

TNAU NEWS



TAMILNADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY NEWS LETTER

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Inauguration of certificate course programme >>>

The inauguration of certificate course programme jointly organized by the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore and Agro Biotech Research Centre Limited (ABTEC), Kottayam was held on 24.1.2009 at Kottayam, Kerala under the Chairmanship of Shri.Oommen Chandy, Former Chief Minister of Kerala.

Shri.Oommen Chandy, Former Chief Minister of Kerala State while inaugurating the certificate course programme emphasized the need for collaborative ventures between renowned institution like TNAU and Agro Biotech Research centre for the benefit of peasants of Kerala region on important aspects related to biofertilizers and biocontrol agents.

Mr.K.J.Jacob, Managing Director, Agro Biotech Research centre Limited, Kottayam in his welcome address highlighted the importance of production of Bio-fertilizers and biocontrol agents in the Kerala state and wanted the learners to bestow much attention to enroll themselves in such programmes for the preservation of eco system and effective pest management in various crops.

Dr.G.Selvaraj, Director, Open and distance Learning, TNAU, Coimbatore in his opening remarks stressed the importance of distance education. He also narrated that the proposed collaborative venture of starting



certificate course programme in Malayalam language exclusive for the benefit of peasants of the Kerala region would benefit much for the development of agriculture.

Shri. Suresh Karup, Member of Parliament in his presidential address enunciated the importance of collaborative efforts to be initiated by the TNAU and Agro Biotech Research Centre, in the long run will pave way to strengthen the distance learning efforts of the university leading to considerable impact among the farmers of Kerala region.

Dr.C.Ramasamy, Former Vice-Chancellor, TNAU released the course materials of the proposed programme. In his address he outlined the genesis of

establishment of the Directorate of Open and Distance Learning at the university with the technical expertise and guidance of commonwealth of Learning, Canada based on the ICT facilities developed over a period of years at the university.

Shri.Thiruvanchoor Radhakrishnan, MLA released the new logo of Agro Biotech Research Centre, Kottayam. Adv.V.B.Binu, Chairman, Oil Palm Limited, Dr.K.Prathapan, Director, Horticultural Mission, Dr.A.V.Mathew, Professor, Kerala Agricultural University, Smt.K.J.Geetha, Deputy Director of Agriculture and Shri.Jyothi Mani, Chief Manager, Canara Bank offered their felicitation. Dr.D.Claron, Technical Director, ABTEC, Kottayam proposed the vote of thanks.

Special lecture on food processing

Our Alumnus Dr. Jeyankondan, Assistant Professor of Department of Bioprocessing, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, USA delivered a special lecture

on "Recent trends in Food processing Technology" recently at Agricultural Engineering College & Research Institute, Kumulur. All the B. Tech. (Agrl. Engg.) undergraduate students attended the lecture and interacted with

Dr. Jeyankondan. The lecture was very informative and interesting. A range of subject matters including Food processing technologies, storage, and innovative value addition were covered in the talk.

IRRI Scientists visits TRRI)))

Dr.Serge Savary, Senior Scientist (Pathology), Dr.Horgan (Entomologist) and Dr.Virk Senior Scientist (Plant Breeding) from International Rice Research Institute, Philippines visited Tamil Nadu Rice Research Institute, Aduthurai on 27.01.09 to have a discussion with the scientists of TRRI in order to include TRRI as a centre for their new project "Cropping System Initiative in South Asia" funded by Bill Gates foundation for a period of 10 years.



Training on palmyrah

Under the DBT funded scheme entitled "Entrepreneurship development of edible and non edible products formulation, value addition and marketing of palmyrah (Borassus flabellifer) palm" a hands on training on value addition of palmyrah products was organized at Anandhur village of Mathur block, Krishnagiri District on 23rd and 24th of Dec. 08. In the training programme, around one hundred palmyrah workers and their women family members participated and got trained. The tappers were trained on value addition of edible and non edible products, popularization of TNAU palm climbing device, motivation of palmyrah tapper and their family

members to encourage the value added product preparation. During this training programme edible tasty products were demonstrated. Mr.G.Ramesh, Properitor, M/s. Rajam herbal technologies shared his experiences regarding chocolate making, candy making and other health promoting palmyrah based products prepared from palmyrah jaggery as a cottage industry. He said that there is huge marketing potential for palmyrah based food products in national as well as global markets. In this training programme Dr.V.Ponnuswami, Professor (Hort.) & Principal Investigator of the scheme delivered the lecture to the participants about the need for identifying the early bearing high neera yielding dwarf elite types.

He further emphasized about the consumer attractive handicrafts prepared from palm leaves, truck, roots and petiole. During this training, he highlighted the importance of neera as a chemical free natural health refreshing nutritious drink and this can be promoted across the world. These edible and non edible products can be effectively produced and marketed by self help group approach. This would in turn enhance the rural economy and improve their livelihood. The skillful art of tree climbing is slowly vanishing and in future there will be no tapper for climbing palmyrah. To consider this fact, TNAU palm climbing device demonstrated during this training and the palmyrah tappers were trained to use this device. The palmyrah researchers

Sangamithra '09)))



The Inter color cultural competition SANGAMITHRA 09' was held on 06.01.09 at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore. Dr.K.Vanangamudi, Dean (Agriculture) inaugurated the function. The students of the under graduate programme participated with booming enthusiasm and competitive spirit. A variety of programs were organized such that they brought about the varied talents hidden in them. The events included were Solo dance, Solo song, Mime, Mimicry, Drama, Adzap, Treasure hunt, Best Manager, Group song, Group dance and etc.. The faculty members and the students from the post graduate program served as the judging committee for the events.

Dr.M.Prabhu, Dr.R.Jagadeesan, Mrs.D.Janarthani and Ms.R.Priya also spoke during this occasion. In the deliberations, all their queries related to palmyrah and it's by-products including tree climbing device and marketing of products were clarified.

Special purpose vehicle committee meeting

A special purpose vehicle committee meeting on ISOPOM-OPDP Precision Farming in Oil Palm was held at Tamil Nadu Rice Research Institute, Aduthurai on 21.01.09. The Joint Directors of Agriculture, Thiruvapur, Nagapattinam, Deputy Director of Agriculture, Villupuram and Thiruvapur, Professors of Agronomy, Th. R. Annamalai, Head Operation, Th.R.Navaneethakrishnan, technical consultant of Cauvery Palm oil limited participated in the meeting.

The important issues discussed in the meeting were i) Documentation of list of beneficiaries for 100ha during 2008-09 ii) Soil water analysis and preparation of health card in precision farming project area iii) Micro Irrigation System (MIS) maintenance in project area iv) Supply of MIS accessories to the beneficiaries v)

Supply of organic and inorganic inputs to the beneficiaries vi) Progress made-Fertigation schedule adoption in project area vii) Conduct of training, seminar and workshop viii) Selection of farmers in 7 districts from the beneficiaries list ix) Rodent control in wetland fields

Workshop on pulses at TRRI, Aduthurai

One day workshop on "Implementation strategies to increase pulse productivity in Tamil Nadu" was held at Tamil Nadu Rice Research Institute, Aduthurai on 23.01.09 under the project Tamil Nadu Irrigated Agriculture Modernization and Water Bodies Restoration and Management (TN-IAMWARM). TNAU scientists working in TN-IAMWARM project, Joint Directors of Agriculture from 19 districts and scientists of TRRI participated in the workshop.

The Director, TRRI, Dr. S. Jeberaj welcomed the gathering. Dr.M.V.Ranghaswami, Director (WTC) & Nodal Officer (TN-IAMWARM) presided over the workshop and explained the objectives. Dr.S.Jeberaj addressed the gathering about the status of rice fallow pulses in Tamil Nadu and Dr. N.Ramamoorthi,

Professor & Head, National Pulses Research Centre, Vamban spoke about the varietal scenario in pulses. Dr.B.J.Pandian, Head, TN-IAMWARM cell spoke on the action taken in the last workshop and issues to be addressed.

The participants divided in to three groups and discussed the measures for upscaling of technology. Dr.S.Jebaraj and his team discussed on the varieties of TNAU and others, seed soaking, population maintenance, biofertilizer, DAP spray and IEC activities. Dr. N.Ramamoorthi, and his team discussed on the measures to improve irrigated garden land pulses and the team under Dr. M.V.Ranghaswami discussed on the formation of commodity group and value addition of pulses.

After the discussion the groups presented their ideas and action plan was formulated. The workshop came to an end with the concluding remarks of Dr.M.V.Ranghaswami and vote of thanks by Dr.B.J.Pandian.

Vice-Chancellor's visit to NPRC Vamban

The former Vice-Chancellor of TNAU visited National Pulses Research

Farmers training on vegetable production technology >>>

The training programme on Vegetable Production Technology for Hilly Region was conducted at Horticultural Research Station, Yercaud from 28th to 30th January, 2009 for 25 farmers of various districts. The training was sponsored by NABARD. The programme was inaugurated by Dr.V.Lakshmanan, Professor and Head, Horticultural Research Station, Yercaud. Special address was given by Mrs.P.Manimekalai, AGM, (Dist. Dept.) NABARD, Salem. The DDH, Horticulture and the field officer of State Bank of India, Yercaud were also present. The lectures covered the production technology of hilly vegetable crops, seed production in cole crops and organic farming for hilly regions.

The training on cut flower



production technology and dry flowers arrangement was conducted from 4th February 2009 for another set of 25 farmers from various districts of Tamil Nadu. This

training was also sponsored by NABARD. The lecture schedules covered the production technology of cut flowers and dry flower arrangements.

Centre, Vamban, Pudukottai on 5.12.08 and reviewed the on-going research and farm development activities. He insisted that along with the existing farm ponds, more number of farm ponds are to be dug for rain water harvesting. Further he suggested for removal of age-old unproductive citrus trees in the farm and raise other productive fruit trees suited to this region. The Professor and Head, Dr.N.Ramamoorthi explained the technologies of Saucer planting in Casurina and use of pulses row marker which are popularizing under IAMWARM project. The Vice-Chancellor also visited the Vigna garden and encouraged utilizing the same for the release new pulse varieties.

ICARCAS Training on antimicrobial compounds from medicinal plants

Under the auspices of centre of Advanced Studies in Agricultural

Microbiology (ICAR) twenty one day training programme on “Antimicrobial compounds from medicinal plants and their application in agriculture” was held in the department of Agricultural Microbiology, Centre for Plant Molecular Biology, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore recently. Thirteen scientists from Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Orissa and Tamil Nadu attended the training programme. The participants were from the disciplines of Food and Nutrition, Microbiology, Plant Pathology and Soil Science.

The training programme was inaugurated by Prof.M.Thangaraju, Director (SWC). In his inaugural address he highlighted the importance of medicinal plants in combating multi drug resistance (MDR) of pathogens. Further, he emphasized about the rich diversity of medicinal plants in our country.

Earlier Dr.S.P.Sundaram, Professor and Head, Department of Agricultural Microbiology welcomed the participants. Dr.G.Gopalaswamy, Professor (Biotechnology) and course Director briefed about the training programme. Dr.P.Marimuthu, Professor (Agrl. Microbiology) and course Co-director proposed the vote of thanks.

The training programme was designed in such a way to give more importance to hands on training starting from isolation, separation and purification of antimicrobial compounds, evaluation of antimicrobial compounds, drug designing etc. In addition to TNAU faculty, off campus guest speakers also imparted training to the participants. The participants visited medicinal plant drug manufacturing unit at Saminathapuram, Erode, Biofarm unit at Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University medicinal plants garden, Coimbatore.

NEW SCHEMES

Name of the Scheme	PI	Amount (lakh Rs.)	Funding Agency
Cereal Systems Initiative for South Asia (CSISA) IRRI-CIMMYT-TNAU-TRRI Collaborative	Dr.S.Jeberaj, Director, TRRI	2000 (for 4 countries)	Bill Melinda Gates Foundation
Field evaluation of Progibb 40% WSG (Gibberellic acid 40% WSG) in grapes	Dr.H.Vijayaraghavan Professor and Head Crop Physiology	2.50	M/s. Sumitomo Chemical India Pvt Ltd., New Delhi

IMPORTANT VISITORS

- Mr.Timwaring, UC Davis between 3.1.09 and 7.1.09.
- Dr.Sam Gameda, Scientist, Asi Agro-Food Canada, Ottawa, Canada between 5.1.09 and 8.1.09
- Dr.Raj Prasad, Adjunct-Professor, (IPM& Forest Biology), Pacific Forest centre, Canada between 26.1.09 and 30.1.09.
- Dr.N.Tomooka, National Institute of Agrobiological Sciences, Japan between 28.1.09 and 31.1.09.

Published by :
Directorate of Planning & Monitoring, TNAU.
Coimbatore - 641 003.

Printed at :
Directorate of Open & Distance Learning,
TNAU Offset Printing Press,
Coimbatore - 641 003.

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