

TNAU NEWS



TAMILNADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY NEWS LETTER

Patron : Dr. C. RAMASAMY - Vice Chancellor

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CASA TRAINING ON PULSES AND OILSEEDS >>>



A twenty one day training programme on “Recent advances in the production and utilization of pulses and oilseed crops” was conducted by the Department of Agronomy, Centre for Soil and Crop Management Studies, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore under the auspices of Centre of Advances Studies in Agronomy (ICAR) from 10th September to 30th September, 2008. Twenty scientists from Gujarat, U.P.Jharkhand, Chattisgarh, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Tamil Nadu attended the training programme. The participants were from the faculties of Agronomy, Plant

Breeding and Genetics, Crop Physiology, Pathology, Entomology and Agricultural Microbiology.

The training programme was inaugurated on 10th September, 2008 by Prof. C.Ramasamy, Vice-Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore-3. During the inaugural address, the Vice-Chancellor underlined the need for the adoption of sprinkler irrigation technology to enhance the production and productivity of pulses and oilseed crops. Further, the Vice-Chancellor emphasized the importance of post harvest technologies and value addition in

pulses and oil seed crops.

Dr.S.Natarajan, Director, Centre for Soil and Crop Management Studies during his presidential address highlighted various strategies for enhancing production and productivity of pulses and oilseed crops. Earlier, Dr.P.Muthukrishnan, Professor and Head, Department of Agronomy welcomed the participants and briefed about the training programme. Dr.M.Mohamed Amanullah, Professor (Agronomy) proposed the vote of thanks.

The training given to the scientists included a wide range of topics by resource persons from various disciplines of this University. Off campus guest speakers also imparted training to the participants. The participants visited soya processing unit near Pollachi; Agricultural Research Station, Aliyarnagar; Oil processing unit, Dharapuram and Pulses processing unit at Thiruchengode. The participant also visited field experiments and various faculties in the main campus.

The valedictory function was held on 30.09.08. Dr.B.Chandrasekaran, Director of Research delivered the valedictory address and distributed certificates and training manual to the participants.

REGISTRAR'S VISIT TO COTTON RESEARCH STATION

Dr. P. Santhana Krishnan, Registrar, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore visited the Cotton Research Station, Veppanthattai, on 15.8.08 and

hoisted the National flag and addressed the gathering. After reviewing the progress of work at CRS farm, visited the Precision Farming demonstration of Mr. Venugopal, Progressive farmer at Poolambadi, Perambalur district, where turmeric intercropped with onion was

raised under drip fertigation. In that site, a farmers' interaction meet with Registrar was organized in which 50 farmers participated. The farmers requested the Registrar to supply seeds of high yielding varieties / hybrids of maize and cotton from TNAU, as the

INAUGURATION OF AGRI-CLINIC CUM MINI SOIL TESTING LABORATORY)))



Madukkarai and was inaugurated by Dr.C.Ramasamy, Vice-Chancellor, TNAU on 14.09.2008. Th.D.Nandagopal, Joint Director of Agriculture in-charge, Coimbatore District, Dr.S.Natarajan, Director Centre for Soil and Crop Management Studies, Dr.V.Velu, Professor and Head, Department of Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry, Dr.R.Natesan Professor and Principle Investigator of NADP scheme on Agri-clinic cum Mini Soil Testing Laboratories and Dr.R.Santhi, Professor of Soil Science also participated.

Under National Agricultural Development Project Government of India has sanctioned Rs.7.16 crore for the Establishment of Agri-clinic Cum Mini Soil Testing Laboratories in 224 blocks of Tamil Nadu. This programme is being implemented jointly by the Department of Agriculture,

Government of Tamil Nadu and TNAU.

Under this programme, the first Agri-clinic cum mini soil testing laboratories (ORBIT Agri-clinic cum mini soil testing laboratory) was established at Kandhegoundanchavadi of

The Agri-clinic would be taking up the soil analytical service apart from all advisory services pertaining to various crops and therefore, the farmers of Madukkarai block can make use of this facility for enhancing the crop productivity and maintenance of soil health.

seeds from private agencies were costlier. Also the farmers appreciated the TNAU efforts to start a new Cotton Research Station to serve the needs of farming community of the backward districts like Perambalur where majority of the area is under rainfed condition.

office. The Professor and Head Dr.G. Vijayakumar, Department of Forage Crops presented detailed report of research projects carried out during last five years (2002-07). They have also visited the Forage farmers and appreciated the spread of fodder crop varieties.

Yard, Apple Orchard, Food Processing Lab and also attended various lectures in the field of biotechnology, SRI technology, food nutrition and safety etc. The entire trip has enlightened him to gain enough knowledge in knowing about American Agriculture and food system.

QRT TEAM'S VISIT TO FORAGE DEPARTMENT

A QRT team under the chairmanship of Dr.S.D. Rai reviewed the AICRP scheme activities in the Department of Forage Crops, TNAU, Coimbatore on 18.9.2008. They have visited the fields, reviewed all ongoing research projects, Analytical Laboratory and



TNAU STUDENT AT CORNELL UNIVERSITY FOR INTAG PROGRAM

Mr.P.Jai Sridhar, II M.Sc. (Ag.) in Agricultural Extension, visited Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, USA from 3.9.2008 to 18.9.2008 under INTAG programme. During this period, the student was exposed to gain knowledge in various aspects about systems of New York State Agriculture, Cornell Cooperative Extension Service etc. He visited the world's top Retail markets like Aldi, Wegmans and Wal Mart, USA's most prestigious Wine Manufacturing company called Hunt County Wine

INTER-COLLEGIATE CHESS TOURNAMENT

An Inter -Collegiate Chess tournament for N.C.C. cadets was conducted at Agricultural College and Research Institute, Killikulam on 2.8.2008. Dr. P. Vivekanandan, Dean, inaugurated the chess tournament.



N.C.C cadets representing from MDT Hindu College, Pettai, St. John's College, St. Xavier's College, S.A.College, Palayamkottai, Paramakalyani College,

Alwarkurichi and AC&RI KKM participated in the Tournament. Players of St. John's College had won first place. Players from MDT Hindu College and Agricultural College

have won the II, and III places respectively. Mr.Jayasankar, the National Arbitor and Mr.Lakshmanan have officiated the tournament Dr.S.Somasundaram, Staff Advisor

TRAINING ON NATIONAL INVASIVE WEED SURVEILLANCE)))



Five-day training on National Invasive Weed Surveillance (NIWS) has been organized in Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) from Sep. 18-22, 2008 in association with the National Research Centre for Weed Science (NRCWS), Jabalpur. Around 25 participants comprising of Area Coordinators, Senior Surveillance Inspectors, Surveillance Inspectors, and scientists from Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu were attended the training. The inaugural function was held on Sep. 18, 2008.

Prof. C.Ramasamy, Vice-Chancellor, TNAU during his inaugural address expressed that weeds are agents of bio-terrorism posing a major challenge for increasing food production. Liberalization of the global economy has resulted in increased imports and exports of agricultural commodities and therefore has underscored the need for rigorous quarantine measures. India especially should ensure that invasive weeds do not gain entry

into its ports as happened in the case of two noxious weeds viz., prosopis and parthenium.

The Vice-Chancellor further highlighted that the world food loss due to weeds is alarming, and is estimated to be around 287 million tones (Mt) accounting for 11.5% of the total food production. In India, the monetary loss in cereals is estimated at 33 M t, pulses 20 mt, oilseeds 26 M t and fibre and commercial crops accounts for 8 M t. During 2006-07, India imported large quantity of wheat which was supplied to the consumers, mostly residing in the rural areas, through the Public Distribution System (PDS). In view of this the NIWS project has been launched with a budget outlay of Rs.6.66 crores for two year period (2008-10) so as to detect and check the exotic weeds that gained entry through the imported wheat.

The Vice-Chancellor while highlighting the project profile cautioned that early detection and eradication of the regulated weeds is critical or else they may spread

and cause catastrophic damage. These weeds have the potential to spread to non-wheat areas and also would pose series health problems. Therefore, huge plant protection measures would be required to contain and manage these weeds, which may be uneconomical. This project aims to detect the establishment of the regulated weeds and to formulate eradication programmes to avoid future spread. This will also help to refine the existing phyto-sanitary measures on import of wheat.

Dr.Jay G.Varshney, Director, NRCWS delivered the special address. The Director stated that no single element causes as much damage as that of weeds, which is capable of causing 33% reduction in yields. The Director informed that the NIWS came into existence because of the entry of several exotic weeds into the country during the import of 6.2 M t of wheat during 2006-07 from several countries. This consignment caused entry of five noxious weeds, which subsequently got entry into 10 states through the PDS. The programme will be covered in two phases viz., finding out the establishment of the weeds in the first phase and eradication of the same in the second phase. The Director expressed that it is the responsibility of the respective State governments to undertake suitable control measures based on the project recommendations.

Dr.S.Natarajan, Director, Centre for Soil & Crop Management Studies and Dr.S.Ramasamy, Professor and Head (incharge), Department of Agronomy also spoke during the occasion.

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CAPACITY BUILDING ON ICT FOR AGRIL. EXTENSION FUNCTIONARIES >>>



Trainings on Capacity Building on ICT for Agricultural Extension Functionaries have been conducted at Agricultural College and Research Institute, Madurai with a budget of Rs. 13.5 lakh for 10 weeks continuously. About 181 Assistant Directors, 232 Agricultural and Horticultural

Officers and 83 Deputy Agricultural and Horticultural Officers from all the Districts of Tamil Nadu were trained.

In this training different aspects like Introduction to computers, Internet and ICT technology, Operating Systems, Software,

Hardware and Basic Operations, Word Processing, Spread Sheet, Power Point and Multimedia Presentations, Internet, TCP, IP, Browsers, Search Engines, Viruses, Spy ware, Malware and management, Internet Communication, E-mail, Chat, blogs, e-publication, VOIP, Net Meeting and Video Conferencing, Web Designing, Agri. Technology portals, IMCD, E-Governance, Government Portals usages, Open source tools, Linux basics and Linux based open source applications were dealt.

The arrangements for the Training programme have been made under the chairmanship of Dr. K. Ramamoorthy, Dean, Agricultural College & Research Institute, Madurai by Prof. C. Swaminathan, Research Coordinator and Dr.P.Paramasivam, Professor & Head, Dept. of Agril. Economics.

welcomed the gathering. Col.D.N.Gupta, Commanding Officer 5TN.BN.N.C.C., Tirunelveli delivered special address and distributed the awards to the winners. Capt.Dr.S.Ravindran, N.C.C. Officer, proposed vote of thanks.

PRECISION FARMING DEMONSTRATION IN TRICHY DISTRICT

The Precision Farming demonstration undertaken in Trichy District acts as an eye opener for the extension officials and farmers of Trichy for expanding the area under the National Agricultural Development Programme.

As the follow up of the pioneering Tamil Nadu Precision Farming Project in Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri districts, an area of 20 ha was demonstrated under vegetables and banana in Trichy District. 14 ha of vegetables in Kolakkudi cluster of Thottiam Taluk and 6 ha of tissue

culture Grand Naine banana and vegetables in Lalgudi cluster during 2007-08 by KVK, Sirugamani. The extension officials of Trichy District were all trained in the above demonstration plots by the farmers themselves for hands on experience. This demonstration acts as an Oasis in a Desert because in Kolakkudi village, almost the entire area is lying fallow without any cropping excepting the Green Fields under the Precision Farming at present.

The 'Trichy District Precision Farmers' Association', a co-operative formed by the beneficiaries of this project acts not only as Navigators of modern technologies but also the Pioneers in exploring suitable market for their produce who have planned to ship their produce in the years to come.

TNAU ALUMINI'S CONTRIBUTION TO CENTENARY BUILDING

A Centenary Building is being



constructed in Tamil Nadu Agricultural University at an estimate of 8 crores. Towards the construction of a modern seminar hall in the new Centenary Building, Dr.M.Ramasami, Managing Director of Rasi Seeds (P) Ltd. of Attur, Salem donated a sum of Rs. 25 lakhs, to TNAU. The Managing Director who is an Alumni of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, have been honored by conferring the Degree of Doctor of Science (*Honoris Causa*) at the 29th convocation held on 25th July, 2008. The seed company has also entered into research collaboration with various disciplines of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University,

NATIONAL AWARD FOR TAMILNADU MUSHROOM GROWER

National Research Centre for Mushroom, Solan, Himachal Pradesh has celebrated the Silver Jubilee Mushroom Mela on 10.9.2008 in completion of 25 years of mushroom. The centre has selected 10 progressive mushroom growers from different states at national level. Th.N.Subramaniam of Tamil Nadu, is one among the mushroom growers who got selected and awarded with National level award for his contribution in the field of mushroom cultivation. He was awarded with the Citation and a award –“**Progressive Mushroom Grower**” and the award was given in recognition of his outstanding contribution in popularizing Milky mushroom cultivation in Tamil Nadu and at National level. It is worth mentioning that he was trained by TNAU

SPECIAL PURPOSE VEHICLE COMMITTEE MEETING

The third Special Purpose Vehicle Committee meeting of ISOPOM-OPDP-Precision farming in Oil Palm was conducted on 22.8.2008 at TRRI, Aduthurai. Dr.S.Jebaraj, Director, TRRI and Chairman of the committee; Dr.P.Murugesan, Scientist, NRCOP, Palode; Dr.N.Chelliah, Professor, Agronomy Member-Convener; Th.Annamalai, Head (Operation), Technical Consultant and Zonal Coordinator Cauvery Palm Oil Ltd; Joint Directors of Agriculture from Thanjavur, Thiruvarur, Trichy, Nagapattinam, Cuddalore, Th.Rajarathinam, a precision farming grower from Trichy; Professor, Agronomy; Professor Entomology and research fellows of the scheme participated in the meeting. Documentation of list of beneficiaries, preparation of health cards, MIS layout supply of MIS

accessories, inputs, installation of MIS cum fertigation unit-I phase I progress made, conduct of training, seminar and workshop, selection of beneficiaries from Cuddalore and Villupuram and rodent control in wetland fields were discussed in the meeting.

TRAINING ON DAP SPRAY TO INCREASE PULSE PRODUCTION

Off-campus training on DAP spray for pulse was conducted at Kottavadi village in Attur taluk of Salem District on 29.8.08 under IAMWARM scheme for Upper Vellar (Vasista) sub basin functioning at TCRS, Yethapur. More than 50 farmers participated and benefited.

Dr.V.Palanisamy, Professor and Head, TCRS, Yethapur presided over the function and welcomed the gathering. In his presidential address,

TRAINING ON HYBRID RICE SEED PRODUCTION



A training on '**Hybrid Rice Seed Production**' to farmers and agricultural extension officers was organized by Agricultural Research Station, Bhavanisagar during September 9-11, 2008 at Bhavanisagar. Dr.M.Balusamy, Professor and Head, ARS, Bhavanisagar welcomed the gathering and highlighted the scope of hybrid rice seed production in Western Zone.

Dr.T.S.Raveendran, Director, Centre for Plant Breeding and Genetics, TNAU, Coimbatore presided over the function and delivered a special address emphasizing the need for participation of farmers in hybrid rice seed production programme. Th.P.S.Anbu, Board Member, TNAU, inaugurated the training and delivered the inaugural address. He suggested that a group

of farmers can contribute some money and that can be deposited in a bank and the earnings obtained can be distributed to the member farmers when a natural calamity occurs. Tmt.Parvathi Venkateswaran, Board Member, TNAU, released a booklet on hybrid rice seed production and in her felicitation address said that efforts should be taken to bring more area under organic farming. Dr.K.Mohanasundaram, Professor and Head (Rice), TNAU, explained the achievements on hybrid rice production and scope of seed production in Tamil Nadu. Dr.P.Natesan, Professor (SS&T), Agricultural Research Station, Bhavanisagar proposed vote of thanks.

About 50 participants of farmers and agricultural officers from Erode and Coimbatore districts were participated in the training programme. Field demonstrations were also organized at Agricultural Research Station, Bhavanisagar and farmers field near Erankattur.

he explained about the activities and functions of TN-IAMWARM in Salem district for the benefit of farmers of Upper Vellar (Vasista) sub basin and also emphasized the importance of growing pulses as pure crop and DAP spray on 30th and 40th days after sowing with hand sprayer.

Dr.P.J.Panidian, Head, TN-IAMWARM, TNAU, Coimbatore in his technical speech highlighted the cultivation practices of pulses and fertilizer requirement of the crop and the importance of DAP spray to increase the production and productivity of pulse crop.

Demonstrations on DAP spray for pulses were conducted in farmer's field for Green gram (VBN 2 variety) and Black gram (VBN 2 variety) as part of the training programme Dr.S.Manickam, Asso. Prof. (Agronomy) and Scientist incharge of IAMWARM proposed the vote of thanks.

NEW SCHEMES

Name of the Scheme	PI	Amount (lakh Rs.)	Funding Agency
A Value Chain on Industrial Agroforestry in Tamil Nadu	Dr.K.T.Parthiban Assoc. Prof. (For.)	230.59	NAIP-ICAR
Macro and micro propagation for mass multiplication in selected high neera yielding palmyrah types	Dr.V.Ponnuswami Professor (Hort)	18.18	DBT
Wireless sensor based forecasting for disease management and water use efficiency in banana	Dr.T.N.Balamohan Prof and Head (Fruits)	7.34	Cypress Inc., USA
Standardization of protocol for tissue culture in palmyrah	Dr.V.Ponnuswami Professor (Hort)	4.50	M/s. Rajam herbal Technologies, Salem, TN
Bioefficacy testing of smartfresh SM (1-MCP) on mango fruits	Dr.T.N.Balamohan Prof and Head (Fruits)	3.31	Global Agri-systems, New Delhi
Performance evaluation of Bt Brinjal hybrids	Dr.L.Pugalendhi Prof. and Head (Vegetables)	1.50	ICAR
Standardization of protocol for tissue culture in palmyrah (Borassus flabellifer L.) types	Dr.V.Ponnuswami Professor (Hort.)	0.50	M/s. Rajam herbal Technologies, Salem, TN

IMPORTANT VISITORS

- Dr.Chieko Umetsu and Dr.Kumr San Research Institute for Humanity and Nature, Kyota, Japan on 1.9.2008.
- Prof.D.R.Ray, Vice-Chancellor on 1.9.08.
- Dr.Michael A.Keller, Associate Dean (International), Adelaide University, Australia on 2.9.08 & 3.9.08.
- Ms.Ulrike Langerwisch, Lueback University, Germany on 5.9.08 to 7.9.08
- Tmt.Jayanthi, MIFS, SPC on 7.9.08 and 8.9.08.
- Prof.Dr.Rattanlal, Director Centre for Carbon Management & Sequestration, Ohio University on 14.9.08.
- Dr.S.L.Mehta, Member Secretary, QRT on 26.9.08.

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From
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