

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University Coimbatore – 641 ØØ3



# TNAUNEWS Fipril 2021

# VC's Desk

The renovated and facelifted TNAU Refreshment Home equipped with modern kitchen, dining and other facilities was inaugurated on 01.04.2021 in the presence of University officers, staff and students. University Library's 24x7 Reading Hall was also inaugurated for creating a conducive



learning environment and to motivate students to become diehard learners and to sense the library culture.

I visited Rice Research Station, Ambasamudram, Horticultural Research Station, Pechiparai, Agricultural College and Research Institute, Killikulam and Agricultural Research Station, Thirupathisaram and inspected the research, extension, establishment, farm, seed production and estate activities. I also reviewed the Colleges / Directorates in the main campus during this month.

The Directorate of Open and Distance Learning, TNAU, Coimbatore and ICAR – Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Thirupathisaram jointly organized a Certificate course on 'Coconut Cultivation Technology' which was also inaugurated at KVK, Thirupathisaram on 07.04.2021 for the benefit of Coconut growing farmers of Kanyakumari District.

The teaching faculties of the under graduate program were provided with the MS Teams ID by the School of Post Graduate Studies and were trained on the modality of conduct of remote classes through 'Microsoft Teams' on 08.04.2021 at the SPGS, TNAU, Coimbatore.

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Patron : Dr. N. Kumar Vice-Chancellor Chief Editor : Dr. J. Venkata Pirabu Director, Planning & Monitoring Editorial Committee : Dr. R. Kalpana Associate Professor (Agronomy) Dr. M. Kumar Professor (Plant Breeding & Genetics)



Annual Crop Scientists' Meet on Rice, Pulses, Oilseeds, Cotton, Sugarcane and Horticulture crops besides Agricultural Engineering and Community Science were conducted during April 2021.

An MoU was signed between TNAU and Dr.B.Krishnaraj Foundation and Gaiadhi, India on 16.04.2021 to develop methodology/software to transform point based yield estimation to spatial yield estimation to account for the spatial variations in multiple factors that affect the yield.

A Skill Oriented Training Programme on 'Enhancing Communication Skills' was conducted at the language lab of AC&RI, Killikulam, established under ICAR-NAHEP-IDP.

I interacted with the Deans, Heads of the Departments and PG/Ph.D students of TNAU in the main campus and constituent colleges through online on 26.04.2021 and enquired about their perceptions and reflections on Covid 19 infection and insisted upon various precautionary measures.

I chaired the Self Study Report meeting of Dr.Y.S.Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry, Solan on 9.04.2021.

I also participated in the Video Conference meeting of Vice-Chancellor's of State Universities on 20.04.2021 wherein the Honorable Governor of Tamil Nadu chaired the meeting. The discussions went around the measures taken/ to be taken for managing the COVID.

I attended the State Level Sanctioning Committee Meeting of the NADP pertinent to Agriculture at the secretariat on 21.04.2021 which was chaired by the Chief Secretary, Govt. of Tamil Nadu.

With wishes, (N. Kumar)

## **Events Organized at TNAU Main Campus**

Inauguration of Renovated TNAU Refreshment Home



Dr. N. Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, TNAU inaugurated the renovated TNAU Refreshment Home on 01.04.2021. Dr. T. Raguchander, Dean, Centre for Students Welfare welcomed the Vice-Chancellor, University Officers, Staff and Students. Refreshment home is well equipped with modernized kitchen, dining and other amenities. First floor is extended for banquets during the University functions / events.



Vice-Chancellor inaugurated the University Library's 24x7 Reading Hall. Dr.T.Raguchander, Dean, Centre for Students



Welfare welcomed the dignitaries. For creating positive learning ambience and to encourage students to feel good about learning, the reading hall is well equipped with comfortable seating arrangements along with Wi-Fi facilities. The aesthetic sense of the reading hall creates a pleasure, confidence and motivation for students to yearn to learn. University Officers, Staff, Students and Library staff were present during the inauguration.

## Training on Microsoft Teams for Undergraduate Teaching

During this Covid 19 pandemic crisis, the School of Post Graduate Studies (SPGS), TNAU had taken the first step among the State Agricultural Universities in the country to provide uninterrupted education for Masters



and Doctoral students by initiating remote teaching programme. Around 520 PG students of both Masters and Doctoral degree programmes benefited with the uninterrupted education initiative. In order to extend the facility to the under graduate programmes, the teaching faculties of the under graduate programme were also provided with MS Teams ID by the SPGS and trained on the *modus operandi* of remote classes through 'Microsoft Teams' on 08.04.2021.

## Virtual interaction meeting with PG staff and students

Dr.N.Kumar, Vice-Chancellor interacted with the Deans, Heads of the Departments and



PG/Ph.D students of TNAU in the main campus and constituent colleges through online on 26.04.2021. Dr.J.S.Kennedy, Dean, School of Post Graduate Studies briefed the purpose of the meeting. The Vice-Chancellor during the interaction insisted upon various precautionary measures to be taken by the Deans, Heads and Students of the Departments to contain Covid 19 spread and modality for the conduct of semester examinations. Vice-Chancellor also instructed to organize a special vaccination camp to Masters and Doctoral students of constituent colleges and to the hostel inmates / menials besides strict enforcement on the movement of students outside the campus and adoption of Covid 19 Standard Operating Procedures (SoP). He also advised the students to publish research outcome in highly rated journals, stressed the need to obtain Patent for students' innovations, utilization of library resources and motivated the students to participate and submit extended abstracts in the forthcoming Agricultural Graduate Students' Conference.

## Annual Crop Scientists' Meet

## **Rice Scientists' Meet**

The 40<sup>th</sup> Rice Scientists' Meet was held online during April 8-9<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at TNAU, Coimbatore by connecting all the scientists across the University College Campuses, Research Stations and KVKs besides main campus. Dr.K.S.Subramanian, Director of Research welcomed the gathering and provided



basic statistics on current scenario and flagged off the issues to be addressed to meet the challenges and way forward. Dr.N.Kumar, Vice-Chancellor highlighted the need for the scientists to develop collaborative research projects with a focus on improving the productivity of rice besides establishing standards. The action taken report of the 39<sup>th</sup> Rice Scientists Meet was presented by the lead scientists from Tamil Nadu Rice Research Institute, Aduthurai. During the pre-review, the technical Directors reviewed the on-going University Research Projects (89), action plan projects (19), core projects (11), AICRPs (5) besides external agency funded projects (57).

The outcome of the review was presented by Dr.S.Geetha, Director (CPBG), Dr.S.Mohankumar (CPMB), Dr.S.Sundareswaran, Director (Seeds), Dr.V.Geethalakshmi, Director (Crop Management), Dr.R.Santhi, Director (DNRM), Dr.S.Panneerselvam, Director (WTC) and Dr.K.Prabakar, Director (CPPS). In the closing remarks, Vice-Chancellor deliberated that the rice scientists should continue to work on multidisciplinary mode to improve the quality of research with a definite technology delivery and a landmark variety may be proposed for a special variety release during Golden Jubilee Celebrations (2021-2022). Dr.V.Ambethgar, Director, TRRI, Aduthurai proposed a formal vote of thanks.

## **Pulses Scientists' Meet**

The 39<sup>th</sup> Pulses Scientists' Meet was held on 15.04.2021 through online connecting all the scientists across the University. Dr.K.S.Subramanian, Director of Research underscored the phenomenal progress made in pulses production over the years, ever since 2016 was declared as the International Year of Pulses. Dr.N.Kumar, Vice-Chancellor indicated that the breeders should aim to breed a pulse variety with a productivity of 800-1000 kg per ha. Red gram should be given much priority to reduce the import. The action taken report of the 38<sup>th</sup> Pulses Scientists Meet was presented by the lead



scientists from National Pulses Research Centre, Vamban. During the pre-review, the technical Directors reviewed the on-going University Research Projects (43), action plan projects (27), core projects (16), AICRPs (8) besides external agency funded projects (39). The outcome of the review was presented by the technical Directors. In the closing remarks, the Vice-Chancellor opined that molecular breeding efforts are highly essential to gain multiple resistance to promote pulses productivity. Dr.M.Gunsekaran, Professor and Head, NPRC, Vamban proposed a formal vote of thanks.

## **Oilseeds Scientists' Meet**

The 40<sup>th</sup> Oilseeds Scientists' Meet was held during 22-23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2021 through online. Dr.K.S.Subramanian, Director of Research provided the basic statistics on current scenario



in oilseeds production in the country and the State of Tamil Nadu. Dr.N.Kumar, Vice-Chancellor emphasized the need for research collaborations to develop high yielding oilseed varieties. Despite the oilseed productivity of the State increased by 1.0 ton over the past decade particularly groundnut, other oilseeds such as sesame and sunflower need special impetus. The Action Taken Report on the 39<sup>th</sup> Oilseeds Scientists Meet was presented by the lead scientists from Regional Research Station, Vridhachalam. During the pre-review, the technical Directors reviewed the on-going University Research Projects (32), action plan projects (25), core projects (10), AICRPs (7) besides external agency funded projects (20). The outcome of the review was presented by the technical Directors. In the closing remarks, the Vice-Chancellor stated that the oilseed scientists should work together in order to make use of the advanced tools and techniques to improve the productivity of crops. Dr.K.Karunanithi, Professor (Plant Pathology), Regional Research Station, Vridhachalam proposed a formal vote of thanks.

## Cotton & Allied Fibre Crop Scientists' Meet

The 39<sup>th</sup> Cotton Scientists' Meet was held online during 26-27<sup>th</sup> April, 2021. Dr.K.S.Subramanian, Director of Research welcomed the gathering. Dr.N.Kumar, Vice-Chancellor narrated the importance of cotton and suggested that the ICAR's recent policy is to work only with Bt cotton and



exhorted TNAU to initiate such efforts in consensus with the State Government to promote the productivity while minimizing the insecticide use. The Action Taken Report on the 38<sup>th</sup> Cotton and Allied Fibres Scientists Meet was presented by Technical Directors. During the pre-review, the technical Directors reviewed the on-going University Research Projects (16), action plan projects (14), core projects (8), AICRPs (6) besides external agency funded projects (7). The outcome of the review was presented by the technical Directors. Dr.S.Panneerselvam, Director, Water Technology Centre proposed a formal vote of thanks.

#### Sugarcane Scientists' Meet

The 29<sup>th</sup> Sugarcane Scientists' Meet was held during 26-27<sup>th</sup> April, 2021 through online. Dr.K.S.Subramanian, Director of Research welcomed the sugarcane scientists of TNAU and presented the status quo of sugarcane production in the country in general and Tamil Nadu in particular. Dr.N.Kumar, Vice-



Chancellor emphasized the importance of sugarcane as a sugar as well as energy crop and stated that in the context of declining sugarcane area, TNAU and Sugarcane Breeding Institute, Coimbatore has a major role to play in sustaining sugar production of the State. The Action Taken Report on the 28th Sugarcane Scientists' Meet was presented by Technical Directors. During the pre-review, the technical Directors reviewed the on-going University Research Projects (7), action plan projects (11), core projects (4), AICRPs (1) besides externally funded projects (6). The outcome of the review was presented by the technical Directors. Dr.A.Velayutham, Dean (i/c), AC & RI, Echangkottai proposed a formal vote of thanks.

#### Horticulture Scientists' Meet

The 37<sup>th</sup> Horticulture Scientists' Meet was held during 28-30<sup>th</sup> April, 2021. Dr.K.S.Subramanian, Director of Research welcomed the horticulture scientists and provided current statistics on horticulture



production. Dr.N.Kumar, Vice-Chancellor offered opening remarks underscoring the need for strenuous efforts to sustain the productivity while ensuring quality standards set for export market. He highlighted that the horticulture production has surpassed food grain production since 2010 and continued to grow thereafter. The action taken report on the 36<sup>th</sup> Horticulture Scientists Meet was presented by Dr.L.Pugalendi, Dean, HC & RI, Coimbatore and Dr.P.Muthulakshmi, Associate Professor (Plant

Pathology). During the pre-review, the Deans of three Horticultural Colleges and technical Directors had reviewed the on-going University Research Projects (132), action plan projects (49), core projects (11), AICRPs (5) besides externally funded projects (89). The outcome of the review was presented by Dr.M.S.Aneesarani, Professor and Head (i/c), Department of Fruits, Dr.S.Swarnapriya, Professor and Head, Department of Vegetables, Dr.K.Venkatesan, Professor and Head, Department of Spices & Plantation Crops, Dr. K. Rajamani, Professor and Head, Department of Floriculture & Medicinal Crops and Plant protection by Dr.K.Prabakar, Director (CPPS). The Action Plan for the year 2021-22 was presented by Dr.T.Arumugam, Dean, HC & RI, Periyakulam. Dr.P.Paramaguru, Dean (i/c), HC & RI (W), Trichy proposed a formal vote of thanks.

## Vice-Chancellor's Review

#### **Rice Research Station, Ambasamudram**

Dr.N.Kumar, Vice-Chancellor visited Rice Research Station, Ambasamudram on 03.04.2021. Vice-Chancellor reviewed the ongoing research projects and made suggestions to improve. He advised the scientists to demonstrate the capsule of organic rice cultivation technologies developed in farmers' field with traditional varieties to achieve higher yield. The Vice-Chancellor visited the exhibition of promising rice cultures in the pipe line and the rice fallow blackgram seed production fields. The



final year students of Agricultural College and Research Institute, Killikulam undergoing Rural Agricultural Work Experience (RAWE) programme at Ambasamudram explained their activities to the Vice-Chancellor. He guided the students to visit nearby organic farms for more practical exposure.

#### HRS, Pechiparai

Vice-Chancellor visited Horticultural Research Station, Pechiparai on 05.04.2021 and reviewed the activities pertaining to farm, teaching and research. He inspected the experiments conducted and ongoing civil works. Fruits of Vietnam Super early jack introduced at this Station which yielded fruits of medium size



with orange carpels and good quality in 18 months of planting were exhibited. Scientists explained the progress made so far in research activities pertaining to clove, banana, bush pepper and minor fruits for which suitable suggestions were given by the Vice-Chancellor for improving the research programme. He also emphasized the need for practical orientation of the Diploma Horticulture students and for conduct of fruitful research activities in spices and fruits of the high rainfall zone.

#### AC&RI, Killikulam

Dr.N.Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, TNAU, Coimbatore visited Agricultural College and Research Institute, Killikulam on 07.04.2021 and inspected the research, extension, establishment, farm and estate activities. The Vice-Chancellor



visited various farms and Killikulam Agri Business Incubation Forum (KABIF). He inaugurated the newly established conference hall in Cafeteria building, kitchen and dining facilities in students' hostel, vehicle shed, Tamiraparani water distribution system and the renovated accommodation facility in Tamiraparani illam of AC & RI, Killikulam. Also



Vice-Chancellor suggested for the erection of solar fencing in the newly developed farm area. He held discussions with PG students and Heads of the Departments and faculty. He advised the faculty to improve the quality of education and research in line with the current needs and insisted to follow Covid 19 precautions.

#### ARS, Thirupathisaram

Vice-Chancellor visited Agricultural Research Station, Thirupathisaram on 07.04.2021 and reviewed the progress of research and seed production. He inspected the seed production of TPS 3 rice, research trials, banana plantation and mango orchard and offered suggestions to increase the farm income. He witnessed the



Kadamba trees planted around the farm pond. The progress of research work, seed production and other initiatives taken for revenue generation were explained by Dr.P.Suthamathi, Associate Professor and Head.

## **MoU Signed**

#### MoU to develop methodology/Software

A consultancy project on 'Increasing accuracy of paddy yield prediction in the Cauvery river basin using spatial methodologies through machine learning, data integration and automation' is sponsored by Dr.B.Krishnaraj Foundation and Gaiadhi, India to the Directorate of Crop Management for a period of 6 months with a budget outlay of Rs. 6 lakhs. In this regard, an MoU was signed between TNAU and Dr.B.Krishnaraj Foundation and Gaiadhi, India to develop methodology/software to transform point based yield estimation into spatial yield estimation to account for the spatial variations in multiple factors that affect the yield. The MoU w a s s i g n e d o n 16.04.2021 b y



Dr.A.S.Krishnamoorthy, Registrar on behalf of TNAU and Mrs.Parvathy Krishnaraj, Managing Trustee on behalf of Dr.B.Krishnaraj Foundation in the presence of Dr.N.Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, Dr.V.Geethalakshmi, Director, Crop Management, PI of the project, Dr.J.Venkata Pirabu, Director, Planning and Monitoring and Dr.S.D.Sivakumar, Director, Directorate of Agribusiness Development.

## Events Organized Outside TNAU Main Campus

## Inauguration of ODL course on Coconut Cultivation Technology

The Directorate of Open and Distance Learning, TNAU, Coimbatore and ICAR – Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Thirupathisaram jointly inaugurated a Certificate course programme on 'Coconut Cultivation Technology' at KVK, Thirupathisaram on 07.04.2021 for the benefit of 44 Coconut growing farmers of Kanyakumari District. In his inaugural address, Dr.N.Kumar,



Vice-Chancellor, TNAU stressed the importance of latest coconut production technologies for increasing the yield and quality against emerging pests, diseases and nutritional disorders. Dr.M.Kalyanasundaram, Dean, AC&RI, Coimbatore delivered the felicitation address in which he motivated the student farmers to learn the production technologies as coconut. Dr.M.Ananthan, Director, Open Distance Learning emphasized the significance of modern coconut cultivation technologies and motivated the coconut farmers who enrolled for the certificate course for horizontal spread of technologies to other farmers for field level adoption. A course material was released by the Vice-Chancellor. Dr.P.Suthamathi, Programme Coordinator, KVK, Thirupathisaram and Dr.T.Prabhu, Assistant Professor (Horticulture) organized the programme.

## **COVID Vaccination Drive**

#### **TNAU Main Campus**

The University dispensary under Centre for Students Welfare at TNAU main campus organized COVID vaccine drive for the welfare of its staff, their wards and also PG students of



main campus. The first dose of vaccine was administered to all staff during 11-25<sup>th</sup> March, 2021. The second dose was administered for both students and staff during 9-24<sup>th</sup> April, 2021. A total of 1500 doses were administered in the vaccination drive.



## AEC&RI, Kumulur

The vaccination for the staff and labourers of Agricultural Engineering College and Research Institute (AEC&RI), Kumulur was arranged on 09.04.2021. Around 26 staff and labourers were given first dose of Covishield at Pudur Uthamanur Primary Health Centre.



Dr.V.Thirupathi, Dean, AEC&RI, Kumulur, Dr.J.John Gunasekar, Professor and Head, Department of Renewable Energy Engineering and Dispensary staff of AEC&RI, Kumulur organized the event.

#### ADAC&RI, Trichy

Medical Dispensary of ADAC&RI, Trichy organized a Covid Vaccination Camp at Auditorium for all the staff and labourers of ADAC&RI and HC&RI (W) in association with Primary Health Centre (PHC), Innamkulathur. A team consisting of a medical officer and two staff nurses from PHC organized the camp. Dr.P.Masilamani Dean, ADAC&RI and Dr.P.Paramaguru, Dean, HC& RI (W)





inaugurated the event and inspired the participants by taking their dose of vaccine. First camp was conducted on 19.03.2021 with 48 beneficiaries and the second camp was conducted on 30.04.2021 with 53 beneficiaries.

#### Installation of BSNL mobile phone tower

BSNL cell phone tower was installed at the Agricultural College and Research Institute, Eachangkottai Campus for providing network



service for the benefit of the students and staff. The tower was declared open by Dr.A.Velayutham, Dean, AC&RI, Eachangkottai on 15.04.2021 wherein he expressed his gratitude



and thanked the General Manager, BSNL, Thanjavur for providing BSNL cell phone service especially for AC&RI, Eachangkottai. The staff of AC&RI, Eachangkottai participated.

## Training Programme on Digital Language Laboratory Usage

In order to inculcate the communication and soft skills of the students and staff of Anbil Dharmalingam Agricultural College and Research Institute and Horticultural College and Research Institute, Trichy an Advanced Digital Language Laboratory was established under TNAU-NAHEP-IDP. For the effective utilization



of the laboratory, a hands on training was offered to the staff of the Department of Social Sciences and Plant Breeding & Genetics on 19.04.2021. Dr.P.Masilamani, Dean, ADAC&RI addressed the participants and stressed the need for lifelong learning for personal and professional growth and appealed them to be familiar with the course materials available in the language laboratory. Fifteen staff from both Departments participated.



## Training Programme on Enhancing Communication Skills

A Skill Oriented Training Programme on 'Enhancing Communication Skills in English, French, German and Spanish' was conducted on 21.04.2021 at the language lab, AC&RI, Killikulam established under ICAR-NAHEP-IDP. The training was organized by the Department of Social Sciences, AC&RI,



Killikulam. Dr.K.Eraivan Arutkani Aiyanathan, Dean, AC&RI, Killikulam inaugurated the programme. Dr.R.Senthil Kumar, Professor and Head, Department of Social Sciences welcomed the participants. Dr.P.Jeyalakshmi, Assistant Professor (English) conducted the training session and oriented the students on the use of language lab to enhance communication skills in English, German, Spanish and French. A total of 21 PG students attended the session. The Department of Social Sciences also organized another Capacity Building program on 'Exploring the Possibilities of Computer Aided Language learning (CALL) and ICT in Enhancing Language Skills' which was conducted online for Faculty Members on 30.04.2021.

## IDP-NAHEP Language Laboratory Workshop

A workshop on 'Effective communication for teaching faculty' was arranged on 21.04.2021 by the Department of Agricultural Extension and Rural Sociology, AC&RI, Madurai. Dr.K.Mahendrakumar, Professor and Head,



Department of Agricultural Extension and Rural Sociology welcomed the gathering and stated the importance of organizing the workshop. Dr.V.K.Paulpandi, Dean, AC&RI, Madurai emphasized the importance of effective communication for teaching faculties and motivated the faculty members to make use of the Language Lab available in AC&RI, Madurai for their benefit. Mr.M.Suresh, Assistant Professor (English) and Dr.P.Prema, Assistant Professor (Computer Science) acted as resource pers

#### World Earth Day Celebration

#### FC&RI, Mettupalayam

A function was organized to celebrate the 51<sup>st</sup> World Earth Day at Forest College & Research Institute (FC&RI), Mettupalayam on 22.04.2021 with the focal theme 'Restore our Earth'. Dr.K.T.Parthiban, Dean inaugurated the function and narrated the sequence of events that led to the celebration of World Earth Day and exhorted the participants to save the planet by



planting the trees, minimizing the dependence on electricity, recycling the wastes and optimizing the usage of water. On this occasion, more than 2000 saplings of native tree species were planted. The function was organized as part of the NSS activity. The event was attended by more than 25 faculty members and 10 research fellows working in the institute.

#### KVK, Sandhiyur

In commemoration of Earth Day, an online training programme entitled 'Global Warming - Natural Resource Conservation Agriculture' was organized by the Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Sandhiyur, Salem district on 22.04.2021. Dr.M.Vijayakumar, Programme Coordinator, KVK, Salem welcomed the participants and explained on global warming issues. Dr.M.Malarkodi, Assistant Professor (SS&AC)



delivered a lecture on soil health; Dr.S.Suganya kanna, Asst. Professor (PP) elaborated AESA (Agro Eco-System Analysis) based crop pest and disease management; Dr.R.Vijayan, Asst. Professor (SST) explained the organic seed treatment technologies; Dr.P.Kohila, Asst. Professor (VS) narrated about weather-based livestock maintenance; Mrs. R. Gayathri, Agricultural Officer, Department of Forestry, Salem spoke on forest conservation technologies; Mr.S.Prabhaharan, Agromet Observer, KVK, Sandhiyur explained the weather based mobile apps *viz.*, Meghdoot and Damini. Dr.G.Malathi, Asst. Professor (Hort), KVK, Sandhiyur

proposed vote of thanks. Nearly 45 participants including farmers and farm women participated.

## **Extension Activities Organized**

## Demonstration of Drone Technology KVK, Sirugamani

Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Sirugamani demonstrated the Drone Sprayer technology along with the technical team from Garuda Aerospace Pvt Ltd, Chennai headed by Mr.R.Pravinkumar, Assistant General Manager on 23.04.2021. The spraying of TNAU Pulse Wonder using Agri Drones was demonstrated in blackgram at farmer's field in S.Pudukkottai, Andhanallur block of Trichy district. Farmers actively participated in the discussion with the



technical team and gave positive feedback about Agri Drones and the team made detailed presentation and interacted with officials and farmers. Dr.V.Alex Albert, Assistant Professor (SST) and Dr.N.Tamilselvan, Programme Coordinator, KVK, Sirugamani organized the event for the benefit of the farming community. Totally 18 farmers and KVK officials participated.

#### RRS, Vriddhachalam

Drone Spraying of pesticides in orchard crops was demonstrated at Regional Research Station, Vriddhachalam on 29.04.2021 jointly with M/s. Dhaksha unmanned systems,



Chennai. During the demonstration, 1.25 acres of cashew plantation was covered in 45 minutes with 2.5 litres petrol for a spray fluid of 50 litres. Drone spray had the advantages like high efficiency, precision spray, water saving and soil protection compared to manual spray. Dr.K.Subrahmaniyan, Professor and Head, Regional Research Station, Vriddhachalam; Dr.N.Sriram, Programme Co-ordinator, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Vriddhachalam and scientists from RRS & KVK, Vriddhachalam participated.

## Training Programme on Bio-Fungicide Production under SADP

As a part of the Project on 'Enhancing livelihood status of Tribal Women through Community / Village based Bio-Enterprises at Kodaikanal Block of Dindigul District' funded under SADP (Special Area Development Programme), two training programmes on production of bio-fungicides for tribal women of Thandikudi Panchayat were conducted on 23.04.2021 at Coffee Board, Thandikudi, Kodaikanal. Dr.J.Venkata Pirabu, Director,





Planning and Monitoring, TNAU, Coimbatore highlighted the importance of bio-fungicide production and ecological importance of biofungicides. Dr.C.Gopalakrishanan, Professor (Plant Pathology), Department of Rice, TNAU, Coimbatore demonstrated the production technologies for Trichoderma viride through selfhelp group approach for creating self employment. Dr.P.Balaji, Assistant Professor (ARM), Department of Agricultural Rural management, TNAU Coimbatore spoke on the marketing of produces and marketing channels. The scientists from coffee board and Assistant Director of Horticulture, Kodaikanal also participated in the training and stressed the importance of bio-fungicide production. The overall co-ordination was done by Dr.P.Balasubramanian, Professor and Head, Department of Agricultural Extension and Rural Studies cum PI of the project.

## **Students' Activities**

#### Monitoring and Evaluation of RAWE students

The final year B.Sc.(Hons.) Agriculture students of Agriculture College and Research



Institute, Eachangkottai undergoing RAWE Programme were placed in seven different places of Thanjavur and Thiruvarur districts. Dr.A.Velayutham, Dean and Group Facilitators visited two groups placed in Sirugamani and ADAC, Trichy on 21.04.2021. The students were in NGO tie-up programme and the team directly



visited the groups. The students shared their experience gained through the programme. The team also visited Needamangalam and Aduthurai and reviewed the student activities in industrial tie-up programme.

From

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

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