

Date:22/01/2010 URL:

<http://www.thehindu.com/2010/01/22/stories/2010012254910300.htm>

State-level training programme for farmers begins

Staff Reporter

Photo: N. Bashkaran



A.K. Mani, Head and Professor, Regional Research Station, Paiyur addressing the inaugural of the three-day training programme for farmers in Paiyur on Thursday. —

KRISHNAGIRI: A three day State-level training programme for farmers on the Management of Non-Monetary Inputs in Crop Production began at the Regional Research Station of the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University at Paiyur in Krishnagiri district on Thursday.

Thirty farmers from 15 districts are participating in the three-day residential programme.

Inaugurating the training, V. Thirumalai, Assistant General Manager, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, said that the dwindling number of farmers was a cause for concern. With a view to improve this, NABARD was taking all efforts through various programmes in rural areas. NABARD was conducting Capacity Building through Adoption of Technology (CAT) for farmers through various training programmes such as System of Rice Intensification, Green House, precision farming and tissue culture.

As many as 30 such training programmes were sponsored by NABARD in the State, out of which the Krishnagiri district got the lion's share of seven training programmes.

In his presidential address, A.K. Mani, Head and Professor of the Regional Research Station, said manpower shortage hampers agriculture sector.

To offset this, the RRS was sensitizing the farmers on adopting various low cost technologies to reap maximum benefits.

Dr. T. Sundararajan, Coordinator, Dr. Perumal Krishi Vignan Kendra, Krishnagiri, urged the participants to create awareness about the new technology among the

farmers in their districts. S. Ravichandran, Senior Manager, Pallavan Grama Bank, Paiyur branch, spoke on the occasion.

S. Vijayabaskaran, Associate Professor, welcomed the gathering. T. Rajabaskar, Assistant Professor, proposed a vote of thanks.

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<http://www.thehindu.com/2010/01/22/stories/2010012250290300.htm>

Take advantage of Government schemes to the maximum: Collector

Staff Reporter

'Farmers not making use of facilities put up by Agriculture Department'



R. Sudalaikannan

ERODE: Collector R. Sudalaikannan has urged people to take interest in Government schemes to derive maximum benefit. A release issued from the district administration says he asked people to approach officials of various departments to know about Government schemes and ways to derive benefit there from. The release is based on his address at the monthly grievance meeting at N. Thayirpalayam village in Nasiyanur town panchayat.

The Government had been initiating various steps to ensure that the benefits of various schemes reached the public and one such step was conducting grievance meeting and an exhibition on schemes.

People should make use of such facilities, especially when Government officials made efforts to reach out to them, he said and added that it was disheartening to note that farmers had not made full use of the facilities put up by the Agriculture Department at the exhibition.

Mr. Sudalaikannan later distributed Rs. 400 each to 27 persons under Indira Gandhi national social security scheme, Rs. 1.74 lakh to farmers and farm workers under the social security scheme for farmers and farm labourers among others, the release says. The release adds that he received 137 petitions and of those provided relief for 47. He forwarded 84 petitions to officials concerned for further action.

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Mettur level

The water level in the Mettur dam stood at 81.15 feet on Thursday.

The inflow was 1,083 cusecs and the discharge, 7,992 cusecs.

Date:22/01/2010 URL:

<http://www.thehindu.com/2010/01/22/stories/2010012258200500.htm>

Court backs farmers' right to irrigation facilities

Mohamed Imranullah S.

MADURAI: The right of agriculturalists to enjoy irrigation facilities is, in a way, a part of the fundamental Right to Life guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution, the Madras High Court Bench here has observed.

A Division Bench, comprising Justice D. Murugesan and Justice S. Nagamuthu, also said that attempts to bring in development in other sectors at the cost of agriculture would prove detrimental to national interest.

They made the observations while setting aside a notification issued by a District Revenue Officer for acquiring lands, passing through two waterbodies, to widen National Highway 67 between Tiruchi and Karur.

They directed the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to form a committee of experts for visiting the site and exploring the possibility of realigning the road, thereby minimising the disturbance to the waterbodies.

The Tiruchi Collector and the Chief Engineer of the Public Works Department were directed to extend assistance to the committee to facilitate completion of road-widening works before July based on the agreement entered with contractors.

The agriculturalists, who are the beneficiaries of the Punganoor and Kallikudi water tanks, were permitted to submit written objections, if any, before the committee, which should take them into consideration before arriving at a decision.

The orders were passed while disposing of two writ petitions, one filed by the Tamil Nadu Agriculturists Association of the Manikandam Panchayat Union in Tiruchi district and another by a farmer hailing from the same place.

Writing the judgment, Mr. Justice Nagamuthu said: "It is true that formation of a road under a national project is as important as any other project.

But, while doing so, every endeavour should be taken to minimise disturbance to irrigation resources.

“In recent times, growing scarcity and competition for water stand as major threat to future advancement in poverty alleviation. It is needless to say that food production is likely to be affected if our irrigation sources are not preserved.”

The judge also said that it was the primary responsibility of the government to protect natural water resources besides ensuring the livelihood of agriculturalists and marginal farmers as 65 per cent of the population was involved in the agricultural sector.

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Date:22/01/2010 URL:

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Tuticorin farmers seek relief

Staff Reporter

Tuticorin: Farmers sought compensation under National Agriculture Insurance Scheme for pulses that suffered damage last year due to excessive rain resulting in shortfall in yield.

Collector G. Prakash, who presided over a meeting on Thursday, said adequate measures would be taken to get the relief.

Farmers said that all benefits were being extended under the scheme in other districts but those in Tuticorin were neglected.

They also urged the Collector to announce Tuticorin as a drought-hit district.

Inspection

The Additional Director of Agriculture, Madhumathi, would inspect and assess the prospects of agriculture here on Friday and all representations made by the farmers would be taken care of, he assured.

Joint Director of Agriculture, Louis Rajarathinam, Agriculture Officer, Bala Singh, Executive Engineer, PWD, Water Resource Organisation, Tamirabarani Basin, Tirunelveli, Dhanasingh David, PA to Collector (agriculture) and officials from agriculture and allied departments were present.

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