

INSPIRING EDUCATIONAL MAGAZINE

₹ 30

# Genius

## Punnagai

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G.K.  
GALLERY

THE MOST  
FEARLESS MAN  
ALIVE

BOOST YOUR  
FITNESS

**SKY  
IS THE  
LIMIT**

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES IN AGRICULTURE

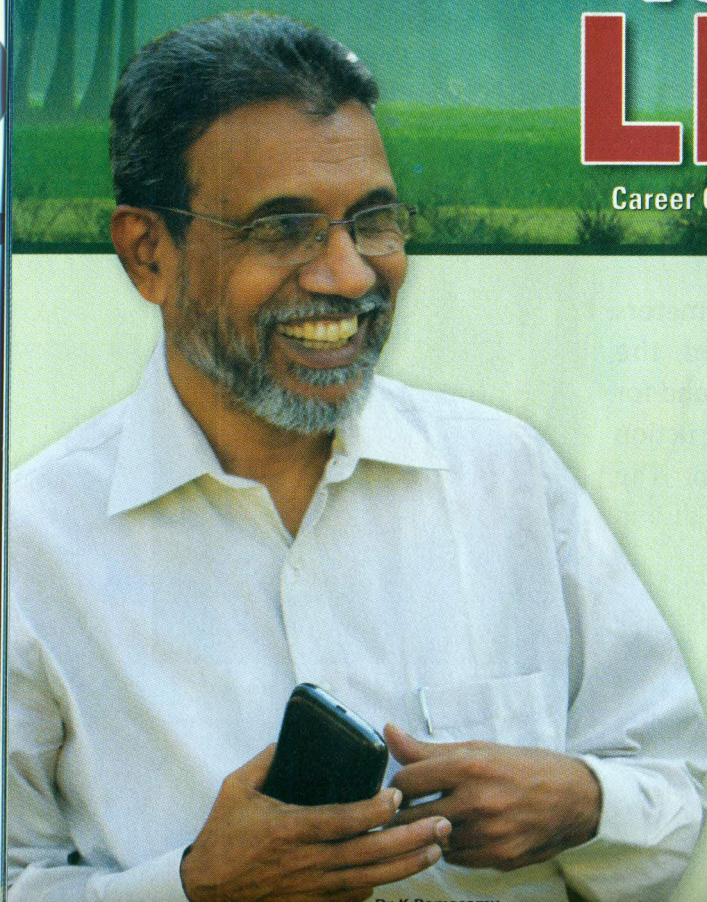
Dr.K.Ramasamy, Vice-Chancellor, TNAU





# SKY IS THE LIMIT

Career Opportunities in Agriculture



Dr.K.Ramasamy, the tenth Vice-Chancellor of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University is leading this premier institution in a crucial period of transformation in agriculture. With a strong academic background, he has a broad vision and many action plans for achieving the targeted agricultural growth in Tamil Nadu. His focus is on introducing changes in agricultural education, promoting research for innovative solutions and promoting agribusiness.

In an exclusive interview with the Editor of Genius Punnagai, the Vice Chancellor shared his views on agriculture, growing opportunities for the new generation and much more.



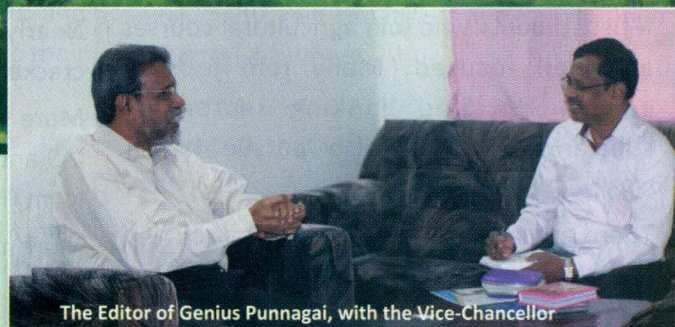
**Nearly 350 students from TNAU have cracked civil services exams so far. More than 50 of our alumni are working as IAS and IPS officers.**

**Sir, could you tell us about the significance of agriculture in India and the role of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University...**

Agriculture is the backbone of Indian economy. About 65% of the population still relies on agriculture for employment and livelihood.

Agriculture contributes 18 percent of India's GDP.

Science-led agriculture is the need of the hour to take our country forward. Agricultural Universities take a major role in the promotion



The Editor of Genius Punnagai, with the Vice-Chancellor

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University is one of the oldest institutes on agricultural education in India. The institution was originally started at Saidapet, Chennai in 1868, and later established at Coimbatore in 1906.

The present AC&RI building opened in July 1909 depicts symbolically the history and standard of agricultural education in our state. Now, the university has 11



**What are the major courses offered in TNAU?**

Now the University is offering 13 undergraduate programs, 40 graduate programs and 27 doctoral programs.

B.Sc. (Agriculture) is the basic degree offered from the early years. It is a professional course of 4 years. Later, B.Sc. (Horticulture), B.Tech. (Agriculture), B.Sc. (Home Science) and B.Sc. (Forestry) were started.

TNAU is the first university in South East Asia to start B.Tech. (Food Processing) and it is one of the courses where students get 100 percent placement.

**What are all the career avenues open for agricultural students?**

While placement in the other sectors is decreasing, placement in agriculture is increasing steadily. There are many career opportunities for agricultural students.

Most students who join agricultural courses are well focused. Many join jobs in government and banking sectors. A substantial number also pursue higher studies.

There are many who take up research and teaching. A few students become agricultural entrepreneurs.

**How far is agricultural education suited for girl students?**

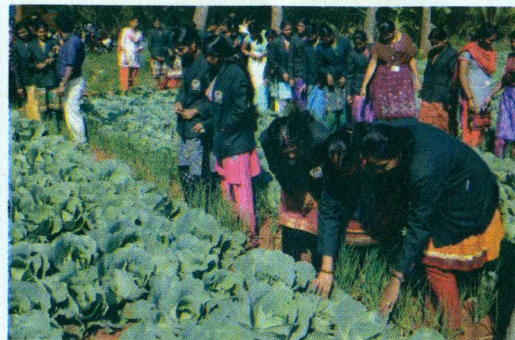
Earlier, girls did not opt to join the university because agriculture involved strenuous manual labour. With the increasing use of machinery in agriculture, more girls started

joining the university.

In recent years, the number of girls joining the institute has been on the rise. In 1972, only one girl student was admitted.

Today, a majority of students at TNAU are women (72 per cent).

The proportion of women to men will only



increase in the coming years.

**We were told that TNAU serves as the best launching pad to enter into administrative services. How does it happen?**

Nearly 350 students from TNAU have cracked civil services exams so far.

More than 50 of our alumni are working as IAS and IPS officers. More than 120 alumni from TNAU have become IFS officers.

More than 170 of our alumni have joined other administrative services like Indian Postal Services and Indian Revenue Services.

The students of TNAU have recorded their excellence in state level and national level competitive exams.

This is mainly because of the vast exposure given to them through a variety of subjects in the syllabus and hands-on-training.





### **What is the scope for agriculture related business in India, in the days to come?**

Today, India is the third largest producer of agricultural products in the world. However, it lags significantly in terms of yield benchmarks and value added products.

Farmers can easily become successful entrepreneurs by increasing productivity and by adding value to their produce. Farmers also need to pay earnest attention to allied agricultural activities as well.

Many agricultural entrepreneurs have reaped phenomenal success. A farmer in Theni has become a pioneer in banana industry. There are many successful farmers in Oddanchattiram, Pollachi, Dharmapuri and many pockets of Tamilnadu.

Another significant trend is that many youngsters are returning to farming. Having reached the zenith of their career, corporate honchos such as the Vice-Presidents and Directors of top-notch firms are back to their village, ready to till the land.

### **What is your advice to the plus two students who wish to join TNAU?**

Jawaharlal Nehru said, 'If agriculture fails, nothing else will survive'. It is relevant to this day. It is the duty of the young generation to take agriculture, the primary sector of the country to new levels.

Today Indian agriculture is in the stage of transformation and I am confident that it has a bright future. Many youngsters have realized this potential and they are bold enough to choose agricultural courses.

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**TNAU received the award for highest patents among academic institutions. With structured regulation, teaching, evaluation and skill development our products will excel in the time to come.**

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Even five years back, medical science, engineering, and accounting were the choice of brilliant students. But the latest trend among the proactive students, especially girls, is the choice of agriculture as a career. The lucrative career opportunities make them join agricultural universities.

Technology is the only key to produce more from reduced cultivable area, reduced water availability, reduced inputs and less damage to the environment.

Statistics support for the excellence in education that led to more TNAU products' entry into ASRB, UPSC and private seed industry.

TNAU also received the award for the highest patents among academic institutions. With structured regulation, teaching, evaluation and skill development our products will excel in the time to come.

***I welcome the students who choose agricultural studies. You all should aim high in life and be focused about your career. When dreams are big, sky is the limit.*** ■