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## Variety of mangoes from a single tree

R. Arivanantham

*Old and unproductive trees rejuvenated through 'top work' method*

— Photo: N. Bashkaran



**To increase yield: Sundararajan (left) agriculture scientist, Dr. Perumal Krishi Vignan Kendra, Krishnagiri, and N. Subramanian a farmer from Salem, showing the mango tree rejuvenated through 'top work' technology in Hosur.**

KRISHNAGIRI: Rejuvenation of old and unproductive mango trees through 'top work' method adopted after a prolonged 'On Farm Trial' by Dr. Perumal Krishi Vignan Kendra (KVK) in 2007-08 in Krishnagiri district is successful.

Through this technique, one can get multiple varieties of mangoes from a single tree.

On a pilot basis, the method was adopted in Hosur town and Ikundam and Kothapalli villages.

Sundararajan, an agricultural scientist in the Kendra, told *The Hindu* that the KVK took the initiative to undertake an intensive research on rejuvenation of old trees to increase the yield of mango in Krishnagiri, Dharmapuri district, the Mango Corridor in this region.

The 'top work' technique was adopted with the help of N. Subramaniam, a Salem-based farmer, who has been practicing this method for the last 25 years in different

parts of the State.

The yield of mango trees would start decreasing after 35 to 40 years.

Rejuvenation through top work method would maximise the yield without much investment and uprooting of the old trees.

Under the technique, unwanted branches of the old trees should be pruned at a height of 1 to 2 metres above the ground level during December.

The exposed surface of the trees would be treated with fungicide to protect it from infection.

After four months of pruning, shoots would emerge from the branches. At this stage, selective and regular thinning would facilitate development of canopy.

Except five to six healthy shoots, others should be clipped for the development of the canopy.

According to Mr. Subramanian, after rejuvenation, the desired variety of mangoes can be grafted on the newly-emerged shoots through veneer and soft wood grafting during July-August.

Only four to five grafting per branch should be performed.

### Grafting

Much attention should be given while grafting the varieties. Mango varieties that can grow at an equal speed, i.e. Imam Pasand, Malliga, Banganapalli and Amarapali should be grafted in one tree. Alphonso, Salem Bangaloor, Rajapuri and Senthura can be grafted.

After grafting, the stem should be covered with a plastic tube. The tube should be removed after the stem starts sprouting. Unwanted shoots should also be removed or clipped during this period, he added.

Mr. Subramanian said he had adopted the technique in more than 10,000 mango trees in Morappur in Dharmapuri district, Kondappanayakappatti on the foothills of Yercaud, Thalavadi in Erode and Dindigul.

Grafted trees required intensive and timely care for an year to get optimum production.

Mr. Subramanian said the method could be adopted in amla, brinjal, tamarind, orange, mosambi, suppota etc.

Mr. Sundararajan said three years from grafting, the trees would have good bearing potential and the yield would go up year after year.

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## **Brackish water shrimp farms registered**

Special Correspondent

PUDUKOTTAI: Collector A.Suganthi on Monday handed over certificate of registration to the owners of seven brackish water shrimp farms in Pudukottai district.

The Collector said that the district administration had recommended to the Coastal Aquaculture Authority of India (CAAI) for registration of 15 brackish water shrimp farms in the district after inspection of which the CAAI had granted permission for registration of seven farms in the district.

Ms Suganthi appealed to the owners of the farms to follow the rules and regulations of the CAAI and the production of shrimps. Assistant Director of Fisheries V.Chandrakasan and Inspector of Fisheries K.Thirunavukkarasu were present while the Collector was distributing the registration certificates to the shrimp farm owners.

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## **Farmers honoured**

Staff Reporter

PUDUKOTTAI: A total of 17 farmers of three villages were honoured with 'Pongal' gift at a function organised under the auspices of Sri Thilagavathiar Tiruvarul Adheenam at Machuvadi here on Monday.

The farmers were identified through a surprise visit by the Adheenam to agricultural fields in Sembaatur, Gummupatti and Rajakulathur recently. "The objective of the visit is to present a gift to farmers found toiling hard in their fields," says Dayananda Chandrasekaran, Head of the Adheenam. The gift included a 'dhoti', a stainless steel plate.

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## **Mettur level**

The water level in the Mettur dam stood at 85.19 feet on Monday against its full level of 120 feet. The inflow was 1,092 cusecs and the discharge, 6,000 cusecs.

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## **Insecticide seized, company licence suspended**

Special Correspondent

CHENNAI: Officials of the Customs at the Seaport arrested the managing director of a private company and suspended the licence of a Custom House agent recently.

They also seized 16 tonnes of imported insecticide, which was valued at Rs.67 lakh.

### **Specific information**

C. Rajan, Commissioner of Customs, Seaport (Imports), said that following specific information the authorities found out that a company was involved in importing insecticides without valid registration.

### **Duty evasion**

The importer had also wrongly declared the material as natural fertilizer and evaded Customs duty to the tune of Rs.6.5 lakh.

Mr. Rajan said that the importer was unable to produce a valid licence for importing the insecticide.

During the course of investigation, it was brought to light that the importer had imported and cleared such items in the past also.

Further investigation is on.

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## **Fruit show**

Coimbatore: Students of Class V of the National Model Matriculation Higher Secondary School organised fruit exhibition. They prepared different types of dishes with the fruits, including juices and salads. The students learnt the importance of fruits.

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## Water level

MADURAI: Water level in the Periyar dam on Monday stood at 118.50 feet (full level 136 feet) with an inflow of 549 cusecs and a discharge of 1,000 cusecs. The level in the Vaigai dam was 55.05 feet (71 feet) with an inflow of 800 cusecs and a discharge of 1,860 cusecs.

The combined Periyar credit stood at 3,913 mcft. The Periyar dam recorded 15 mm of rainfall followed by Tekkadi 2.5 mm.

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## Centre urged to release crop insurance share

Special Correspondent

*Vivasayigal Sangam, CPI and CPI (M) cadres stage rail roko*

—Photo: M. Srinath



***protest: Farmers staging a demonstration in Thanjavur on Monday.***

THANJAVUR: The police arrested nearly 700 members of Tamil Nadu Vivasayigal Sangam, CPI and CPI (M) at various places in Thanjavur and Tiruvarur districts on Monday when they organised rail roko demanding the Central Government to pay the amount due from it as crop insurance share.

Under the scheme, both State and Centre share the amount on 50:50 basis. Out of its 50 per cent share the centre has released 25 per cent and the remaining has to be released. State Government has already released its share.

The members stopped Tiruchi-Nagore passenger at Thanjavur, Needamangalam and Tiruvarur stations and Tiruvarur-Karaikudi Passenger at Thiruthuraipoondi, Ponnirai, Pondy stations.

Those who were arrested include Pakkirisamy, district president of Tamil Nadu Vivasayigal Sangam, Jeevakumar, Thanjavur district council member of CPI (M), Balasundaram of CPI.

### Nagapattinam

The Communist Party of India and Communist Party of India (Marxist) along with the Cauvery Delta Farmers Protection Association and various other farmers' associations staged rail rokos here at various places on Monday.

The protests were staggered here with the first rail roko staged at about 7.10 a.m., when the Nagapattinam to Tiruchi train arrived at Keezhvelur.

However, protesters were apprehended before they could step down on to the tracks.

The 9.45 a.m. Thanjavur to Nagapattinam train met with protesters squatted on railway tracks.

Similarly, the Nagapattinam to Tiruchi train that arrived at 1 p.m. was blocked. At Mayiladuturai, the Tirunelveli Passenger was blocked at 11 a.m.

Over 400 people were arrested at various places, according to the police. A part of the Centre's share of crop insurance was released on Saturday.

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