



TNAU NEWS

TAMIL NADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY NEWS LETTER

Patron: Dr. K. Ramasamy, Vice Chancellor
Editor: Dr. G. Kathiresan, Director, Planning & Monitoring

ஊருக்கெல்லாம் உணவளிக்கும் உத்தமர் உழவர்களுக்கு
உதவிக்கரம் நீட்டும் பல்கலைக்கழகம்

Visit of Honourable Agricultural Minister to TNAU Orchard



Thiru S. Damodaran, the Honorable Minister for Agriculture, Government of Tamil Nadu, visited the Orchard on 18.10.2012. During the occasion, he was briefed about the ongoing research programmes with special emphasis on the performance of newly introduced grape varieties. The Honorable Minister witnessed the bearing of the cv. Red Globe during his visit and the economic significance of the variety was highlighted. Dr. K. Ramasamy, the Vice-Chancellor, accompanied the Minister during the visit.

Training on precision farming in banana by FRS, Thovalai



A farmers training on "Precision Farming in Banana" was organized at Kommanthan village in Panagudi under TN-IAMWARM project for the Hanumanadhi sub basin farmers. Dr. G. Preetha, AP (Agrl Entomology) welcomed the gathering. Dr. R. Richard Kennedy, Associate Professor and Head, elaborated various activities of TN-IAMWARM project. Mr. M. Ashok Macrin, ADH discussed with farmers on Precision farming technologies in banana. The team visited the banana field of Mr. S. Duraisamy, a progressive farmer and provided

suitable suggestions under e-Velanmai programme. Farmers from Panagudi, Kommanthan, Veerapandian and Thalavaipuram participated in the training. Dr. S. Kanaka, SRF, proposed vote of thanks.

Hon'ble Minister for Forest visited FRS, Thovalai

Th. K.T. Pachaimal, Hon'ble Minister for Forest, visited Floriculture Research Station, Thovalai. Dr. R. Richard Kennedy, Associate Professor and Head welcomed the Minister and explained the activities and briefed the requirements of the station. The Minister initiated Alstonia avenue by



planting seedlings along access roads of the station. He also visited the shade net cultivation of indigenous cut flowers, research plots and the new introductions. Later he also visited the laboratory and interacted with the staff members.

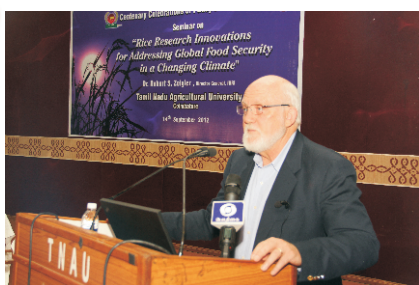
Director General, IRRI interacts with students of TNAU



Robert S. Zeigler, Director General, International Rice

Research Institute, Philippines along with IRRI scientists, Dr. J.K. Ladha and Dr. Arvind kumar visited Paddy Breeding Station on 13.9.2012 and participated in an interactive meeting with post graduate students. More than 100 students from different disciplines participated in the interactive meeting. Dr. K. Ramasamy, Vice Chancellor, participated in the interaction. The students discussed with the Director General, IRRI, about the pest out break due to climate change, socio economic issues on transgenic technology, doubling the food production for the growing population, significance of rice as global food and the training and fellowship opportunities at IRRI. Director General, IRRI also visited the centenary exhibition and facilities at Paddy Breeding Station.

Centenary year celebration seminar by Director General, IRRI, Philippines



On the eve of the centenary year celebrations of Paddy Breeding Station, a seminar was

organized by Dept. of Rice on 14.9.2012, wherein, Robert S. Zeigler, Director General, IRRI delivered a presentation on "Rice Research Innovations for addressing Global food security in a changing climate". Dr. K. Thiyagarajan, Director, CPBG welcomed the gathering. Vice Chancellor, Dr. K. Ramasamy in his presidential address stated that IRRI had been sensitive

to the requirements of Tamil Nadu and had offered many varieties starting from the miracle rice IR 8 to the most recent green super rice materials for evaluation and use. In his address he stressed, IRRI is developing rice varieties adapted to climate change and the submergence tolerant rice varieties are helping our farmers. Dr. Robert S. Zeigler, in this seminar talk, emphasized a second, science based, green revolution is needed for increasing rice productivity. Dr. S. Robin, P&H, Department of Rice, offered vote of thanks.

Weed management training at KVK, Virudhunagar

One-day training programme on Weed management in Cotton, Pulses



was organized in collaboration with Dhanuka Agri Tech Company of Salem. It is a Public-Private partnership initiative arranged for the benefit of farmers. Dr.V.K.Paulpandi, Programme Co-ordinator inaugurated the training programme and narrated the importance of weed management. Dr.S.Rathika, AP (Agronomy) welcomed the gathering and explained the IWM practices to be followed in Cotton, Pulses and Onion. Mr. V.Selvaraj and Mr. S.Ganesan, Dhanuka Agritech, stressed the importance of grassy weeds control in Cotton, Pulses and Onion with post-emergence herbicide. Prizes were given to the farmers for best interaction. Th. Gurunjinathan, Dhanuka Agritech proposed the vote of thanks. More than 100 farmers participated in this training programme.

Programmes at KVK, Sirugamani

Betelvine Wilt Management-Demonstration

A demonstration on integrated wilt management method was taken on 18.9.12 at Arasalur village of Thottiyam Block in Trichy district. The demonstration was inaugurated by Dr.A.Sakunthalai, Programme Co-ordinator and suggested the farmers to



go for wilt resistant varieties such as Sirugamani-1 and select the cuttings from healthy mother plants.

The disease symptoms and management measures were explained by Dr.M.Ravi, SMS, Plant Protection. Nearly 30 farmers participated. The ATMA farmer president Mr. V.A.Subramanian has organized this programme.

Goat rearing under Integrated Farming System



In order to encourage goat rearing, a training programme on "Goat rearing under Integrated Farming System" was conducted on 05.10.12. The training programme was inaugurated by Dr.A.Sakunthalai, Programme Co-ordinator.

Dr. K.Sendilkumar of KVK, Namakkal explained the important breeds, their characters, types of goat rearing, feed and disease management. Nearly 70 farmers of Trichy district participated. The training programme was co-ordinated by Dr. C.Cinthia Fernandez, SMS(Agricultural Extension).

Training at HC&RI, Periyakulam to Idukki farmers

On a special request from the Deputy Director (Agriculture), Idukki district, Kerala, three days



training on cool season Vegetables was given to Tamil speaking farmers. The training was conducted in three batches on 06th to 08th, 13th to 15th and 19th to 21st September 2012. The various crops covered under this training were carrot, cabbage, cauliflower, garlic, potato, beans etc. Field exposure to Kodaikanal was arranged to enlighten the farmers on protected cultivation of vegetables in the hills.

Tamil Nadu Scientist Award to the Registrar, TNAU, Coimbatore

Dr. P. Subbian, Professor of Agronomy and Registrar, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore, has been conferred the Tamil Nadu Scientist Award (TANSA) in Agricultural Sciences for the year 2010 by the Tamil Nadu State Council for Science and Technology in recognition of the outstanding contribution in the field of Agronomy. The Award was presented by Thiru. P.Palaniappan, Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education, Government of Tamil Nadu, at Chennai on 19.10.2012.



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IAS probationers exposed to new farm technologies

The IAS probationers of 2010 batch Tmt. Ghodke Rashmi Jayendra and Tmt. Neha Bansal were imparted training at TNAU from 8th to 10th October 2012. Discussing with the Administrators, Dr. K. Ramasamy, Vice Chancellor, underscored the importance of green fodder for dairy development and milk enrichment. Citing the importance of farm mechanization for drudgery reduction and ensuring simultaneous farm operations, the Vice Chancellor called for providing utmost attention to the views of end user farmers. The small and marginal farmers need our care very much, the Vice Chancellor said and added that the 'Corporate Agriculture' on large areas need to be developed for exposing the present day youth towards commercial agriculture so as to retain them in it. Thanks to the All India Co-ordinated Projects, the Vice Chancellor exhorted that it paved way for identification of all India high yielding crop varieties and technologies that are suitable to local needs.

The IAS Probationers during the three-days programme have been exposed to the fodder development in the field, high-yielding paddy varieties suitable to varied agro climatic zones in Tamil Nadu. e - Extension mode of transfer of technology, Red Globe variety of grapes, papaya varieties, commercial floriculture, important medicinal plants, tissue culture technology, farm machineries and equipments, energy gadgets and processing technologies.

Dr. R. Vijayaraghavan, Professor and Head (Training Division) co-ordinated the training programme.

Programme at AC&RI, Madurai

National Seminar on 'Production, utilization and marketing of Tree Borne Oilseeds'

National Seminar on 'Production, utilization and marketing of Tree Borne Oilseeds' was organized during October 4th & 5th, 2012 at Department of Agronomy,

AC&RI, Madurai. Dr.S. Balaji I.F.S., Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Director, TNFA



was the chief guest, inaugurated the seminar. Dr. K. Vairvan, Dean, delivered the presidential address. Dr.S.Senthivnagayam, Director (Agri.Ext'n), MANAGE, Hyderabad delivered special address. Dr.P.Sivasubramaniam, Director(ABD), and Dr.V.Ponnusami, Dean (Horticulture), Periakulam felicitated the function. The Organizing Secretary of the National Seminar Prof.C.Swaminathan welcomed the gathering and Dr.R.Balsubramanian, P&H, Department of Agronomy, proposed vote of thanks.

Biofuel cum Oxygen park

A special tree planting programme was arranged with the forest department. Dr.SP.Sundaram, Dean in charge



inaugurated the 'Biofuel cum Oxygen park' in an area of 3.0 acres in front of the college campus on the EXPRESS WAY with an objective to create awareness on tree borne oilseeds to the school children, farmers, public and natural lovers. Prof. C.Swaminathan and Dr.M.Murugesh, forestry professors provided technical inputs and arranged for setting up of the park. Dr.R.Balasubramaniam, P&H, Department of Agronomy co-ordinated the programme.

World Food Day 2012

The students of B.Tech. Food Process Engineering at AEC&RI, Coimbatore celebrated the World Food Day 2012 on 16th October, 2012. Mr.P.Manojkumar, IV B.Tech.(FPE) welcomed the gathering and Dr.S.Santhaana Bosu, Dean (Agrl. Engg.), briefed about the World Food Day being

Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture visits Community Radio Station in TNAU



activities, content creation, field recording, transmission, cost involved in establishing the Community Radio, coverage of broadcast etc., were explained.

The Hon'ble Minister delivered a talk on the Achievements of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University and the facilities provided by the Govt. of Tamil Nadu to the farming community. The Vice-Chancellor appraised the status of the

The Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture, Govt. of Tamil Nadu Thiru. S. Damodharan visited the Community Radio Station on 18.10.2012. The Vice-Chancellor, accompanied the Hon'ble Minister. The

Community Radio proposals submitted by TNAU to the Hon'ble Minister. The speech of the Hon'ble Minister was broadcasted thro' Community Radio on the same day.



celebrated in many countries. Prof. Dr. Helmut Weidlich, Professor, Institute, Prof. Dr. George Kurz GmbH, Germany, said in his inaugural address that the twin challenges facing India today are the need to feed the ever-growing population and to export the agricultural produce to the world market. Speaking on "Agricultural Co-operatives – Way to Feeding the World" he said that there is a need to export food products of high market value, especially those which were unique to India.

Dr. K. Ramasamy, Vice-Chancellor, in his presidential address said that there was a paradigm shift from food security to food assistance. Though much inputs had been provided for farm mechanisation, there was a need to develop more varieties that were amenable for one time harvest, which would aid rapid mechanisation. He also reported that by 2050, India would become the diabetes capital of the world and therefore we need to concentrate on developing new

millet based food products that had more fibre content.

Er. R. Kalaimani, MD, M/s. Penguin Engineers, Coimbatore, offered felicitations on the occasion and delivered a talk on "Modern Trends in Food Packaging". A talk on "Nutraceuticals - their production and their role in a country with severe disparities in access to food" was also delivered by Dr. Helmut Weidlich.

Events at Bhavanisagar

Training on "Sustainable Sugarcane Initiative (SSI)"

Training on SSI was imparted to Erode district AAOs on 3.10.2012 and cane officers on 9.10.2012. Dr. S. Chellamuthu, Director, WTC inaugurated. Dr. Mohammed yassin, P&H presided over the function. Dr. K. Ramah, AP (Agronomy) and Dr. S. Marimuthu, AP (Agronomy) delivered lectures.

Seminar on Banana and Turmeric cultivation practices

One day seminar was organized by NABARD in association with "Sangamam"- An association of Uzhavar Sangam at Kalingarayanpalayam of Bhavani

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block, Erode district on 10-10-2012. About 200 progressive farmers from the Erode district participated. Dr. Mohammed yassin, P&H, gave a special lecture on weed problems in Banana, Turmeric and Sugarcane crops and their management. Dr. Chitra, AP (Horticulture), Dr. S. Maruthasalam, AP (Plant Pathology) lectures on Horticulture and Plant Protection respectively.

Best young scientist 2012 Award



Dr. R. Richard Kennedy, Associate Professor and Head, FRS, Thovalai has been conferred with the “Best young scientist award in Horticulture - 2012” for his overall accomplishments in the field of Horticulture, during the Global conference on Horticulture for food, Nutrition and livelihood options, held at OUAT, Bhubaneswar, Odhisha.

The award was presented by Shri Giriraj Singh, Hon'ble Minister for Animal Husbandry and Fisheries, Government of Odhisha in the presence of Dr. K. Pradhan, Vice-Chancellor, RAU, Dr. Kirthi singh former Chairman, ASRB and Dr. P.I. Peter, Chairman, WWOU.

Orientation for revitalization of minor millets cultivation

The Govt.of India through its Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operation has launched a millet promotion programme through INSIMP (Initiative on Nutritional Security thro' Intensive Millet Promotion) for increasing the area and productivity of millets. Three days orientation programme on “Millet Seed Production, Value Addition and Marketing was given during 27th to 29th August, 2012. Thirty five farmers representing 12 blocks of Coimbatore attended. The nutritive importance on millets, varieties available, cultivation practices, seed certification procedures, farm mechanization in millet cultivation, value added

products, market demand for millets etc., were explained by the Scientists of the Dept.of Millets and Dept of Market Extension.

Programme at TCRS, Yethapur

Training on optimal and safe use of Agro-chemicals

One day training was conducted for the farmers by the Crystal Agrochemicals on optimal and safe use of Agro



chemicals and organic farming at B. Mannarpalayam village of Ayothiyapattinam block on 13.10.2012. Dr.V.Rajendran, P&H, TCRS, Yethapur presided over the training programme and delivered special lecture. Dr. K. Thirukumaran, AP (Agronomy) explained about the Integrated Nutrient Management. Crystal Agro Chemicals Officials, Agricultural Officer, Horticultural Officer, Assistant Agricultural Officers of Ayothiapattinam block participated in the training programme. About 50 farmers participated in the training programme and got benefited

Hybrid castor cultivation training for Women SHG

One day training on Hybrid castor cultivation was conducted at TCRS, Yethapur on 19.10. 2012. Dr. G. Selvarani,



AP (Agricultural Extension) welcomed the gathering and explained the scheme details. Dr. V.Rajendran, P&H, inaugurated the training programme and explained the importance of hybrid castor and its production under drip fertigation. Dr. D. Raja, Professor (Agronomy), Dr. S. R. Venkatachalam. Dr. M. K. Kalarani, and Dr. V. Jayalakshmi, Associate Professors, Dr. K. Thirukumaran, Dr. P. Arutchenthil, Dr.G.Senthilkumar explained the production technologies. Method demonstration on seed treatment with *Trichoderma viride* was done by Dr. P. Kalaiselvi,

AP(Environmental Science). Around 30 Self Help Group women from Vazhapadi block of Salem district attended.

Seminar on Turmeric, Tapioca and Maize cultivation



A Seminar on turmeric, tapioca and maize was conducted jointly by IFFCO, Coimbatore and TCRS, Yethapur

on 25.10.12 at Puthiragoundampalayam village of Salem district. Dr. V. Rajendran, P&H, emphasized the farmers that they should adopt the new technologies to increase the productivity. Dr.K. Nageswari, Associate Professor (Horticulture), Dr. K. Thirukumaran, AP (Agronomy), Thiru. P. Mathiazhagan, Chief Area Manager, IFFCO, Coimbatore, Mr. Raju, NABARD AGM, Salem, Dr. Sundarrajan, ADAH, Thiru. Dhanapal, AO (Marketing) participated in the Seminar. About 50 farmers attended the seminar and benefited.

Dengue awareness programme at HC&RI, Periyakulam

An awareness programme on Dengue fever was conducted on 30.10.2012. The Health Inspector of E. Pudupatti, Periyakulam Thiru. Dhanasekaran

delivered a detailed lecture on the symptoms, diagnosis and precautionary measures to be taken.



Disinfection spray was also done in and around the Hostels and Campus.

QRT on vegetable crops 2007-2012

ICAR, ACRIP (Vegetable crops) Quinquennial Review Team meeting was held on 26.10.2012 at HC & RI, Coimbatore to review the work done during 2007-2012. The QRT consists of Dr.S.K.Pandey, Chairman, Dr.B.Singh, Project Co-ordinator, ACRIP, Dr. V.A.Parthasarathy, Dr.B.B.Lalkaushal, Dr.P.S.Sirohi and Dr.V.K.Gupta, as members and Dr.D.R.Bharadwaj, Member Secretary. The scientists from HC & RI Coimbatore, Periyakulam and PAJANCOA, Karaikal, IHR Bangalore, UAS Dharwad, KAU Vellanikara and HRS LamACRIP centres presented their reports.

After presentation, the QRT members were taken to the farmers' vegetable fields at Kethanur and they visited the ridge gourd, bitter gourd under precision farming

Inauguration of 102nd Students' Club at TNAU Coimbatore



The 102nd Students Club at Coimbatore campus was inaugurated on 5th September 2012 by Thiru. V. Arun Roy, IAS, Deputy Secretary (Finance) to the Government of Tamil Nadu. Dr. K. Ramasamy, Vice Chancellor, presided over the function.

Secretary, presented a blue print of Students' Club activities for the year 2012-13. Th. P. Manojkumar and Ms. S. Abhinaya presented *vazhthuppa*. Th. S. Santhosh, Games Secretary proposed a vote of thanks.

Th. N.S. Kalaivanan, General Secretary, welcomed the gathering. Dr. A. Raja Rajan, Dean (Agriculture), Dr. N. Kumar, Dean (Horticulture), Dr. S. Santhana Bosu, Dean (Ag. Engineering) and Dr. C. Udayasooriyan, Dean (SPGS) felicitated the new office bearers. Ms. S. Punitha, Club

New schemes

Name of the scheme	Principal Investigator	Amount (Lakh ₹.)	Funding Agency
Ecofriendly management of Post Flowering Stalk Rot (PFSR) of maize (<i>Zea mays L.</i>) by using biocontrol agents	Dr.N.Rajinimala, Asst.Prof. (PI.Patho)	8.08	UGC
Biofortification of Zinc in Maize using Mycorrhizal Symbiosis	Dr.C.Bharathi, Asst.Prof. (SS&AC)	7.76	UGC
Crop response studies on climate change with particular reference to elevated carbon di oxide and interaction with temperature in black gram (<i>Vigna mungo</i>)”	Dr.H.Vijayaraghavan Professor of Crop Physiology, National Pulses Research Centre, Vamban – 622 303 Pudukkottai district	7.75	UGC, New Delhi
Validation of DUS testing guidelines for jasmine	Dr. M. Ganga, Asst. Prof. (Hort.) Co-Principle investigators Dr. M. Jawaharlal, P & H Dr. M. Kannan, Prof. (Hort.) Dept. of Floriculture & Landscaping, HC & RI, Coimbatore	19.16	PPV & FRA (Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority), Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, New Delhi

Important visitors

- Dr. Babu Valliyodan, Research Scientist, Division of Plant Sciences of University of Missouri, USA delivered a guest lecture at CPMB&B on 11.10.2012
- High level delegation from the Agricultural University, Hunan Province, China visited CPMB&B on 17.10.2012
- Dr. John manners, Deputy Chief, CSIRO, Australia delivered guest lecture at CPMB&B on 18.10.2012
- Dr. Okuzumi, Principal Scientist, National Institute Agro Biological Sciences, Japan visited CPMB&B on 21.10.2012 to 24.10.2012
- Th. M. Rama Mohan Rao, Consultant, Agricultural Finance Corporation, Hyderabad visited HRS, Kodaikanal in connection with National Medicinal Plants Board scheme operated in this station on the macro and micro propagation of aromatic plants on 25.09.2012.
- Dr. Ravi Prakash, Registrar (Farmers' Rights) of Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority, (PPV & FRA) Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, New Delhi and Dr. P.K. Singh, Principal Scientist, Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research, Lucknow visited Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore on 27.09.2012.

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To
Thiru

From
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