

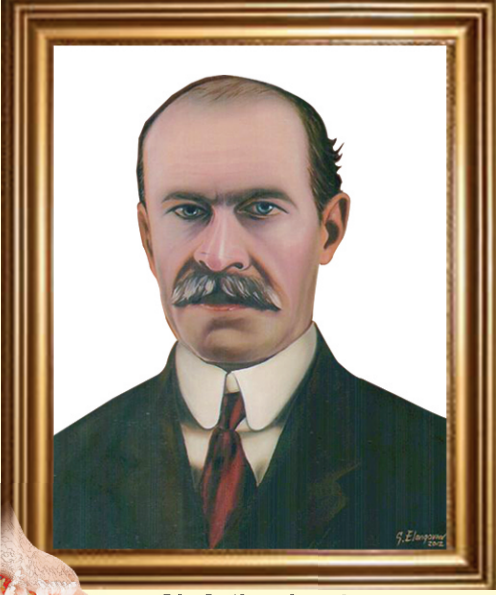


TNAU NEWS

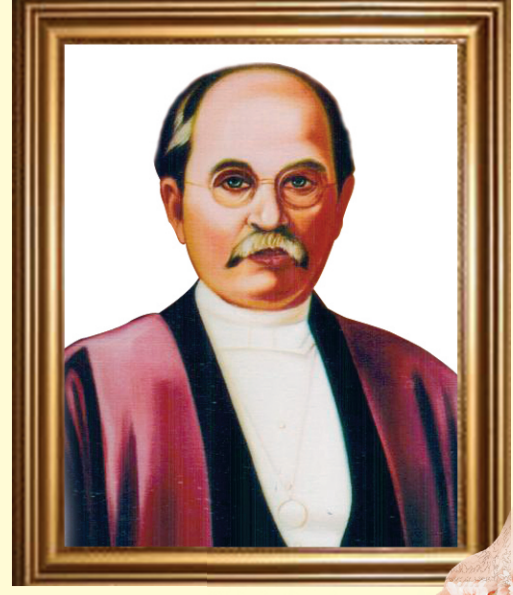
Patron; **Dr. P. Murugesu Boopathi**, Vice Chancellor
Editor: **Dr. G. Kathiresan**, Director, Planning & Monitoring

TAMIL NADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY NEWS LETTER

FOUNDER OF ICON OF COIMBATORE



Sir Arthur Lawley



Thiru. W.R. Robertson

அன்னியராய் வந்து
நன்மை செய்த
புண்ணியர்கள்

பிறந்த தேசம் எதுவாயினும்
நெஞ்சம் நிறைய நேசமுள்ளோர்
மண் ணெதுவென பார்ப்பதில்லை
மனிதன் நிலை அறிந்திரங்கி
தேக்கித்தந்த முல்லைப் பெரியாறு,
கட்டித்தந்த கோவை வேளாண் கல்லூரி
பூமி யிருக்கும் வரை
சான்றாய் பகர்ந்து நிற்கும்.

- முனைவர் கு. கதிரேசன்

The Research Institute building of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University situated on the left side of the Maruthamalai road is the icon of Coimbatore. This building's foundation stone was laid on 24th Sep., 1906 and inaugurated on 14th July 1909 by **Sir Arthur Lawley**, Former Governor of Fort St. George, Madras.

The first Principal of the Madras Agricultural College, Saidapet was **Thiru. W.R. Robertson**. To remember the above persons ever, the corporation of Coimbatore has named their names for important roads viz., Lawley road and Robertson road. We remember these two very important persons name for ever for their historical works.

Courtesy: Thiru.S. Elangovan, Chief Artist cum Photographer of TNAU has provided the picture of **Sir Arthur Lawley** and **Thiru. W.R. Robertson's** picture from Freeman's hall of Agronomy Department in black and white photos and painted with suitable colours.

Programmes at TCRS, Yethapur



The Department of Plant Breeding and Genetics, of Agricultural College and Research Institute, Madurai – 625 104, organised a

National Seminar on Breeding for Abiotic Stress in Crop Plants on 22nd March 2012. During the inaugural function, Dr. C.R. Anandakumar, Professor, welcomed the gathering and Dr. K. Vairavan, Dean, AC & RI, Madurai gave the presidential address.

The lead paper was presented by Dr. Manoj Prasad of National Institute of Plant Genomic Research, New Delhi on the topic emerging model for genomic studies on abiotic stress tolerance. The former Directors Dr. M. Subramanian and Dr. M. Rangaswamy also deliberated the technical session on abiotic stress and hybrid rice respectively. The poster session was conducted during the seminar which portrayed the research findings of more than 169 research scholars, scientists and experts. The recent findings and the developmental strategies for the abiotic stress related issues in crop plants were depicted through posters. The valedictory address was given by Dr. K. Thiagarajan, Director, Centre for Plant Breeding and Genetics, TNAU, Coimbatore, following the felicitation of the retired university officers including former Directors of School of Genetics, the Heads of the Departments, Scientists, and Office bearers of Indian Society of Plant Breeders. Dr. S.M. Ibrahim, Professor & Head welcomed the delegates and Dr. S. Jebaraj, Professor delivered the vote of thanks.

Horticultural Farmers Training on Farm Mechanization, Value Addition

One day, "Farmers training on Farm Mechanization, Post Harvest Handling, Storage and Preparation of Value Added Products" was organized on 05.03.2012 at Farmers Residency, TNAU, Coimbatore. Totally 32 farmers from 9 blocks of Coimbatore District attended the training. Dr. SP.Ramanathan, P&H, welcomed the gathering. Scientists from PHTC, AMRC and Office of DEE delivered lectures on Post Harvest Handling, Storage, Preparation of Value Added Products, Farm mechanization, Price Forecasting and

Marketability. Dr.V.V. Krishnamurthi, Professor (SS & AC), Department of Market Extension co-ordinated the programme.

Programmes at TCRS, Yethapur

NADP training at Mecheri

One day training programme on hybrid castor cultivation with Onion intercropping was conducted at Mecheri, Salem



district on 01.3.2012 under NADP scheme. Dr. V. Rajendran, P&H, TCRS explained about the hybrid castor cultivation under drip fertigation. Dr. S.R. Venkatachalam, As.P (PB&G), Dr. K. Thirukumaran, A.P. (Agronomy), Dr. P. Arutchenthil, A.P. (PB&G) and Dr. G. Senthil kumar, A.P. (Agronomy) elaborated the technologies in hybrid castor. About fifty farmers attended the training programme and benefited.

DBT Training at TCRS, Yethapur

One day training programme was conducted at TCRS, Yethapur on 16.03.2012 under DBT sponsored scheme for tapioca growers.



Farmers from Ramanaickenpalayam, Umaiyalpuram and Karumanthurai village participated in the training programme. Dr. A. Janakirani, A.P. (Agricultural Extension), delivered the welcome address and explained about the details of the scheme. Dr. V. Rajendran, P&H, TCRS addressed the farmers about the importance of tapioca cultivation and problems encountered by the tapioca growers and the efforts taken by TCRS for the development of tapioca farmers in Salem district. Dr. K. Nageswari, A.P. (Horticulture), Dr. V. Jayalakshmi, A.P. (Plant Pathology) and Dr. G. Selvarani, A.P. (Agricultural Extension) delivered lectures on various topics. At the end of the training programme fertilizers and certificates were distributed for the beneficiaries of the scheme.

NABARD training at Muthugapatty, Namakkal



village in Erumapatty block of Namakkal district. Dr.

K. Nageswari, As.P. (Horticulture) delivered the welcome address Dr. V. Jayalakshmi, A.P. (Plant Pathology), Dr. P. Kalaiselvi, A.P. (Environmental Science), and .Dr. G. Selvarani, A.P. (Agrl. Extension) detailed on the production Technology and intercropping in tapioca. About forty farmers participated in the training programme and benefited.

One day training on “Samai value addition skill transfer”



A one day training in “Samai value addition skill transfer” was organized at Jamunamarathur village of Javadhu Hills in Thiruvannamalai district on 24.01.2012 under the project, “Upscaling popularization of little millet in Javadhu Hills of Thiruvannamali district, Tamil Nadu for enhancing the livelihood of tribal farmers” being operated at Department of Millets, TNAU, Coimbatore sponsored Navajbai Ratan Tata Trust, Mumbai. A total of 75 samai growing farmers attended the training programme. Dr.P.Veerabathiran, P&H (Millets) welcomed the trainees and emphasized that millets are having high nutraceutical values and demand for these crops are increasing. Dr. A. Nirmalakumari, detailed the importance of the value addition and the need for the transfer of skill. Dr.S.Parvathy, P&H (Home Science Extension) demonstrated the preparation of 'Samai Kichadi.' More than 50 value added products made from samai viz., rice, pakkoda, murukku, sevai mix, puttumix, health mix, dosa mix, adai mix, kali mix etc., were exhibited at the venue. The Head, (RGR Cell), Dr.S.Ramanathan and the Project Co-ordinator, Dr.G.Xavier interacted with the trainees and observed

their feedback. Farm implements for sowing, thinning and inter cultivation were also demonstrated and the farmers had hands on experience in operating those implements with the help of Th. Mariya Joseph, AAO. Dr. A. Subramanian, A.P. proposed vote of thanks.

Seminar on “ Role of Weather in Farming”

A one day Roving Seminar cum Farmers Awareness Programme on “ Role of Weather in Farming” was conducted at the



HRS, Ooty on 19.3.12 under the GOI, India Meteorological Department Scheme. More than 120 farmers participated. The programme was inaugurated by the Sri. E. Kulandaivelu, Director (AASU & IS), Regional Meteorological Centre, Chennai. The Board Member of TNAU, Coimbatore, Thiru. K.R. Arjunan was present. There were sessions covering the following topics namely, Management of tea in extreme weather condition, Role of weather in Potato crop and Impact of weather on soil conservation and natural resources. Dr. P. Raja, A.P. (Microbiology) explained about the Agro Advisory Services in Nilgiris and the dissemination of the weather based agro advice to the farmers through sms mobile services. Dr. N. Selvaraj, P&H, HRS, briefly explained on weather based disaster management.

TNAU SCIENTIST AWARDED WITH ‘KADALI PURASKAR’

The Association for the Improvement in Production and Utilization of Banana (AIPUB) confers Dr. T. N. Balamohan,



Special Officer, Horticultural College and Research Institute for Women, Trichy with “KADALI PURASKAR” award in recognition of his contribution in the field of banana. The award was presented by

Shri. Gulabrao Deokar, Minister of State for Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and transport, Government of Maharashtra in the presence of Dr. H. P.Singh, DDH, ICAR, New Delhi and President of AIPUB, on April 7, 2012.

4th Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting at KVK, Dharmapuri



Fourth SAC meeting was organized on 28.03.2012. In the programme, presidential address was given by Dr.

P.Murugesu Boopathy, Vice Chancellor followed by special addresses by Dr.P.Kalaiselvan, Director of Extension Education and by Dr. Chandra Gowda, Principal Scientist and representative of Eighth Zonal Project Directorate (ICAR).

Rodent Eradication Campaigns in Paddy fields



“Rodent Eradication Campaigns in paddy fields” were conducted at Valachikulam, Pattanam and

Ailangudi from 15th to 26th March under the DST (SEED) funded scheme functioning at the Department of Agricultural Entomology, AC&RI, Madurai.

Dr. K.Vairavan, Dean, Dr.R.K.Murali Baskaran, P&H Department of Entomology, Dr.R.Nalini, PI and Dr.M.Shanthi Co-PI conducted these campaigns.

Field day on Kodo millet

A field day on kodomillet cultivation was organized by Department of Millets, TNAU in N.Naraiyur village of Nallur block in Cuddalore district on 16.12.11 as part of Front Line Demonstration on Kodomillet. The

meeting was chaired by Dr. P.Veerabhadhiran, P&H, Department of Millets and attended by small millets scientists



Dr.A.Nirmalakumari, Dr.S.Manoharan Dr.T.Raguchander, Dr.A.Subramanian from Coimbatore, Dr.S.Petchiappan, Professor (Agronomy), from RRS, Viridhachalam Dr.S.Kannan, AP (Home Science), from KVK, Viridhachalam, staff from Department of Agriculture. A total of 50 kodomillet farmers participated in the meeting. Dr.S.Manoharan welcomed the gathering. Dr.P.Veerabhadhiran in his presidential address stressed that compared to the national average yield of 320 kg/ha, 1200 kg/ha in Tamil Nadu which indicates the suitability of the crop to the state. He opined that it is an economically remunerative crop with good health and medicinal value and to get more margin, farmers should cultivate improved varieties and resort to value addition and creation of brand value. Dr.A.Nirmalakumari in her address to farmers highlighted the importance of cultivating improved varieties of kodomillet and she explained the salient features of the variety CO 3. The Deputy Director of Agriculture, Cuddalore Mr.V.Chandramohan explained about INSMIP program.

Popularization of TRY - 3 KVK, Pechiparai, Kanyakumari

On Farm Trial conducted on Assessment of paddy variety TRY -3 at Theroor, Ramapuram and Agastheeswaram of Kanyakumari District.



The variety TRY -3 performed well with high yield and returns. As the TRY -3 performances was accepted by the farmers and registered great success, a field day on TRY -3 was conducted in the farmer's field (Mr. Hillari). In the field day programme, farmers and extension functionaries participated. In the programme Dr. K.Eraivan, P&H, KVK, Pechiparai emphasized the

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advantages of the TRY -3 and SRI techniques. Dr. T. Selvakumar, SMS (Agronomy) briefed the Importance of TRY -3 cultivation techniques.

Programmes at TRRI, Aduthurai

FMC – NCDEX sponsored Commodity Future Market



The capacity building programme organized by FMC-NCDEX, Mumbai on “Commodity Future Market” was conducted at TRRI, Aduthurai. Totally 112 officials from Department of Agriculture, Agricultural marketing Agri clinic organizers and commodity group farmers and TRRI participated. Officials from NCDEX, Mumbai and Market and trade specialist from CARDS, TNAU delivered the special lectures.

Dr.T.Jayaraj, Director, Inaugurated the training programme and explained the importance of online trading of Agricultural commodities. Dr.Ravi, Professor (Agronomy) welcomed the gathering and Dr.K.R.Karunakaran, Associate Professor (AEC), narrated the method of using the market intelligence and price signals from the commodity future markets for crop decisions and maximizing the farm profit.

Climate change and Agriculture-Impact and adaptation



Sixty Participants comprising of Agriculture Scientists, ADA and Marketing officials took part in the seminar on “Climate Change and Agriculture –Impact and Adaptation”. Dr. T.Jayaraj, Director, TRRI inaugurated the seminar and narrated the importance of erratic monsoon and its distribution on crop production. He also informed that rising temperature would decrease the crop yield up to 20 per cent under irrigated condition and over 40 per cent in rainfed condition. He also explained the long term adaptation measures to tackle the impact of

climate change.

Dr.N.Ajjan, Director, CARDS spoke on the effects of climate change on agricultural productivity, poverty and food security. Dr.TR Shanmugam, Professor (Agrl. Economics) and Dr V.Saravanakumar, PI highlighted the salient findings of the SANDEE project.

Awareness cum Training programme for Agri-Entrepreneurs

One day Awareness cum Training programme was conducted for Agri-Entrepreneurs of the Central Districts of Tamil



Nadu under NAIP-BPD central hub. More than 50 participants attended the training. Dr.T.Jayaraj, Director, inaugurated the training and highlighted the opportunities in Agri ventures.

Dr. P. Sivasubramanian, Director, Agri Business Director narrated the Agri Business development activities by the Directorate and incubator support for agri entrepreneurs under new ventures. Training was given on Inland Fish and mushroom production, Goat and sheep production technologies and bio fertilizer production techniques. Six Potential agri- entrepreneurs were identified for the ABD support in future.

Farmers training on Hybrid Rice seed production technologies

Training on “Hybrid Rice Production technologies was given to rice farmers Dr. T. Jayaraj, Director, TRRI



Inaugurated the training programme and explained the importance of the Hybrid rice seed production. Dr.Ravi, Prof. (Agronomy), Dr.A.Karthikeyan, Prof.(PP), Dr.Jalaludeen Mohamed, Prof(AEN) and Dr.R.Saraswathi, Assoc. Prof (Plant Breeding Genetics) trained the participants on Hybrid rice seed production.

Mr P.N.Vedanarayanan - Visit



Honorable member, special Task force on pulses production Mr. P.N.Vedanarayanan, Retd. IAS, visited the rice fallow pulses area and TRRI Aduthurai. A special farmers-Scientists interaction meeting was conducted and identified the constraints for low productivity in rice fallow pulses. Dr.T.Jayaraj, Director, moderated the interaction meeting and highlighted the state pulses production status, available varieties and future research orientation by the Directorate. Scientist from various disciplines participated in the interaction meeting,

Farmers Participatory Seed Production Demonstration at SRS, Melalathur



Under NADP Farmers Participatory Seed Production training on Pulses was conducted at Pakkam, Pankarishikuppam and Sedhuvalai Villages in Gudiyathem taluk of Vellore district. The training programme conducted by Dr. B. Rajendran P&H, Dr. T. Ragavan Assoc.Prof. (Agron), Dr. R. Kanchanarani AP, Dr. K. Sathya. AP (Agron) and T. Sujatha Agri. Officer of Gudiyatham taluk. Totally 90 farmers including the farm women participated and benefited in these training programmes.

Students' Symposium ETAE – 2012 at AEC&RI, Kumulur

Students' Symposium on "Emerging Technologies in Agricultural Engineering (ETAE-2012)" was conducted at AEC&RI, Kumulur, Trichy District. The Symposium was partly financed by TNSCST, Chennai and Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, New Delhi. Around 250 students participated in the symposium from different colleges. Sixty seven

technical abstracts were received from the students. During the symposium, students actively participated in



different competitions namely Oral and Poster Presentation of Technical papers, Quiz, Photography and Treasure Hunt.

Dr. A. Tajuddin, Dean presided over the function. Dr. K. Alagusundaram, Director, IICPT Thanjavur was the Chief guest. The Student Representative, Mr. Krishna welcomed the gathering. Dr. K. Nagarajan, delivered his special address on importance of conducting such programmes. Dr. R. Lalitha, proposed the vote of thanks.

Students from Germany visited TNAU

A team of fifteen UG students accompanied by Dr. Hartmut Stutzel, Professor from Leibniz University, Hannover, Germany



visited Tamil Nadu Agricultural University to have an exposure on tropical horticulture. This programme was organized by Dr. N. Kumar, Dean (Hort.), Horticultural College & Research Institute, Coimbatore, which was inaugurated by Dr. P. Subbian, Registrar, in the presence of Dr. A. Rajarajan, Dean (Agri.) During the period, they visited all the departments of Horticulture besides Rice, Millets, Microbiology, Environmental Science and Water Technology Centre at main campus, and Sugarcane Breeding Institute, Coimbatore. They also visited different Horticultural Research Station at Thadiyankudisai, Kodaikanal, Thoivalai, Pechiparai and Ooty including Forest College & Research Institute, Mettupalayam. They were also taken around the wild life sanctuary at Mudumalai to have a glimpse of tropical forests and Uzhavar Sandhai at Coimbatore to know about vegetable and fruit trade as part of their exposure visit.

Training programme at HRS, Yercaud



One day training programme on “Recent trends in black pepper production techniques” jointly organized by HRS,

Yercaud and Directorate of Arecanut, Spices and Plantation crops, Calicut was conducted at Kolli Hills. The programme was inaugurated and presided by Dr. P. Murugesha Boopathi, Vice – Chancellor, and released the guide on Pepper production techniques. Dr. N. Kumar, Dean (Hort.), HC&RI, Coimbatore delivered a guest lecture. Dr. R. Arulmozhiyan, DRA, welcomed the gathering and delivered a lecture on prospects of Black pepper in India and Globe. Dr. A. Krishnveni, AP (ENS), Dr. P. Thilagam, AP (Agrl. Ento), Dr. T. Saravanan, AP (Pl.Path.) and Dr. P. Senthilkumar, AP (Nem.) delivered series of lectures. Dr. M. Anand, AP (Hort.), proposed the vote of thanks.

Inauguration of Uzhavar Peruvizha, 2012 at Cholavaram Block of Tiruvallur District



Uzhavar Peruvizha, 2012 was inaugurated at Athur village of Tiruvallur District on 13. 04. 2012. Honourable

Minister for Milk Development, Thiru V. Moorthy inaugurated the programme and released the technical pamphlets. Dr. M. Devanathan, PC of KVK, Tiruvallur received the Pamphlets and issued to the farmers and Dr.S.Muthuramalingam, SMS (Horticulture) participated

Programmes at HC &RI, Periyakulam

Hostel Day Celebrations

Hostel day was celebrated on 24.03.2012. The

function was presided by the Vice Chancellor, Dr. P. Murugesha Boopathi, and Theni District Collector, Dr. K.S. Palanisamy.



The new Biotech lab was also inaugurated on the same day.

College & Club day

The college and club day was celebrated in a grand manner on 02.03.2012. Th. S. Balamurugan, I.F.S. presided over the function. The Chief Guest who is an alumni of this institute beckoned the students to concentrate on their future goal while enjoying college days.

Sports day

The sports day was conducted on 19.03.2012. Th. Selvaraj, ADSP was the guest of honour. The team led by Dr. C. Parthiban, the games secretary M. Anbukkarasan and Joint Games secretary, P. Saranya made the event a memorable one with various sports activities both for staff and students.



Training to farmers

Three days training programme on nematology was conducted by Department of Spices and Plantation Crops under NADP from 24th to 26th March 2012. Total of 75 farmers got benefited by the programme.

Dean, HC &RI, receives MASU Award

The MASU award for the Best Book under the category Technical Bulletin in Tamil was awarded to the book “gid” authored by V. Ponnuswami, M.Prabhu, A. RameshKumar, and B. Senthamizh(2009) published by Sri Sakthi Promotional Litho Process, Coimbatore.

Training conducted by TCRS, Yethapur



One day training programme was conducted at Thanneerpandhaku village of Namagripetta block

of Namakkal district on 23.04.12 under NADP castor onion Intercropping system. Dr.V. Rajendran, Professor & Head, TCRS, Yethapur explained the importance of hybrid castor and its suitability for irrigated and rainfed conditions. Dr.S.R. Venkatachalam, AP elaborated the production technologies of hybrid castor. Dr. K. Thirukumaran, AP (Agr.) detailed about the cost economics of hybrid castor + onion intercropping system.

New schemes

Name of the scheme	Principal Investigator	Amount (Lakh ₹.)	Funding Agency
Evaluation of broad spectrum herbicides in Direct seeded rice	Dr.E.Subramaniyan Dept. of Seed Science and Technology, TNAU, Coimbatore	5.04	FMC,Bengaluru
Selection of a best genotype and development of production technologies for maximizing the flower, seed and Xanthophyll yield in marigold	Dr.K.Vanangamudi Professor, Dept. of Seed Science and Technology, TNAU, Coimbatore	30.08	Synthite Industries, Synthite Valley, Kolencherry, Kerala
Marker assisted introgression of LcyE gene for enhanced proA in development of maize hybrid and evaluation of seed quality characters	Mrs.D.Thirusendura Selvi Ph.D. Scholar Dept. of Seed Science and Technology, TNAU, Coimbatore	15.48	GOI-DST Women Scientist Scheme – A (WOS-A)

Important visitors

- ★ Prof. Gopinadhan Paliyath, Dept. of Plant Agriculture University of Guelph, Canada, visited Professor and Head, Nanotechnology, on 27.04.2012 to 28.04.2012.
- ★ Dr. Loong – Tak Lim, Dept. of Food Science University of Guelph, Canada, visited Professor and Head, Nanotechnology on 27.04.2012 to 28.04.2012.
- ★ Dr. Jayasankar Subramanian, Associate Professor Tree Fruit, Breeding and Biotechnology, University of Guelph, Canada, visited Professor and Head, Nanotechnology, on 27.04.2012 to 30.04.2012.

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To
Thiru

From
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