

TNAU NEWS



TAMILNADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY NEWS LETTER

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TNAU-CORNELL UNIVERSITY INKS MoU FOR DUAL DEGREE PROGRAM)))



College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Cornell University, USA; Dr. Stephen Kresovich, Vice Provost of Life Science Research, Cornell University, USA; Mr. George Deikun, Director, USAID India Mission; Ms. Rebecca Black, Director, Office of Economic Growth, USAID; Mr. Raju Barwale, Managing Director, Mahyco Seeds and Mr. K. Vijayaraghavan, Sathguru Management Consultant were visited.

This program is the first dual degree being offered by any Land Grant University of US origin in partnership with a State Agriculture University in India.

The Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, a leader in agricultural education in South Asia, in partnership with Cornell University, Ithaca, USA, an Ivy League University and the global leader for agricultural research and education will be offering students in India and USA a dual master's degree program that integrates Cornell's 'Master of Professional Studies' (MPS) and TNAU's 'Master of Technology' (M.Tech). The initial course will be

focused on 'Food processing and food marketing' with further courses tailored to address other disciplines such as the biotechnology and rural development. The memorandum of understanding (MoU) to this effect was signed by the two institutions on 13th February, 2008 at TNAU campus in Coimbatore.

The function was organized in TNAU. Dr. Susan A. Henry, Dean,

The Cornell - Sathguru Foundation for Development will provide requisite management support for the program implementation. The partnership will provide sustainable gains in institutional building at TNAU end and provide a considerable global integration opportunity for Cornell resources who will deliver the course at Cornell end.

QUIZ COMPETITION BY SSL



Social Service League is a TNAU students' organization started in 1954. Every year, it is organizing state level quiz competition for school students. This year, the quiz competition was conducted in TNAU main campus on 3.02.08. Many students from various schools of the state participated in this competition. The students were divided in to three groups viz.,

students from 6th to 8th STD, 9th and 10th STD, 11th and 12th STD and there is a separate grouping for Tamil and English medium students.

The students were selected based on written examination and voice round. Dr. K. Vanangamudi, Dean (Agriculture) distributed the certificates and prizes to the winners.

VC VISITS RRS, VRIDHACHALAM



The Vice - Chancellor visited Regional Research Station, Vriddhachalam on 24.02.08. He reviewed the research activities of groundnut, sesame and cashew crops. The research plots were visited by the Vice-Chancellor. The pre-release cultures management and plant protection trials in groundnut, sesame and cashew were explained by the concerned scientists. The special features of the pre-release culture in groundnut

VG 9902 to be released as VRI (Gn) 7 (Semi spreading and high yielding) and cashew H 13 (Cluster bearing, bold nut type) were briefed to the Vice-Chancellor. A seed godown was declared open by the Vice-Chancellor. The exhibition organized with varieties and technologies was viewed.

CERTIFICATE COURSE ON MEDICINAL PLANTS

The valedictory function of the certificate course on 'Medicinal Plants' was organized on 28.2.2008 at Agricultural College and Research Institute, Killikulam under the chairmanship of Dr.P.Vivekanandan, Dean, Agricultural College and Research Institute, Killikulam.

In his presidential address, he emphasized the importance of the

certificate course on Medicinal Plants in view of its export potential and creation of employment opportunities for the farming community.

Dr.G.Selvaraj, Director, Open and Distance Learning, in his address enunciated the need for enrollment of more women and youths for the certificate courses to create additional employment opportunities in rural areas. The Director, ODL distributed the certificate of participation to the learners and job appointment orders to the selected ODL learners, who have been selected as Junior Agricultural Officer by the leading export company M/s.Mother India Agro Farms, Tirunelveli.

Dr.K.Selvarasu, Associate Professor (Tamil), Directorate of Open and Distance Learning,

VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT PLAN AT UCO BANK-ADOPTED VILLAGE)))



Deans of AC&RI and HSC&RI, Professor and Head, Department of Plant Pathology and scientists from both the colleges organized a mammoth exhibition at UCO Bank-adopted village, Ariyakudi, Sivaganga District under Village Development Plan in the recent past to demonstrate the state-of-the-art 'of-farm' based production technologies including value

addition and post harvest know-hows.

The exhibition was inaugurated by Dr. P. Chidambaram, Finance Minister, Govt. of India. Dr. K. Ramamoorthy, Dean, AC&RI, Madurai and Dr. A. Andal, Dean, HSC&RI, welcomed the Minister and recited on high-valued farm technologies and on-going

activities of the institutions. The Minister was accompanied by Mr. Periya Karuppan, Honorable Minister for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, UCO Bank Managing Director cum Chairman, District Collector and Village Panchayat President.

In his key note address, the Honorable Finance Minister emphasized the UCO bank to identify the needs of farmers through house hold survey for achieving 100 per cent literacy, effective rain water harvesting and optimum utilization of available resources through drip cum fertigation technique. About 1000 farmers and officials from the Development Departments participated along with 25 scientists of TNAU. The rural farmers and self help group members visited the exhibition and interacted with the scientists on farm technologies.

DDG VISITS PRECISION FARMING DEMO SITES IN TRICHY >>>



The Deputy Director General (Agrl. Extension) of ICAR, New Delhi Dr.P.Das along with Dr.S.Prabhukumar, Zonal Coordinator, VIII Zone, Bangalore; Dr.P.Thulasi, Director of Extension Education, Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, Chennai and Dr.E.Vadivel, Director of Extension Education, TNAU, Coimbatore inspected the Precision Farming Demo at

Appananallur Thottiyam taluk, Trichy district on 22.2.2008. The DDG interacted with the farmers and enquired about their previous status and the present one and how they were motivated to form the co-operative society. The farmers explained the situation which warranted them to adopt the latest technologies and the need to form the co-operative society. Around 40 farmers including the non project members attended the

Interface meet with the DDG, ICAR. All the farmers expressed their fullest satisfaction on the implementation of the TNAU's Precision Farming Project. The DDG also appreciated the above Society for obtaining an Export Licence in order to market their product globally in the near future.

Later, the DDG, ICAR along with the Dignitaries visited Mayiladumparai village near Kulithalai, where the thornless bamboo is planted in 13 acres by a progressive farmer. Different clones of bamboo were being evaluated by the Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB), Coimbatore. Th.Shanmugam, the bamboo farmer explained the growth aspects of different bamboo varieties. The DDG appreciated the farmer's efforts and further suggested that the bamboo garden may be used as demo site for the farmers who opt to grow the thornless bamboo which has very high value at present.

briefed the course outline and the importance of the program. Th.Ramkumar Adithan, Managing Director, M/s.Mother India Agro Farms also spoke on the job opportunities for the ODL beneficiaries.

Dr.C.Ponniah, Dr.B.Selvi and Dr.S.Somasundaram, Heads of Departments, AC&RI, Killikulam offered their felicitations. Earlier, Dr.R.Richard Kennady, Associate Professor (Horticulture) welcomed the gathering, Dr.C.Swaminathan, Professor (Agronomy) proposed the vote of thanks.

NEW NETWORK PROJECT ON BEES

A new network project on 'Morphometry and

phylogeography of honey bees and stingless bees in India' has been sanctioned by DBT at a cost of Rs.2.76 crores with three sub projects. The bee research under two sub projects with main focus on biodiversity of honey bees and stingless bees will be taken up in eight centres including TNAU. It is the first time TNAU has been included as one of the coordinating centres for carrying out bee research in our country. The third sub project viz., Bioecology of stingless bees and evolving improved meliponicultural techniques has been exclusively allotted to TNAU recognizing the stingless bee research done at TNAU. A budget of Rs.46.57 lakhs has been sanctioned by DBT to TNAU to carry out bee research under these three sub projects.

Dr. M. Muthuraman and Dr.S.Mohan Kumar Professors of Entomology will be the Principal Investigator and Co-principal investigator of the project.

PULSES SUBCOMMITTEE'S VISIT TO TRRI

The sub committee meeting for developing a mechanism for effective transfer of technology and to increase rice fallow pulses production in Cauvery Delta Zone was convened under the chairmanship of Prof. Dr. S. Kannaiyan, Chairman, Expert Committee. The committee visited TRRI, Aduthurai on 08.02.08 and 09.02.08.

Dr. S. Jebaraj, Director, TRRI, Aduthurai presented the report

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TRAINING ON COMMERCIAL AGRICULTURE))))



A twenty one day training programme on '**Commercial Agriculture**' has been organized by the Department of Agronomy, Centre for Soil and Crop Management Studies, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore under the auspices of Centre of Advance Studies in Agronomy (ICAR) from 21st January to 10th February 2008. Twenty scientists from across the country representing the faculties of Agronomy, Soil Science, Nematology, Agricultural Extension, Horticulture, Home Science and Animal Sciences attended the training programme. The training programme was inaugurated on 21st January, 2008.

Dr.B.Chandrasekaran, Director of Research in his presidential address highlighted the various strategies to be followed for commercialization of Agriculture. The training programme was inaugurated by Prof. C.Ramasamy, Vice Chancellor, TNAU. During the inaugural address, the Vice-Chancellor said that Commercial Agriculture has come to occupying yet another dimension in the light of newer developments on the farm front. He further stressed that while anything produced for the market may not necessarily qualify as Commercial Agriculture, a high level farm production with plenty of marketable surplus has come to

form the basis for Commercial Agriculture. Integrating preproduction, production and post production stages through institutional arrangement is among the strategy for Commercial Agriculture practices.

The training included a wide range of topics covering the theme areas by resource persons from various disciplines of this University. Off campus guest speakers also imparted training to the participants. The participants also had hands on training during their visits to farmers' fields and agro-industries in and around Coimbatore. The participants visited the various research farms in the main campus to have first hand knowledge on the research activities in the areas of Commercial Agriculture.

The valedictory function was held on 10th February, 2008. Dr.G.James Martin, Professor and Head, Department of Agronomy, presented a report on the training programme. Dr.S.Natarajan, Director, Centre for Soil and Crop Management Studies, delivered the valedictory address and highlighted the various components of Commercial Agriculture. He distributed the certificates and training manuals to the participants.

about the rice fallow pulses in Thanjavur, Tiruvarur and Nagapattinam districts. The committee had a detailed discussion with the scientists and Heads of Research station, State Department of Agriculture and progressive farmers.

NATIONAL SEMINAR ON FOOD PROCESSING

An exhibition was arranged at Paddy Processing Research Centre, Thanjavur on the occasion of

the National Seminar cum Exhibition on '**Strengthening Agriculture Value Chains through Food Processing**' on 18th and 19th February 2008.

The exhibits related to, the recently released varieties of TRRI, Aduthurai, System of Rice Intensification techniques, Site Specific Nutrient Management, Pests and Diseases of rice, Biofertilizers and Oilpalm cultivation techniques were placed in the stall.

SCIENTISTS VISIT COCONUT GARDEN

A team of scientist of TCRS Yethapur visited coconut gardens at Panamadai, papanayakkanpalayam, Beemanpalam villages of Attur taluk in Salem district. It was found that the coconut trees were affected with Black Headed Caterpillar (*Opisania arinosella*) and necessary plant protection measures were suggested to the concerned farmers.

SHRUBBERY DEVELOPED AT BOTANIC GARDENS)))



Botanic Garden of TNAU Coimbatore city has been face becomes the lungs of our lifted with new shrub plants. The

shrubby plot in this antique garden is unique which serve the treasure spot for the plant science students. The shrubby plot was newly planted with important flowering and foliage shrubs on 07.02.08.

Altogether 40 different species of new foliage and flowering plants have been planted in 640 pits. The layout and planting were done by the III B. Tech Horticulture students, This new shrubby planting was done as one of the steps in enriching the ornamental plant wealth of Botanical Garden, as part of its centenary celebration.

21st NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON AGRICULTURAL MARKETING)))

Department of Agricultural Economics, AC&RI, Madurai organized the 21st National Conference on 'Agricultural Marketing' recently. Dr. K. Ramamoorthy, Dean, welcomed the gathering. Prof. R. Radhakrishna, President, Indian Society of Agricultural Marketing presided over the function.

Chief Guest Thiru Surjit K. Chaudhary, IAS, APC and Secretary, Government of Tamil Nadu declared open the conference and delivered the inaugural address. In his special address, Dr. C. Ramasamy, ViceChancellor stated that, a good agricultural marketing system can reduce the cost of food and uncertainty of supply and improving food security.

Professor Y.S.P. Thorat, former NABARD Chairman in his key note address demanded for globalization of Indian Agricultural Marketing and need for future and forward trading,



financing market chains, expansion of direct marketing, creation of specialized markets and resorting to efficient retail marketing.

Dr. P. Paramasivam, Professor and Head, Department of Agricultural Economics proposed vote of thanks. About 120 delegates across the country participated and 45 technical papers on alternative marketing systems

including group marketing, electronic trading, success stories of farmers' organizations, trading through warehousing, reforming and redefining the role of marketing institutions restricting to the Marketing Boards, Commodity Board and market led agricultural extension service in Tamil Nadu were presented and discussed in parallel sessions for three days.

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AICRP WEED CONTROL UNIT HONOURED)))



All India Coordinated Research Programme on Weed Control operating in the Department of Agronomy, Coimbatore since 1982 has been conferred with

'National Best Centre Award for the year 2007 - 08' by National Research Centre for Weed Science, Jabalpur, a constituent organization of Indian Council of

Agricultural Research. TNAU Centre was recognized for its contribution on weed survey and surveillance on the invasive noxious weeds in different agro ecosystems of Tamil Nadu, development and dissemination of integrated weed management technologies for sugarcane, maize, rice, groundnut and oil seed crops, problematic weeds like *Solanum elaeagnifolium*, *Parthenium hysterophorus*, aquatic weed water hyacinth and herbicide residue assessment on soil, water and food chain. The award was presented by Shri Narendra Singh Ji, Honorable Minister for Agriculture, Government of Bihar in the 18th AICRP-WC Biennial Workshop held at Patna on February 25, 2008.

NEW SCHEME

Name of the Scheme	PI	Amount (lakhs)	Funding Agency
Facilitation centre for medicinal plants	Dr.E.Vadivel, Director Extension Education	30	NMPB

IMPORTANT VISITORS

- Board of management members from Rajendra Agricultural University, Bihar visited AC&RI, Coimbatore on 4.2.08
- Delegation from INRA (French National Institute for Agricultural Research) visited AC&RI, Coimbatore on 6.2.08.
- Delegation from University of Saskatchewan, Canada visited AC&RI, Coimbatore from Feb 7-12, 2008
- Delegation from Cornell University, USA visited AC&RI, Coimbatore from February 12-14, 2008.
- Dr.S.N.Nigam, Principal Scientist, ICRISAT; Dr.A.L.Singh, Principal Scientist, ICRISAT along with Dr.V.Muralidharan, Director, National Research Centre for Groundnut, Junagadh visited TRRI, Aduthurai on 18.02.08.

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