



TNAU NEWS

Patron; **Dr. P. Murugesha Boopathi**, Vice Chancellor
Editor: **Dr. G. Kathiresan**, Director Planning & Monitoring

TAMIL NADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY NEWS LETTER

National Training on Seed Certification, Testing and Law Enforcement



National Training on “Capacity Building for Seed Certification Officials of Orissa on Seed Certification, Testing and Law Enforcement” was organized at the Department of Seed Science and Technology, from 25th to 29th July, 2011. Our Vice-Chancellor, Dr. P. Murugesha Boopathi, inaugurated the training and delivered the inaugural address. Dr.K.Ramamoorthy, Special Officer (Seeds), delivered the Presidential address. Dr.M.Bhaskaran, P & H, welcomed the gathering and Dr.P.Srimathi, Professor

(SST) proposed vote of thanks.

The training had been programmed to expose the officials of Orissa State Seed and Organic Products Certification Agency to perspectives of seed industry, advances in seed quality regulations in seed certification, seed testing and seed law enforcement, seed quality management and also emerging trends in nanotechnology and organic seed production. They were given hands on training the DNA finger printing and exposure

to genetic purity evaluation plots.

In the valedictory function, Dr. M. Bhaskaran, Professor & Head (SST), welcomed the gathering. Dr.K.Ramamoorthy, Special Officer (Seeds) presided over the function and Dr. K. Thiyagarajan, Director, Center for Plant Breeding & Genetics, delivered the keynote address and distributed certificates to the participants. Dr.P. Selvaraju, Professor (SST) proposed vote of thanks.

Upscaling of 'e-Velanmai' in Tamil Nadu

Planning workshop to upscale 'e-Velanmai' model of agricultural extension in Tamil Nadu state was inaugurated by Dr. P. Kalaiselvan, DEE, on 14th July, 2011 at Coimbatore campus. This workshop was participated by the HODs of KVKs/Research Stations and scientists of 19 sub basins under TN-IAMWARM project. Dr.N.Ajjan, Director, CARDS, welcomed and addressed the gathering. Dr.S.Chellamuthu, Director (WTC) and Nodal officer (TN-IAMWARM) presided over the workshop. Dr.R.Ganesan, Dean (Agri.), AEC&RI, Killikulam, delivered a special address. Dr.C.Karthikeyan, Assoc. Prof. (Ag. Extn.) and

Principal Investigator of the e-Velanmai project briefed about the workshop. Dr.B.J.Pandian, Professor and Head (TN-IAMWARM cell) proposed vote of thanks.

Officers' training on Market Led Extension Approaches

Officers training on Market Led Extension Approaches, was organized between 1st and 5th August, 2011, for the officers



of the Department of Agriculture Totally 29 trainees comprising of 5 Deputy Directors of Agriculture and 25 Agricultural Officers representing 25 Districts attended the training. Dr.P.Kalaiselvan,DEE, inaugurated the training. Dr. SP. Ramnathan, P & H, Department of Market Extension, welcomed the gathering. Scientists from Directorate ofCARDS, PHTC, DEE, DD regulated markets, AGM NABARD, Evaluator, Organic Certification and Agricultural Officer (Public and Propaganda) Trichy, delivered guest lectures on different aspects of marketability of the products. The participants were exposed to e-Extension, e-Valanmai, DEMIC and value added products preparation etc. Dr. V.V.Krishnamurthi, Professor (SS&AC) proposed vote of thanks.

Mass Tree Planting at AEC&RI, Kumulur

NSS unit observed '350' (Global movement towards mitigating Climate Change) in the college campus



with a mass tree plantation programme on 27.8.2011. In the first phase, 650 Pungam saplings and 50 teak saplings were

Planted by NSS volunteers in the campus. Dr. A.Tajuddin, Dean, inaugurated the programme.

International year of forests celebration at FC&RI, Mettupalayam

In commemoration with International Year of Forest, NSS Unit of FC&RI in association with Tamil Nadu Science Forum, Mettupalayam conducted Quiz, Elocution (Tamil and English), Drawing and Essay Competitions for the school students of Mettupalayam taluk, as well as for their teachers on 27.08.2011. Totally 400 students from 42 schools participated in the competitions.

The chief guest of the function was Mr.Thangasamy, Head of the Tamil Nadu Science Forum, Mettupalayam. Mr. P. K. Selvamurugesan, Member of the TNSF, Mettupalayam, welcomed the gathering. The Dean FC & RI, presided over to valedictory function and issued certificates and prizes to the winners and participants in various events. Finally, Dr.K.R. Ramesh proposed vote of thanks.

Programmes at SWMRI, Thanjavur

Training on Paddy seeds

Training on "Production and Maintenance of seed in Paddy" was conducted at five villages viz., Punavasal, Maharajapuram, Vilangudi, Thiruvaiyaru and Thirupazhanam in the operational area of the scheme on "Pilot Project on a u g m e n t i n g productivity of lead crops / activities through adoption of sustainable agricultural practices" funded by NABARD. Dr. S. Vallal Kannan, AP (Agronomy) and Dr. K. Parameswari, AP (SST) have imparted knowledge on advanced technologies of rice seed production, demonstrated the seed upgradation techniques and motivated the farmers to take up foundation seed production in ADT 42 paddy variety. Totally 150 farmers participated.



Field day on intervention of technologies for higher Pulse Productivity

A field day was organised on 28-6-2011 at Maharajapuram under the chairmanship of Mr. R. Narayan, Chief General Manager, NABARD, Regional office, Tamil Nadu, to disseminate the technologies for

increasing the productivity in pulses. Dr. B.Chandrasekaran P & H, SWMRI, Thanjavur, Mr. S.T.Ravikumar,



AGM, NABARD, and officials of agriculture have participated. The highest pulse yield achievers were honoured by the NABARD officials.

Soil health camp

To create awareness on the importance of soil sampling and adoption of recommended practices to reclaim the problem soils, a soil health camp was organised on 02-06-2011 at



Thirupazhanam village for the benefit of farmers. Dr. B.Chandrasekaran, Professor & Head, SWMRI, Mr.Palaniappan, Advisor, MSSRF, and officials of agriculture and other departments have participated. More than 350 farmers attended the camp.

Visit of IRRI and IPI Scientists

Dr. Roland, J.Buresh, Principal Soil Scientist, IRRI, Dr. Hillel Magen Director, IPI and Dr. Eldad Sokolowski, Coordinator (China and India) IPI have visited SWMRI, KVK Sikkal and KVK, Needamangalam on 8th and 9th August, 2011. Dr. Kalaiselvan, Director of Extension Education, presided over the Farmers - Scientists interaction to develop Module on Nutrient Manager for Rice (NM Rice) in CDZ. International Potash Institute (IPI) has accepted to provide the information of dissemination through e-mode (Internet and Smart Phone).

Inauguration of TNAU-IPNI-SSNM scheme

“Evaluation of SSNM in Maize in Thanjavur district” has been launched by Dr. Roland J.Buresh, Principal Soil Scientist, IRRI, Phillipines in the presence of Dr. B. Chandrasekaran, Professor & Head, Dr.R.Rajendran, Professor & Head, KVK, Sikkal on 09.08.2011. The trials were laid out in SWMRI and farmers field in Thirumalaisamudram, Thanjavur district

under conventional and conservative practices. The machineries viz., turbo seeder and multi crop seeder were utilized and maize hybrid seeds and fertilizer were distributed to the farmers. The RAWE students from ADAC&RI, Trichy and farmers have participated and demonstrated the seeding mechanism through seeder to the farming community.

Training for Thanjavur farmers

Training on “Rice cultivation, SRI, Water saving technique through aerobic rice, IPM, IDM and INM practices on rice was given to 100 farmers from Thanjavur district. Farmers were exposed to current research in rice, besides explaining the latest technology on rice and rice based cropping system The sustainable use of land and water resource in rice eco system were explained by the concerned scientist.

Training for garden land pulses

Training on improved production technology for garden land pulses was organized at Samsikapuram, Virudhunagar District on 05.08.11, under Sevalaperiyar sub basin of TN - IAMWARM Scheme. Total of fifty farmers from Sevalaperiyar Sub basin participated in the training. Dr.R.Vimala, Associate Professor

Entrepreneurship skill development programme



One day interaction programme on “Entrepreneurship skill development” was organized by the Department of Soil and Environment, AC&RI, Madurai on August 3rd, 2011. Our Vice Chancellor, Dr. P. Murugesu Boopathi, inaugurated the BPDU interaction programme and explained the salient features of the Business Development Incubator

scheme of TNAU and appealed to all the participants to utilize the expertise for improving their standard of living. Dr. P. Sivasubramanian, Director, ABD, delivered the special address. Dr. K. Vairavan, Dean, AC & RI, Madurai, presided over the programme and Dr.P. Banumathi, Dean, HSC&RI, Madurai and Dr. P. Sankaralingam, JDA, Madurai felicitated the gathering. About 128 potential agri entrepreneurs from southern districts of Tamil Nadu participated. Dr.A.R. Mohamed Haroon, Professor and Head, Department of Soil and Environment welcomed the participants and Dr. A. Daniel, Professor & Head, Department of Agricultural Economics proposed vote of thanks.



(Plant Pathology) welcomed the gathering. Dr. S. Jeyarajan Nelson, P & H, CRS, Srivilliputtur inaugurated the training and

taught about the pest management in pulses cultivation. Dr.G.Srinivasan, Associate Professor (Agronomy) explained about fertilizer, water and weed management in pulses cultivation. Dr.R.Vimala, Associate Professor (Plant Pathology) briefed disease management in pulses.

Training on quality seed production in pulses

Training on quality seed production in irrigated pulses was organized on 08.07.2011. The Director, TRRI, presided. Dr. R. Vaithyalingam, Professor (PB & G) elucidated the identification and removal of rogues. Dr.K.Chozhan talked on plant protection measures. At the end of each lecture, the farmers had an elaborate discussion with scientists to clarify the doubts. AP (SS & T) welcomed the gathering.

Best stall award for KVK, Virinjipuram



KVK, Virinjipuram stall in the State Level Farmers' Day function held on 22nd – 24th July, 2011 was adjudged as the "BEST STALL" by the evaluation committee and the award was given by the chief guest Dr. K.K. Krishnamurthi, former Dean of AC& RI, Madurai in the presence of our Vice Chancellor and Director of Extension Education.

Programmes at HSC&RI, Madurai

Seminar on Sensory and Consumer Research

A campus seminar has been arranged recently

at HSC & RI, premises Madurai. Dr. Sethuraman Sivakumar, Scientist from Regional Centre of Central Tuber



Crops Research Institute, Bhubaneshwar, Orissa, was the guest speaker, who delivered lecture on New Directions in Sensory and Consumer Research. Dr.P.Banumathi, Dean, while thanking, appealed to all scientists to innovate in sensory studies.

Training on value addition of fruits and vegetables

Recently, three participants from Malaysia got trained in value addition of fruits and vegetables. They were given hands on experience, in mixed fruit jam, mango squash, tomato pickle, guava jelly, tutti frutti and mango bar preparation.



Dr. P. Banumathi, Dean, distributed the certificates to the participants and appreciated their aspirations in value addition.

Quinquennial review team visits KVK, Ramanathapuram

The Quinquennial review team of ICAR under the chairmanship of Dr.Mruthunjaya, (former NAIP Chairman) visited



KVK, Ramanathapuram on 06.08.2011 and had discussion with the Subject Matter Specialists on prospects, retrospects & future strategies to be adopted for up-scaling the KVK in a new dimension for catering the farmers needs & issues at the district level. In the welcome address, Dr.V.Ganesaraja, Programme Co-ordinator explained the past activities and future

CAT- programme on 'hybrid rice seed production technologies'



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Director, Center for Plant Breeding & Genetics, delivered the keynote address and distributed certificates to the participants. Dr.P. Selvaraju, Professor (SST) proposed vote of thanks.

The farmers were exposed to different Hybrid Rice Seed Production Technologies and interactive meeting with Hybrid Rice Growers at Varathampalayam, Sathyamangalam.

delivered the Presidential address. Dr.M.Bhaskaran, P & H, to genetic purity evaluation plots.

In the valedictory function, Dr. M. Bhaskaran, P & H (SST) welcomed the gathering. Dr.K.Ramamoorthy, Special Officer (Seeds) presided over the function and Dr. K. Thiyagarajan,

strategies to be executed by KVK, Ramanathapuram. The meeting was then concluded with the release of literature entitled “A Handbook on Agro Analysis of Ramanathapuram” compiled by the Programme Co-ordinator Dr.V.Ganesaraja along with the Subject Matter Specialists of this centre.

Orientation day at HC&RI, Periyakulam



“Orientation Day” was conducted for the newly joined first year students at HC & RI, Periyakulam on 03.08.2011. Dr.

K. S. Palanisamy, I.A.S., District Collector, Theni participated in the function as chief guest and inaugurated a 'Permanent Horti-tech exhibition' and planted a tree sapling. Dr. L. Jeeva Jothi, Staff Advisor welcomed the gathering and Dr. V. Ponnuswami, Dean presided over the function. Thiru B. Raja Murugan proposed a vote of thanks.

Training on low cost portable silpaulin vermibag at KVK, Dharmapuri

Trainings on low cost portable silpaulin vermibag technology were organized to district officials, field level functionaries and farmers on 27.07.2011, 29.07.2011 and 10.08.2011. Totally 120 participants attended. Dr.N.Tamilselvan, P & H explained about its importance and benefits. A special invitee, Dr. S.Vijayabaskaran Associate Professor (Agronomy) explained the prospects of low cost portable silpaulin vermibag technology.



Programmes at HRS, Ooty

TNAU Board member's visit

Thiru.K.R.Arjunan, Board member, has visited

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the HRS, Ooty. Dr. N. Selvaraj, P & H, explained the various research and extension activities of the station. The board member visited

the Bio control agents and bio fertilizer production labs, mushroom spawn production centre, aromatic oil distillation unit and experimental green houses. The board member had a fruitful discussion with the trainees who have come from all over the state for the commercial mushroom cultivation training.

Training on “Commercial Mushroom Cultivation”



At HRS, Ooty, on the first day of every month, training programme on “Commercial Mushroom Cultivation” is

being conducted for the interested farmers and rural youth from all over the State. So far, 13 training programmes have been conducted, and 88 participants were benefited. In this 14th training programme held on 1.8.2011, 16 members attended the training.

FPARP training at ARS, Bhavanisagar

Two days training programme on the Farmers Participatory Action Research Programme (FPARP) Phase-II scheme on water management was held during August 12-13, 2011. The programme was inaugurated by Dr.S.Santhana Bosu, Dean, AEC & RI, Coimbatore, who delivered a special address on the significance and need for implementing scientific water management technologies. Dr.D.Tamilmani, P & H, SWCE, delivered a lecture on the various features of precision farming technology for irrigated crops. Dr.M.Yasin, P & H, ARS, Bhavanisagar explained the various cultural practices involved in SRI cultivation and emerging trends. Dr.K.Ramaswamy, Principal investigator of the scheme explained the various soil

moisture conservation techniques applied for dryland cultivation. Farmers were also given an overview of Reedbed waste water (Sewage water) treatment technology for recycling and re-use of water for irrigation. Thirty five project beneficiary farmers from Erode district attended.

Programmes at CRS, Veppanthattai

Awareness campaign on 'Eradication of Parthenium'

One day awareness camp on “Eradication of Parthenium - a toxic weed and a big menace to public” was organised to Dept. officials and farmers of Perambalur dt. on 17.08.2011.



Dr.R.Kavimani, Professor & Head, explained the importance of controlling Parthenium in the public places like roads, parks and in agricultural fields as this is an alien weed of national significance. The control measures were demonstrated by Th.R.Baskaran, AP (Agronomy).

Training on production of certified seeds

One day training programme on “Production of certified seeds” was conducted on 18.08.11 for seed

growers of Perambalur and Ariyalur district by the officials of Department of Agriculture.



Dr.P.Masilamani, Associate Professor, SST, ADAC&RI, Trichy, addressed the importance of post harvest management of seeds to preserve its vigour and viability for uniform germination. Tmt.Punithavathy, AP, and Dr.R.Kavimani, P & H, delivered special lectures.

Programmes at KVK, Sandhiyur

Training on precision farming

Training Programme on Precision farming was inaugurated by our Vice Chancellor,



Dr.P.Murugesha Boopathi on 23.8.11. During his Presidential address, our Vice-Chancellor, emphasized on

the importance of Precision farming, Protray nursery, Sustainable Sugarcane Initiative (SSI), formation of commodity groups, Value addition and processing. Special address was delivered by Dr.P.Kalaiselvan, DEE. Earlier, the Programme coordinator Dr.S.Manickam, welcomed the gathering.

Training on Silpaulin Vermibag Production

The Vermi compost production in Silpaulin vermibags was conducted for Extension personnel of Salem and Namakkal districts on 18.08.2011. Dr. B. J. Pandian, P & H, TN – IAMWARM Cell, WTC, had participated and delivered special address. The Joint Director of Agriculture and about 40 extension personnels each from Salem and Namakkal districts participated. Dr. S.Manickam, Programme Coordinator, addressed the extension personnels about the importance. Dr. M.A.Vennila, AP (Agricultural Extension) welcomed the gathering and Dr. R.Jegathambal proposed vote of thanks.

Training on papaya mealybug management and PMB parasitoid release by SRS, Melalathur



Training cum awareness programme on papaya mealybug management was conducted in the farmer's field at Elappanpatti in

Vellore district. Totally 28 farmers attended the programme. Dr.B.Rajendran, Professor & Head and Dr. A.Thirumurugan, Associate Prof. (AEN), demonstrated and released the parasitoids in papaya field. Dr. R. Sheeba Jasmine AP (AEN), explained the damage

symptoms of papaya mealy bug and its management practices through bio control viz., *Acerophagus papayae*.

NABARD, AGM, visits TCRS, Yethapur

Thiru V. Raju, AGM, NABARD, Salem visited on 19.08.2011 to discuss about the project sanctioned by



NABARD. He visited the tapioca research trials and mealy bug parasitoid mass culture laboratory and in shade net nursery. Dr.V. Rajendran, P & H explained the activities of the station and also about the research works carried out.

Demonstration by Scientists and VSP students

The Programme Co-ordinator and scientists of KVK Dharmapuri and B.Tech (Hort.) final year Village Stay Programme



students, demonstrated the Integrated Crop Management of banana in Mr. Chinnaraj's field at Sasthranutlu village, Palacode block. Application of Banana sakthi nutrients, covering the bunch with banana bunch cover, stem injection for Pseudo stem borer, application of *Beauveria basiana* for trapping the Pseudo stem weevil were demonstrated in the field.

The Programme Coordinator, Dr.N.Tamilselvan explained the Banana sakthi nutrient application. Dr.P.S.Shanmugam, SMS (Entomology), narrated the pseudo stem borer control measures. The VSP students demonstrated the pseudo stem borer injection in the affected banana plant. Th. Baskaran ADH, Palacode and more than 30 banana growers were present.

New schemes

Name of the scheme	Principal Investigator	Amount (Lakh ₹.)	Funding Agency
Health Management of Horticultural and Agricultural crops using Excel Crop care Chemicals	Dr. V. Ponnuswami, Dean, HC&RI, Periyakulam	24.00	Excel Crop Care Ltd., Mumbai
Formulation of weather based crop insurance index for selected food crops of Peninsular India: Application of crop weather model as a tool	Dr. V. Geethalakshmi, Professor and Head, ACRC, Coimbatore – 3.	20.00	Agriculture Insurance Company of India Ltd., New Delhi.
Hyperspectral studies on soil mineralogy, nutrient stress and crop residue cover	Dr. R. Sivasamy Professor and Head Dept. of RS&GIS	16.00	National Remote Sensing Centre, ISRO, Hyderabad
Studies on the non flowering and poor performance of tamarind in forests and wastelands of Tamil Nadu under the Department of Forest	Dr. V. Ponnuswami, Dean, HC&RI, Periyakulam	11.32	Tamil Nadu Forest Department, Chennai
Marker assisted introgression of major QTLs conferring resistance to sorghum downy mildew in maize	Dr. K. N. Ganesan, Assoc. Professor (PBG) Coimbatore – 3.	9.67	UGC
Genetic Purity Assessment of Commercial Seed lots of Rice and Maize through Identification of Suitable SSR Markers	Dr. R. Jerlin Assoc. Professor (SST), Coimbatore – 3.	6.36	UGC
Standardization of techniques for extending shelf life in jasmine flowers through eco-friendly Pre and Post harvest management	Dr. S. Balakrishnan, Professor (Horticulture) AC&RI, Madurai.	5.62	UGC

Important visitors

- Dr. Suresh Agrawal, Chairman, Bejo Sheetal Seeds Pvt. Ltd., Jalna and Dr. Bert Schrijver, Head of Research, The Netherlands visited Dept. of PMB&B on 17th August, 2011.
- Dr. Gopi Rati, University of Guelph, Canada Visited Department of Nano Sci.& Technology between 22nd & 26th August, 2011.
- Dr. Shanthi Wilson and Dr. Gunasekara, ITI, Colombo, Sri Lanka visited Department of Nano Sci.& Technology between 22nd & 26th August, 2011.
- Dr. G.S.V Raghavan, Canada visited Department of PHTC, on 26th & 27th August, 2011.

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To
Thiru

From
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Coimbatore - 641 003