Joint Secretary (Seeds), Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, GOI, New Delhi delivered the special address. Dr.K.S.Subramanian, Director of Research addressed the gathering. Dr.Vilas A. Tonapi, Director, ICAR - Indian Institute of Millets Research, Hyderabad delivered the introductory remarks of the programme. Dr.S.Sundareswaran, Director, Seed Centre delivered vote of thanks. Scientists from International and National institutes were invited for the deliberations.



Around 200 participants including the Scientists from ICAR Institutes, State Agricultural Universities, Officials from the Department of Seed Certification, Seed Industrialists and Research Scholars participated in the programme.

Board of Studies (PG Education) conducted through Hybrid Mode

The 41st Board of Studies for the PG Education was held on 29.06.2021 through hybrid mode at TNAU, Coimbatore. Dr. M. Kalyanasundaram, Dean, AC&RI, Coimbatore cum Member (BOS) welcomed the gathering. The External Experts, Dr.M.N.Seenivasa Rao, Professor (Agricultural Microbiology), University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad and Dr. D. Girija, Former Registrar, Kerala Agricultural University, Thrissur participated online and offered their valuable comments for the agenda proposed. University Officers, Deputy Registrars, Heads of Departments in the main campus, Unit Heads of other colleges, and nominated professors also attended the meeting and offered suggestions. Dr.G. Vanitha, Assistant Professor (Computer Science) proposed vote of thanks.

Important Visitors

Honourable Agricultural Minister visited KVK, Needamangalam

Thiru.M.R.K.Panneerselvam, Honourable Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare visited KVK, Needamangalam on 15.06.2021 to review the activities. The Honourable Minister and the Members of Legislative Assembly (MLA) of Thiruvarur and Mannargudi planted trees in the KVK Premises. An Exhibition was organized by the team of scientists of KVK which was witnessed by the





dignitaries. The recent crop varieties released by TNAU were put on display besides the crop boosters. Hon'ble Minister inquisitively listened to a farmer's innovation of growing black soldier fly worms in a drum to feed the poultry birds. The Minister also distributed the inputs like seeds and crop boosters to the KVK contact farmers. Dr.M.Ramasubramanian, Programme Coordinator, KVK explained about the activities of the centre. The Minister appreciated the activities of the Centre and motivated the scientists to reach more farmers of the District.

Awards and Recognitions

TNAU ranked among the Top Agribusiness Management Schools

National Ranking of Agribusiness Management Schools carried out by the Concept Agrotech Consultants Limited, a Consultancy Company catering exclusively to the agribusiness and rural sector based on industry orientation of the curriculum, innovation in pedagogy, fee structure, admission selection process, sports and fitness amenities, global exposure events, students exchange program, extracurricular and co-curricular activities, industry interaction and webinars, relevant placement tie ups and scholarship facilities etc., declared TNAU's Agri Business Management as one of the top 15 Agribusiness Management schools which includes IIMs. The Department of Agricultural and Rural Management (ARM) offers Undergraduate, Postgraduate and Doctoral programmes in Agribusiness Management. The

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MBA (Agribusiness) programme offered by this Department is recognized by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). The graduates from this Department are well placed in various agri business sectors including input sector, production, processing, transportation, packaging, logistics, supply chain, organized retail, banking, insurance, agriclinics and consultancy services. Few graduates have become successful entrepreneurs in agribusiness as well. Many undergraduate students of this Department pursue higher education in nationally reputed institutions like IIM, IRMA, MANAGE, NAARM, EDI, VAMNICOM, IIPM etc.,

TNAU received National Award for Spices Research

Government of India-Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (GOI-MIDH) scheme on 'Seed & planting material production and distribution and transfer of technology in spices' is being operated in the Department of Spices and Plantation Crops, Horticultural College and Research Institute, Periyakulam, TNAU as lead centre funded by the Directorate of Arecanut and Spices Development (DASD), Calicut, Kerala. In this scheme, a total of 14 centres of various research stations and colleges of TNAU viz., Periyakulam, Coimbatore, Bhavanisagar, Ooty, Yercaud, Palur, Trichy, Kodaikanal, Thadiyankudisai, Aruppukottai, Kovipatty, Killikulum, Thovalai,



Pechiparai are involved. Production of quality planting materials of spice crops viz., black pepper, ginger, garlic, turmeric, chilli, seed spices (coriander), nutmeg, clove, cinnamon, allspice, tamarind and curry leaf and aromatic plants are being taken up in these 16 centres of TNAU. Front Line Demonstrations (FLD) on organic farming is being conducted in spice crops. During the Annual Review Meeting of GOI-MIDH conducted during 25-26th June, 2021 through online mode, among the 45 centres participated from All India level, TNAU bagged the 'Appreciation Award' for successful completion of the assigned programme of GOI-MIDH.

National award (First Prize) for Best Thesis in Agricultural Extension

In commemoration of the 34th Foundation Day of MANAGE, Hyderabad held online on 11.06.2021, MANAGE presented the Best Agricultural Extension Thesis award at National level to Mr.S.Aravindh Kumar (2018-2020 batch) recognizing the research work carried out by the Indian Students in Masters and Ph.D. in the area of Agricultural Extension. He did his Masters in Agricultural Extension and Communication under the guidance of Dr.C.Karthikeyan, Professor (Agrl. Extension) in the Department of Social Sciences, AC & RI, TNAU, Killikulam. The thesis entitled 'Assessment of the Utility behavior of Uzhavan app among Farmers and Extension officers in Tamil Nadu' was adjudged as the best for which citation, certificate and a cash prize of Rs. 50,000/- was awarded to the



student. Shri.Sanjay Agarwal, IAS, Secretary, Agriculture Cooperation & Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India, Dr.P.Chandra Shekara, Director General, MANAGE and other dignitaries participated in the event.

TNAU Ranked third position among the State Agricultural Universities

TNAU, Coimbatore secured first position among the Agricultural Universities located in Southern States and third position among 63 State Agricultural Universities at National level and 53rd rank among all the 150 Government Universities during 2021-22, bouncing back from 72nd ranking of last year by Education World India magazine. Every year, Education World India magazine is conducting educational institutions' survey and ranks the educational institutes in India based on the faculty competence, faculty welfare & development, research and innovation, curriculum and pedagogy (digital readiness), industry interface, placements, infrastructure, internationalism, leadership/governance and range and diversity of study programmes. This quantum lead in ranking is due to the result of major efforts taken by Dr.N. Kumar, Vice-Chancellor. An intense motivational drive was given to the young scientists and the entire research fraternity spread over in various locations of the institutions in Tamil Nadu who worked tirelessly to derive high score in certain areas like research and innovation, competence of faculty and leadership quality which increased the score to 1009 during 2021 from 801 during 2020 out of total score of 1300.

Vice-Chancellor's Review

Forest College and Research Institute, Mettupalayam

Vice-Chancellor, TNAU visited Forest College and Research Institute, Mettupalayam on 16.05.2021 and 17.05.2021 to review the



ongoing activities of the Institute during the lock down period. During the review followed by field inspection, the Vice-Chancellor suggested various issues and measures to strengthen the



ongoing education, research and infrastructure development activities.

ARS, Bhavanisagar

Vice-Chancellor along with Dr.K.T.Parthiban, Dean, FC&RI, Mettupalayam and Er.S.Srinivasan, Estate officer, TNAU, Coimbatore visited Agricultural Research Station, Bhavanisagar on 17.05.2021. To overcome the damage in Breeder seed and other seed production crops due to wild animals like



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elephants, wild boar, installation of solar fencing as suggested by the Professor and Head was sanctioned by the Vice-Chancellor and the work was initiated during the month of May 2021. Valuable suggestions on provision of different types of fencing like Offset, Vertical and Two line solar fencing (over the old chain link fencing) were made.

RRS and KVK, Tiruvallur

Vice-Chancellor visited Rice Research Station and KVK, Tiruvallur on 19.05.2021. He interacted with the farm workers and enquired about their health during the pandemic period and appreciated their keen interest in carrying out the essential farm activities. He offered various suggestions to strengthen the farm fence, other essential infrastructure like cattle shed,



farm and orchard improvements. He visited Nutri-garden with different segments and emphasized the importance of pruning operation.

Vegetable Research Station, Palur



Vice-Chancellor visited the Vegetable Research Station, Palur on 23.06.2021 and reviewed the farm and research activities. Dr.K.Shoba Thingalmaniyan, Assistant Professor and Head (i/c) presented the action taken report and progress of activities. Vice-Chancellor visited the farm and emphasized various improvements and suggestions.

Sugarcane Research Station, Cuddalore

The Vice-Chancellor visited Sugarcane Research Station, Cuddalore on 23.06.2021 and reviewed the activities of the station. He declared open the newly constructed Central laboratory complex and also inaugurated the 'Sugarcane Varietal Cafeteria' consisting of 18 popular sugarcane varieties released from all the three sugarcane research stations and ICAR-SBI.



Dr.C.Babu, Professor and Head presented the progress of work done and action taken report for the earlier proceedings. Vice-Chancellor witnessed the performance of newly released sugarcane variety CoC 13339 and insisted to supply sugarcane setts of newly released



varieties to all the sugar mills of Tamil Nadu. He emphasized to focus on the extension and outreach of TNAU Sugarcane booster and instructed to mass produce bio-control agents and biofertilizers, trash decomposers. Dr.V.Ambethgar, Director, TRRI, Aduthurai and Dr.M.Kalyanasundaram, Dean, AC&RI, TNAU, Coimbatore were also present during the visit.

Regional Research Station, Vriddhachalam

Vice-Chancellor visited Regional Research Station, Vriddhachalam on 24.06.2021 and reviewed the progress of the various activities of the station. Dr.M.Kalyanasundaram, Dean, AC&RI, Coimbatore and Dr.V.Ambethgar



Director, Tamil Nadu Rice Research Institute, Aduthurai were also present during the visit. Vice-Chancellor inaugurated the new infrastructure and visited ongoing field experiments at RRS and the demonstration units at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Vriddhachalam. He also reviewed the progress of research and extension activities carried out by the individual scientists. A demonstration on seed drill sowing



of groundnut with 'Hand Push Seeder' was arranged as part of mechanization in groundnut cultivation. Vice Chancellor himself operated the hand push seeder in the field. Dr.K.Subrahmaniyan, Professor and Head, RRS and Dr. N. Sriram, Programme Coordinator, KVK presented the action taken reports.



At RRS, Vridhachalam, fencing with chain link was completed during January 2021 in the new farm to a length of 3.0 km with the major contribution from the retired staff of RRS, Vridhachalam who contributed nearly Rs.2,00,000 as requite to TNAU. Dr.N.Kumar, Vice-Chancellor during the visit on 24.06.2021 greatly appreciated the gesture shown by the retired staff especially PUSM and instructed to keep a permanent board as a token of recognition.

Events organized outside TNAU Main campus Mechanized Rice transplanting in ARS, Bhavanisagar

In Agricultural Research Station (ARS), Bhavanisagar, to overcome the labour shortage



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in rice cultivation, importance was given to Rice transplanter from the year 2020. The 6 rows rideon type of rice transplanter from Yanmar company is being used for rice transplanting. During the year 2021-2022, 17 acres of Foundation seed crop of rice were transplanted so far using this machine. Dr.K.S.Subramanian, Director of Research, TNAU, Coimbatore operated the Rice Transplanter during his visit on 20.05.2021.

Inauguration of Coconut Seedlings sale

ALR(CN) 1 tall variety coconut seedlings produced at Agricultural College and Research Institute, Eachangkottai under Venture Capital



(V60 KA) scheme were distributed to the needy farmers on cost basis by Dr.A.Velayutham, Dean on 23.06.2021 in the sales counter of AC&RI, Eachangkottai. Nearly 22 farmers participated in the sales inauguration and procured 500 coconut seedlings.

Covid 19 special vaccination drive at TNAU

Covid 19 special vaccination camps were organized as an initiative to combat the present pandemic situation created by the Novel Corona Virus (SARS CoV-2) at the Main campus, Colleges and Research Stations.

a.TNAU Main Campus

The University dispensary under Centre for Students Welfare at TNAU main campus organized COVID vaccine drive for the welfare of staff and their wards of main campus. A total



of 200 members in the age group of 18 to 44 and 250 pensioners were vaccinated on 25.05.2021 and 04.06.2021. So far, 1950 doses were administered in the vaccination drive in the main campus.

b. ARS, Bhavanisagar

A special campaign was organized at ARS, Bhavanisagar on 28.05.2021 with the help of Primary Health Care Centre, Puliyampatti,



Erode District for the staff and their family in which a total of 108 members were vaccinated.

c. AC &RI and CSC&RI, Madurai



Covid Mass Vaccination Camp was organized on 28.05.2021 at University Dispensary with the co-operation of the Government Primary Health Centre (PHC), Kallanthari, Madurai District. A total of 290 members got vaccinated.

Extension Activities Organized

A. Online

Mass Awareness Programme on Organic Agriculture

Regional mass awareness programme on Organic Agriculture was organized by Department of Sustainable Organic Agriculture (DSOA), TNAU, Coimbatore and ICAR-IIFRS, Modipuram on 13.05.2021 through virtual mode in commemoration of 75th year of India's Independence. Dr. N. Ravishankar, Project Coordinator, ICAR – NPOF, IIFSR, Modipuram



welcomed the delegates and participants. Dr.S.Bhaskar ADG-AAFCC, NRM Division, the Guest of Honour highlighted the significance of organic cultivation of fruits, vegetables and cotton which are highly remunerative crops with high demand in the International and local markets. Dr. Peyush Punia, Director In-charge, ICAR-IIFSR, Modipuram emphasized the importance of Organic Agriculture and need for strengthening of marketing sectors to protect the interest of organic farmers. Dr.V.Geethalakshmi, Director, Crop Management, TNAU, Coimbatore narrated the scope and importance of quality food materials in the present situation.

Dr.S.Manickam, Professor and Head, DSOA and Dr.Sam Ravel, Agriculture Officer, TNOCD, Coimbatore delivered technical lectures. Dr.R.Jansirani, Professor (Agrl. Extension) proposed vote of thanks. More than 285 organic farmers from all over Tamil Nadu participated in the programme.

Training programme on 'Immune Boosting Foods'

Online training programme on 'Immune Boosting Foods' was organized by KVK, Madurai on 28.05.2021. Dr. ChelviRamessh, Programme Co-ordinator, Krishi Vigyan Kendra highlighted the importance of healthy foods and balanced diet. Dr. S. Arokiamary, SMS (Home Science) explained about the immune boosting foods and nutrients responsible for immune boosting. Totally 47 members participated in this online training programme.

Training on Integrated Soil Health Management

An online training entitled 'Integrated Soil Health Management' was organized by KVK, Sandhiyur, Salem along with DAMU (District AgroMet Units) on 29.05.2021. Dr.M.Vijayakumar, Programme Coordinator, KVK, Salem welcomed the participants. Dr.M.Jawaharlal, Director of Extension Education, TNAU, Coimbatore delivered the presidential address and deliberated the importance of soil health for sustaining crop productivity. Dr.M.Malarkodi, Assistant Professor (SS&AC), KVK, Salem delivered the technical lecture. Nearly 140 farmers from Salem, Namakkal, Erode, Coimbatore, Dharmapuri, Trichy, Karur and Thanjavur districts participated in the programme.

Training on Nutrient Management in Sugarcane

Online training on Nutrient Management in Sugarcane was organized at KVK, Vamban on

31.05.2021 by Dr.T. Sherene Jenita Rajammal, Assistant Professor (SS&AC). This training depicted the Cost effective technologies in sugarcane cultivation followed by working out the STCR –IPNS equation for reducing fertilizer input cost. A demonstration on soil moisture indicator tool for irrigation scheduling was also done through video lesson. Mr.Senthilvel, Zonal Manager, Kothari Sugars, Trichy interacted with farmers and clarified their queries.

Training programme on Integrated Farming System

Dr. M. Jawaharlal, Director of Extension Education, TNAU, Coimbatore inaugurated and outlined the importance of Integrated Farming System in farming community and highlighted the scope for rural youths in IFS. Dr. S. Nanthakumar, Programme Coordinator, KVK, Virinjipuram highlighted the main objective of the training programme and emphasized the need of IFS in doubling the farmers income. Dr.P.Veeramani (Agronomy) and Dr.M.Ramasamy (VAS) delivered technical lectures. A total of 79 farmers, rural youths and extension functionaries participated virtually in the event.

Training on Profitable Dairy Farming

Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Dharmapuri conducted online training programme on profitable dairy farming on the eve of world milk day on 01.06.2021 to educate people about the importance of milk in our diet and clean milk production. The resource person Dr.A.Thennarasu, Associate Professor and Head, Alambadi Cattle Research Station (ACRS), Dharmapuri explained on Clean Milk production with special focus on management of mastitis. Dr.C.Sivakumar, Programme Coordinator, KVK, Dharmapuri welcomed the participants. Dr.R.Thangadurai, Subject Matter specialist (Veterinary and Animal Science) delivered technical lecture and Dr.S.Srividhya,

Subject Matter specialist (Horticulture) delivered vote of thanks.

B. On Campus

Farmers' Participatory Training programme on cultivation of *Gymnema*

Department of Biotechnology, AC&RI, Madurai organized a farmers' participatory training programme on cultivation of medicinal plant (*Gymnema*) on 22.06.2021 under the State Development Policy Council supported project on 'Empowering socially-challenged sector of Usilampatti through advanced medicinal plants cultivation and value addition'. The programme



was chaired by Dr.V.K.Paul Pandi, Dean, AC & RI, Madurai and Mr.K.V.Rajkumar (RDO, Usilampatti), Mr.N.Ramasami (ADA, Usilampatti) and Mrs.Vijayalakshmi (Thasildhar, Usilampatti) participated. Dr. R. Renuka, Associate Professor and Head (i/c) & Project Director, Department of Biotechnology, Centre of Innovation, AC & RI, Madurai, discussed the significance of medicinal plants cultivation. Dr.M.Palanikumar, Assistant Professor, KVK, Madurai trained the farmers on cultivation of *Gymnema* and Dr.Chelvi Ramesh, Program Co-ordinator, KVK, Madurai, delivered vote of thanks.

MoA Signed

MoA signed with Coromandel International

Memorandum of Agreement was signed between Agricultural Engineering College and



Research Institute, TNAU, Coimbatore and M/s.Coromandel International Ltd - Bio products division, Chennai on 25.06.2021 for developing harvesting and processing machinery suitable for neem processing. The Memorandum of Agreement was signed by Dr.A.S.Krishnamoorthy, Registrar, in the presence of Dr.B.Shridar, Dean, AEC&RI, Coimbatore, Dr. A. Surendrakumar; Professor and Head, Dept. of Farm Machinery and Power Engineering, Dr. P. Rajkumar, Professor & Head, Dept. of Food Process Engineering along with concerned Scientists and Mr.L.K.Baburaj, Vice-President and Business Head, Dr. Pushpavalli, DGM, Coromandel International Ltd-Bio products division.

Celebrations Organized

World Environment Day

NRM, TNAU, Coimbatore and FC&RI, Mettupalayam

World Environment Day, 2021 with a theme area of "Reimagine, Recreate, Restore" was celebrated at TNAU on 05.06.2021 by organizing a Guest lecture cum Webinar. This programme was jointly organized by Forest College and Research Institute (FC&RI), Department of Environmental Science and the Directorate of Natural Resource Management (NRM). Dr.R.Santhi, the Director (NRM) welcomed the gathering by highlighting the importance of conserving Natural Resources. Dr.K.S.Subramanian, Director of Research,



TNAU delivered the felicitation address by throwing light on international collaboration and advanced research in the field of Forest and Environment. Dr. K.T.Parthiban, the Dean, FC&RI narrated the significant developments in the field of Environmental Science. Dr.N.Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, TNAU in his presidential address indicated the importance of growing trees in sustaining the environment and stressed the Scientists and students to focus more of advanced research to meet out the future environmental challenges. Mr.V.Ganesan, IFS, Former APCCF and Director, TNFD, Coimbatore delivered a Guest Lecture on 'Ecosystem Restoration' in which he projected the ways and means by which the Forest Ecosystems are conserved in India with a special focus on the conservation of historically important places of Tamil Nadu with his field experience. Dr.M.Maheswari, Professor and Head, Department of Environmental Science, TNAU proposed a formal vote of thanks.



On this occasion of 'World Environment Day', Mettupalayam Agroforestry Business

Incubation Forum (MAFBIF) operating at FC&RI organized an online programme on the theme 'Ecosystem Restoration'. Around 100 participants attended the three hour session which comprised of Agroforestry Incubation and Consortium Members and also Forestry Students. The programme was inaugurated by Dr.K.T.Parthiban, Dean, FC&RI & Nodal Officer (EDII-MAFBIF). In his inaugural address, Dean stressed the need for commercializing different Agroforestry models in order to revive the degenerated ecosystem and also for doubling the farmers' income. Mr.D.Boominathan, Landscape Coordinator, World Wide Fund, Coimbatore delivered a special talk on 'Species Conservation at Western Ghats'. The third session was handled by Dr. N. Barathi, Founder, Growmore Biotech, Hosur in which he shared his vision of creating pollution free environment by mass cultivation of Bamboo. The participants interacted with the guest speakers to understand the behavior of Elephant movement in the Nilgiris and on Oxygen parlors through Bamboo cultivation.

AC&RI, Killikulam

World Environment Day 2021 was organized through online mode by Agricultural College & Research Institute, Killikulam on 05.06.2021. Dr.K.Eraivan Arutkani Aiyanathan, Dean, AC & RI, Killikulam inaugurated the programme and highlighted the beginning of United Nations' mission on "Ecosystem restoration". Dr.S.Kannan, Chairperson, School of Energy, Environment and National Resources



of Madurai Kamarajar University, Madurai was the chief guest of the event who delivered lecture on 'Recreating and restoring the environment for sustainable agriculture'. The UG students of the campus performed various online activities from their homes related to the awareness on environmental issues and its conservation. They displayed their posters, drawings, paintings, recited poems on environmental protection, delivered speech on climate change and its impact in agriculture and also enjoyed playing a creative song online. The day was celebrated with vigour amidst the lockdown. Dr.B. Bhakiyathu Saliha, Associate Professor (SS&AC), AC & RI, Killikulam coordinated the events and the pre final year student representative Ms. S. Karthika proposed vote of thanks.

World Bee Day KVK, Madurai

Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Madurai organized Bee keeping training on virtual mode during 20-22nd May, 2021 sponsored by National Bee board in view of World Honey Bee Day. Dr.Chelvi Ramessh, Programme Coordinator and Dr. B. Usharani, SMS organized the training programme and other SMS of the KVK delivered guest lectures. Two exclusive sessions on experience sharing of successful bee keepers, Mrs. Josephine Selvaraj and Mr. Gunasekaran were included in the training. There were 96 participants from 10 districts of Tamil Nadu.

KVK, Salem

The 'World Bee Day' was celebrated at KVK, Salem on 20.05.2021. The Programme was inaugurated by Dr.M.Vijayakumar, Programme Coordinator, KVK, Salem and Dr.S.Suganya kanna, SMS (PP) delivered the technical lecture in virtual mode on 'Importance of Honeybees in Agriculture' and emphasised the role of bees in improving the yield in various crops, maintenance of bees in farms, pesticide toxicity

and measures to overcome swarming of bees. Around 100 participants including ADHs, AOs, farmers, farm women, youth, entrepreneurs and students from various districts of Tamil Nadu participated and got benefited.

KVK, Vamban

ICAR-KVK, Vamban celebrated World Honey Bee Day 2021 on 20.05.2021. An online training was organized by Dr.V.M.Indumathi, Assistant Professor (ARM) for farmers of Pudukkottai as a part of DARE/ICAR India @ 75 Campaign. The training was planned under the theme 'Augmenting rural income: The Beekeeping Way'. Dr.Raja Ramesh, Assistant Professor (Agrl. Entolomogy), and Dr.S.Jesupriya Poornakala, Assistant Professor (FSN), National Pulses Research Centre, Vamban delivered technical lectures.

International yoga day celebration

Agricultural Engineering College and Research Institute (AEC&RI), Kumulur organized webinar on 'Need and Importance to learn Yoga in Pandemic' on 21.06.2021 through online for the benefit of first year students and faculty members of this college. Dr. V. Thirupathi, Dean, AEC&RI, Kumulur presided over the event. Mrs. P.Ratha Dhiravidamani, Vazhga Valamudan Yoga Centre, Trichy was the guest speaker for the webinar. In her speech, she highlighted the importance of improving and maintaining oxygen level, antibiotic agents in human body, benefit of mudras and role of Pranayama during Covid 19. The gathering was welcomed by Dr.S.A.Ramjani, first year

coordinator and Dr.C.Senthil kumar, Teaching Assistant (PED) proposed vote of thanks. Dr.P.Kamaraj, Academic Coordinator and Dr.S.Nagarajan, NSS Programme Officer organized the programme. Totally 64 participants including students, faculties, teaching and non-teaching staff of AEC&RI, Kumulur attended the programme.

Students' Activities

Virtual Internship Programme for B.Tech. (Agrl. Engg.) Students

A Virtual Internship Programme for final year B.Tech (Agricultural Engineering) students of Agricultural Engineering College & Research Institute, Kumulur was offered by Department of Irrigation and Drainage Engineering, College of Agricultural Engineering, University of Agricultural Sciences, Raichur. Inaugural function for this month long online virtual internship programme was collaboratively organized by the student internship coordinators of both the institutes on 25.06.2021. The Chief guest Dr. M.G. Patil, Director of Education, UAS, Raichur inaugurated the function. The Guest of Honour of the function Dr. V. Thirupathi, Dean, AEC & RI, Kumulur delivered special address. The special guests were Dr. M. Veerangouda, Dean and Dr. U. Satishkumar, Professor and Head, Dept. of SWCE, CAE, UAS, Raichur. Dr.M.Nagarajan and Dr.M.Manikandan, Assistant Professors, AEC&RI, Kumulur organized the event. Around 22 students of final year B.Tech (Agricultural Engineering) attended the training.

From
Directorate of Planning and Monitoring
Tamil Nadu Agricultural University
Coimbatore - 641 003

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