

TNAU NEWS



TAMILNADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY NEWS LETTER

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FARMERS' DAY



The farmers' day 2007 and farmers' seminar were organized jointly by the State Department of Agriculture and Tamil Nadu Agricultural University on 23rd June, 2007 at the main campus. Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture and Pro-Chancellor of TNAU, Th. Veerapandi S.Arumugam released the New Crop Varieties, New Farm Implements and Management Technologies of the year 2007. In addition, many welfare programmes have been initiated on the occasion.

The farmers, farm women, farm entrepreneurs and seed growers have shared their experiences and benefits got from various agricultural development programmes implemented by Government of Tamil Nadu. A focused interaction session was held in which, the scientists highlighted the latest developments in

agriculture and allied fields and also answered the queries of the farmers.

Dr. Neeraj Mittal IAS, District Collector, Coimbatore, presided over the function. Th. Surjit. K. Chaudhary IAS, Agricultural Production Commissioner and Secretary to Government, Prof. C. Ramasamy, Vice-Chancellor, TNAU, Th. Jagmohan Singh Raju IAS, Commissioner of Horticulture, Th. C. Kosalaraman, IAS, Director of Agriculture, Th. P. M. Basheer Ahemed IAS, Director of Agricultural marketing and Business and Th. Atul Anand IAS, Executive Director, Wasteland Development programme spoke on the various facets of development programmes and called upon the farmers to take full advantage of them. Th. S. D.Sabarathinam, Chief Engineer, Th. S. Perumal, Director of Seed Certification (i/c)

highlighted the achievements of their Departments. Dr.B.Chandrasekaran, Director of Research, spoke on the recent developments in research in TNAU and Dr.E.Vadivel, Director of Extension Education, TNAU spoke on precision farming experiences and their application to the present day farming situation in TamilNadu.

Earlier, Th.A.Harirajakrishnan, Joint Director of Agriculture (i/c), Coimbatore welcomed the gathering and Th.R.Selvaraj, Joint Director of Horticulture, Ooty proposed vote of thanks.

An impressive Exhibition has been arranged in which, the newly released crop varieties, farm implements and management technologies have been displayed. Large number of farmers participated.

UG ADMISSION 2007



Counseling for undergraduate courses was conducted for five days between 26th and 30th June, 2007. The demand for Agricultural courses this year has been very good, compared to last few years. Nearly 3,500 candidates have applied for undergraduate degree programme (12 courses). About 1374 candidates were called for counseling and nearly 870 candidates were admitted to different courses and colleges. Students were given a free hand to select the course and college. A single window system was followed in the first phase of counseling.

SRI LANKAN DELEGATION VISITS DODL

The Sri Lankan delegation headed by Milroy S. Fernando, Hon'ble Minister of Public Estate Management and Development, Sri Lanka visited the Directorate of Open and Distance Learning, TNAU, Coimbatore on 29.06.2007 to witness the activities of ODL programmes.

Dr. G. Selvaraj, Director, Open and Distance Learning and his staff welcomed the delegation. The Director, ODL explained the delegation about the various ODL programmes planned for 2007 - 2008 and accomplishments made by the Directorate. While highlighting the ODL programmes, the Director, ODL indicated that the future vision of the Directorate is to concentrate much on e-Learning process.

The team members evinced keen interest to have future collaboration with Directorate of Open and Distance Learning especially on offering certificate courses through ODL mode in Sri Lanka.

SUGARCANE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM IN ODL



The Directorate of Open and Distance Learning, TNAU, considering the importance of sugarcane research and sugarcane production in Tamil Nadu, has planned to offer a M.Sc. (Sugarcane Technology) programme

STAKEHOLDERS' INTERACTIVE MEET ON RAWE PROGRAMME



Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore conducted a 'stakeholders' interactive meet on Rural Agricultural Work Experience (RAWE) programme' on June 13th, 2007. Professor

C.Ramasamy, Vice-Chancellor emphasized that the need of the hour is to make agricultural graduates meet the stakeholders' requirements and no graduate is left unemployed or self employed.

The students were introduced to the stakeholders like the owners of agro based industries, progressive host farmers, ADOs and NGOs. The stake holders were explained the learning objectives and out comes of the various field experiences so that, the students' activities and group learning can be enhanced. The stake holders have made valuable suggestions to improve the institution – stakeholders synergy in future activities and programmes of the University.

Dr.K.Vanangamudi, Dean (Agriculture) in his welcome address, emphasized the inculcation of entrepreneurial spirit in agricultural graduates and to make the students readily employable in any rural development activity or programme.

TN MINISTERS' VISIT TO HC&RI, PERIYAKULAM



Thiru. Veerapandi S. Arumugam, Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture and Thiru. I. Periyasamy, Hon'ble Minister for Revenue and Prison visited HC & RI, Periyakulam on 13.06.07. The Vice – Chancellor, TNAU, received the Ministers and briefed the activities of the College. Tree saplings were planted by the ministers. The nursery activities, medicinal garden and varieties released in sapota, mango, acid lime, tamarind, moringa, brinjal etc. were explained to them.

in collaboration with the Sugarcane Breeding Institute.

In this context, an inaugural function of this course was held on 06.06.2007. Dr.G.Selvaraj, Director, Open and Distance Learning welcomed the gathering. The Vice-Chancellor presided over the function and offered the inaugural address, study materials both hard and soft copies were released by the Vice-Chancellor. The Director, Sugarcane Breeding Institute Dr.N.Vijayan Nair has delivered the key note address. Dr.P.Santhy, Professor, ODL proposed the vote of thanks.

SRI LANKAN MINISTER'S VISIT TO HC&RI, PERIYAKULAM



Thiru. Milroy Fernando, Hon'ble Minister for Estate Management Sri

Lanka along with 16 members delegation visited HC & RI, Periyakulam on 26.06.07. They were taken round the college farm and the activities like nursery, sapota and mango orchards, medicinal garden and varieties released were explained. The minister evinced keen interest in the research activities of mango, sapota and moringa.

FARMERS' DAY AT TRICHY

Farmers' day was conducted at Aristo hotel, Tiruchirappalli on 30.6.2007. During farmers' day, the machineries and implements viz., stump remover, paddy transplanter, Power weeder, Power tiller operated mould board plough, power tiller operated cultivator, sugarcane detrapper, sugarcane sett cutter, fruits and vegetables washer were demonstrated for the benefit of farmers.

Ornamental plants, tree saplings etc. were also kept for sales. Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture, Th.Veerapandi S. Arumugam, Hon'ble Minister for Transport Th.K.N. Nehru, Hon'ble Minister for Forest, Th. N.

Selvaraj, Mayor of Trichy city, Members of TN Assembly, Panchayat and Corporation leaders, Vice-Chancellor of TNAU, Director (WTC) and other dignitaries have visited the stalls of Agricultural Engineering College and Research Institute, Kumulur.

SEED VILLAGE FARMERS' MEET

The farmers meeting of Seed Village Scheme was held at Kovilpuram on 14.06.07. Seventy nine farmers cultivating paddy, vegetables and cotton attended the meeting. The meeting started with welcome address by Dr.P.Selvaraju, Scientist incharge of Seed Village Scheme. Dr.K.Sivasubramaniam, Professor and Head explained the concept of seed village and invited the farmers to utilize the scheme to improve their agriculture in general and derive benefit through the use of quality seeds. He also emphasized the usefulness of quality seed and the various aspects of maintaining quality seed production. Demonstration of various seed production techniques like seed treatment using fungicide,

quality rice seeds testing using egg floatation technique, bio fertilizer seed treatment etc. were shown.

TNAU - INDUSTRIES MEET

An University-Industries meet on "**Food Processing and Post harvest technology**" had been organized on 25th and 26th June, 2007 in Post harvest Technology Centre (PHTC) of TNAU, Coimbatore under CIDA- Mc Gill sponsored project "**Consolidation of Food Security in South India**". Dr.C.Ramasamy, Vice Chancellor of TNAU, Inaugurated the meet, Ms. Claude Bibeau, First Secretary (Commercial), Canadian High Commission, New Delhi, Dr.G.S.V.Raghavan, James McGill Professor and Project Director of CIDA, Dr. Valarie Orsat, Asst Professor, Bioresource (Engineering), Dept of McGill University Canada, Dean, Engineering, Dean, (Home Science) and University officers

attended the meeting. An exhibition was organized by the self help groups benefitted by CIDA.

INTERACTIVE SESSION ON FARM MECHANISATION

An interactive session was organized on 18.6.2007 involving the various stakeholders in the thematic area of farm mechanization.

Dr.K.Palanisami, Director, CARDS presided over the meeting. He lamented that the reach-out of the technologies is meager. We need to identify the preferences of farmers so that the technological adoption would reach the desired levels, he emphasized.

Farmers, farm women, faculty members of the Department of Agricultural Extension, field extension workers representing Department of Agricultural

Engineering and Agriculture, KVK Scientists and researchers in the field of Farm Machinery participated. As the theme encircled on "**Farm Mechanization and its Challenges and Opportunities**", focused discussion was initiated and issues that appeared to be the challenges in farm mechanization were identified.

Dr.Manohar Jesudoss, Professor and Head, Department of Farm Machinery and Dr.V.J.F.Kumar, Professor and Head, Department of Agricultural Machinery Research Centre were the resource persons who claimed that the farmers' participation in designing and execution of farm machineries would go a long way in evolving innovations that are field based, cost effective and appropriate.

A MULTI PURPOSE AGRL. SEMINAR

A multi purpose agricultural seminar was organized on 16.06.2007 at

POWER TILLER DAY



A '**Power Tiller Day**' was conducted at Agricultural Engineering College and Research Institute, Kumalur on 27.6.2007. Six different manufacturers of Power Tillers

participated with their Power Tillers of different models and implements attached to them for different purposes like ploughing, ridging, intercultivation, earthing up etc. All

the power tillers and their implements were operated and demonstrated in the field.

Agricultural Engineering College and Research Institute, Kumalur demonstrated rotary weeder, conoweeder, long handled dryland weeder, power operated weeder, power tiller attached implements like tined tiller and mould board plough, paddy transplanter and recently released implements, stump remover and sugarcane detrasher.

More than two hundred farmers representing nine districts were attended. In addition, company officials, department officials and our students also attended the demonstrations.

'COCO FEST-2007' AT KVK PECHIPARAI



The Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Pechiparai, Kanyakumari, TNAU, participated in the 'Coco Fest 2007' organized by the Coconut Development Board at Kanagakunnu Palace, Thiruvananthapuram and arranged an exhibition highlighting elite research

achievements of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University. Varieties released from TNAU and their special features were kept in the exhibition. Live models on coconut based cropping systems, drip fertigation, root feeding of coconut tonic and video programme on TNAU coconut climber and coconut tonic root feeding were the major attraction of our stall. The Agricultural Production Commissioner and Secretary to Government of Tamil Nadu Shri. Surjith K. Chaudhary, IAS, visited the TNAU stall and appreciated the scientists of Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Pechiparai for the efforts taken towards the focus of frontier technologies in coconut cultivation.

Kurinjipadi. Honourable Agricultural Minister Th. Veerapandi S. Arumugam, Honourable Minister for Backward Classes Th. M. R. K. Panneerselvam, Honourable Union State Minister for Law Th. K. Vengadapathy participated in the Seminar. The Agricultural Secretary, the Commissioner of Horticulture and the Director of Agriculture also participated in the Seminar. The Director, TRRI, Aduthurai along with scientists of Sugarcane Research Station, Cuddalore Vegetable Research Station, Palur and KVK, Vridhachalam attended the seminar. A combined TNAU exhibition stall was arranged in the meeting venue. A theme paper on pit method of cultivation was presented for the benefit of the farmers.

SEMINAR ON NATURAL FARMING

A one day seminar on "Role of farmers and women groups in

natural agriculture" was jointly organized by Department of agriculture, Erode at Gobichettipalayam. Exhibition was arranged with latest varieties, improved crop production technologies and farm implements at the seminar. Tmt. Subbulakshmi Jagadeesan, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Social justice and Empowerment inaugurated the exhibition. Hon'ble Minister asked the farmers to practice natural farming with improved production technologies for getting higher income and reduce the environmental pollution. Thiru. Veerapandi. S. Arumugam, Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture, Tamil Nadu distributes the agricultural implements to the farmers and farm women groups. Hon'ble Minister pointed out the various measures taken by the government to control the environmental pollution in Erode district. Dr. C. Ramasamy, Vice-Chancellor, TNAU, spoke about the

recent technological advances related to agricultural development. More than 7000 farmers have attended the seminar. Thiru. Ansul Mishra, IAS Deputy Collector (Gobichettipalayam) proposed the vote of thanks.

TRAINING ON CAPACITY BUILDING



The Capacity Building Programme for Watershed Development Team members (Agri) was jointly organized by Tamil Nadu Agricultural University and Agriculture Department, Government of Tamil Nadu from 4th June 2007 to 29th June 2007 at the Directorate of Extension Education, TNAU, Coimbatore. Four batches of

Watershed Development Team (Agri) members comprising twenty five each from 20 watershed districts of TamilNadu have attended this programme. Dr.E.Vadivel, Director of Extension Education, TNAU inaugurated the training programme. He emphasized the economic use of water for optimum production by following water saving techniques especially drip and fertigation. During the training programme, various topics pertinent to dry farming were dealt. Scientists of TNAU were using interactive and participatory mode of teaching. Field visit and discussion with successful watershed farmers were arranged to impart hands on training on watershed management. The participants were assisted to prepare 'Action Plan' for their respective districts based on their experience and latest improved technologies learnt from this programme.

TRAINING ON VERMI COMPOST AT KVK, VAMBAN



Dr. V. Muralidharan, Director, TRRI inaugurated the training on "Commercial production of vermicompost" at KVK, Vamban on

21.6.2007. In his presidential address, he reiterated that instead of blanket application of chemical fertilizers, a soil test based fertilizer application along with organic manures would be the right choice to maintain and improve the soil health as well as for the better marketability of the farm produce. A large number of practicing farmers, rural youths and SHG women were participated and benefitted out of this programme.

TRAINING ON HYBRID SEED PRODUCTION IN BHENDI

One day training on "Seed production in Yellow vein mosaic resistant hybrid bhendi" was organized by the Department of Vegetable crops, HC&RI, Coimbatore on 27.6.07 at the University orchard, T N A U , C o i m b a t o r e . Dr.D.Veeraragavathatham, Dean (Hort) addressed the farm women and explained the advantages of hybrids. The farm women were given hands on training in hybrid seed production in bhendi demonstration plot in the orchard. The procedure of emasculation in flower buds of female parent was demonstrated and the farm women were allowed to practice the same since, this is the most skillful part of hybrid seed production.

TRAINING ON INDIGENOUS POULTRY MANAGEMENT

A training on "Indigenous poultry management" was organized at



KVK, Madurai on 19.6.2007 in which 20 women belongs to five self help groups of Madurai district were participated. Dr.S.Kumar, Professor and Head, KVK, Madurai welcomed the gathering. The presidential address was delivered by Dr.K.Ramamoorthy, Dean, Agricultural College and Research Institute, Madurai. At the end of the session, 20 giriraja chicks for each self help group were distributed in the ratio of one male and four female for conducting the Frontline demonstration on the same.

RELEASE OF NEW IMPLEMENT

The Agricultural Engineering College and Research Institute, Kumulur has released the new implement 'Stump remover' on the eve of Farmers' day in the presence of Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture Th. Veerapandi S. Arumugam on 23.6.2007 at TNAU, Coimbatore. The stump remover can be operated by tractors with 35 hp and above. It removes the roots of dry land weed crops like *Moringa tinctoria* and *Prosopis juliflora*, by wedge action of the tool. The cost of the implement is Rs.10,500/-.

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To
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From
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