

TNAU NEWS



TAMILNADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY NEWS LETTER

Patron : **Dr. C. RAMASAMY** - Vice Chancellor

Editor : **Dr. R. BALASARASWATHI** - Director of Planning and Monitoring (i/c)

VC's VISIT TO CORNELL UNIVERSITY, USA



A team of officials and faculty from TNAU headed by Vice-Chancellor Prof. C. Ramasamy visited Cornell University, USA during September 12-14, 2007. During the visit, the delegation discussed the proposal to offer dual degree programs in Food Science and Technology and Biotechnology at post graduate

level by these two institutions. In this regard, the Vice-Chancellor had a meeting with Dr. Henry Susen, Dean, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Cornell University and other officials. Details regarding course credits to be offered at Cornell University and TNAU were discussed. The proposal will be

placed for approval by the committees of the respective University for approval and implementation from the coming academic year. Besides, the delegation discussed with Ms. Janet McCue, Director, Mann Library, Cornell University on linkages between libraries in TNAU and Mann Library and also to integrate the literature available in various campuses of TNAU. Two faculties from TNAU were given intensive training on the facilities available in Mann Library and the representative from Mann Library will visit TNAU to provide suggestions to improve the facilities in TNAU. Further, the team had discussion with Director and faculty, Departments of Food Science, Applied economics and Plant Breeding and Genetics, Cornell University, USA. The Vice-Chancellor delivered a lecture "**Challenges and opportunities in Indian Agriculture**" to the faculty and students of Cornell University.

MULTI -NATIONAL COMPANIES FOR CAMPUS INTERVIEWS

The Directorate of Students' Welfare at the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore, conducted two set of Campus Interviews recently involving 9 companies inclusive of M/s. Reliance retailing. Dr.M.Thangaraju, Director (Students' Welfare) has introduced the employers of the industries to the students gathering and highlighted importance of multi-national companies' participation in recruitment process. He insisted that agri-graduates should mould

themselves to changing scenario in working environment and challenges ahead of them.

EARN WHILE YOU LEARN PROGRAM

The second year B.Sc (Agriculture) students of Agricultural College and Research Institute, Coimbatore are undergoing 'Crop Production' in the odd Semester of 2007-2008 and the cultivation of low land crop (rice) was taken up under "**Earn While you learn Programme**".

Recently, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof.C.Ramasamy inaugurated the

System of Rice Intensification (SRI) transplanting of the 'Earn while you learn' programme at wetland farm of TNAU, Coimbatore. During the occasion, he stressed upon the need for learning new scientific innovations by students. Dr.K.Vanangamudi, Dean (Agriculture), Dr.P.Subbian, Director (Agri Business Development) and other scientists of TNAU graced the occasion. The course incharge and Assistant Professor (Wetlands), Dr.N.Thavaprakash briefed about the System of Rice Intensification (SRI) techniques.

BOOK EXHIBITION AT ADAC&RI, TRICHY

Two days Book Exhibition was arranged on 10.09.2007 and 11.09.2007 for the benefit of UG Students and teachers from the Pai & Sons (P) Ltd., Coimbatore, The Hindu and others. Another Book Exhibition of ICAR Publications (alone) was arranged on 24.09.2007 and 25.09.2007 for the benefit of UG students and teachers.

NSS DAY AT ADAC&RI, TRICHY

NSS Day has been celebrated in ADAC & RI, Trichy on Sep 24. The function was inaugurated by Dr. S. Jebaraj, Dean, ADAC & RI. In this inaugural address, he insisted the students to realize the importance of developing the skills of concentration and memory. As a part of celebration, essay writing competition and oratorical contest have been conducted.

ODL COURSE ON SUGARCANE CULTIVATION AT SRS, CUDDALORE

The Open and Distance Learning certificate course on “Recent trends in sugarcane cultivation”



is offered by Sugarcane Research Station, Cuddalore. The sixth and seventh batch of trainings for the trainees from NPKRR, Thalainairu, Mayiladuthurai and EID Parry, Nellikuppam were inaugurated on 06.09.2007 & 21.09.2007 respectively. The Director, Open and Distance Learning, TNAU, Coimbatore inaugurated the training at NPKRR and Dr.B.Rajendran, Professor and Head at Sugarcane Research Station, Cuddalore. Thiru. M. Krishnan, Senior Manager (Cane),

delivered the special address.

NSS SPECIAL ORIENTATION PROGRAM

NSS special orientation programme was organized by the NSS Unit of Forest College and Research Institute for the I year students on 1.9.2007 at Forest College and Research Institute seminar Hall. Dr.Era Pavendan, NSS Programme Officer welcomed the gathering. The inaugural address was delivered by Dr.K.K.Suresh,

UK TEAM'S VISIT TO DSW



The Tamil Nadu Agricultural University is promoting international linkages with various universities and organizations across the globe. In this

connection, a team of Scientists comprising Dr. Kerry S. Burton, Dr. Steve Jackson, Dr. S. Sreenivasaprasad, University of Warwick, UK, visited Directorate

of Students' Welfare on 14.9.2007. Dr. S. Natarajan, Director (Students' Welfare) in-charge introduced the team to the faculty members and students. The team members presented the overview of research facilities available at the University of Warwick and various funding possibilities for Indian students to pursue their higher education in UK. They also explained various stages of admission to masters and Ph.D. programs. About 200 UG and graduate students attended the interactive session. Dr. K.S. Subramanian, Professor (Students' Welfare) briefed the gathering about the activities of the directorate and modules available to facilitate higher studies in United Kingdom. Dr.N.Sundararajan proposed a formal vote of thanks.

WORLD COCONUT DAY AT CRS, VEPPANKULAM



The twin functions of “World Coconut Day” and “Coconut Awareness Conference” was held at Coconut Research Station, Veppankulam on 2.9.2007. The function was inaugurated by the District

Collector, Thanjavur, Mr.S.Vijayakumar. The MLA, Pattukkottai Th.N.R.Rengarajan in his special felicitation address enlightened his role in bringing the coconut commercial complex for Pattukkottai and advised the

farmers to go for value added products in coconut. Dr.K.V.Subramaniam, Director, Coconut Development Board, Regional Office, Chennai detailed the various subsidy schemes in CDB to help the coconut growers.

The function was presided over by Dr.V.Muralidharan, Director, Tamil Nadu Rice research Institute, Aduthurai. Dr.R.Vaithilingam, Professor and Head, Coconut Research Station welcomed the gathering and Dr.R.Bhaskaran, Professor of Plant Pathology proposed vote of thanks.

More than thousand progressive coconut growers attended the function. An exhibition depicting the various research findings of the station stalls by CDB and traders was declared open by the district Collector, Thanjavur.

Senior Professor and Head of the Department of Silviculture. Dr.K.Kandappan, Reader, Department of Social Work, Sri Ramakrishna Mission Vidyalaya spoke about “The Philosophy of NSS”. He explained history,

growth, objectives, basic concepts, Symbol and Badge of NSS. Later 1 year students shared their experiences about orientation lectures. Mr.K.Manoj, NSS Representative delivered vote of thanks.

HOME SCIENCE IN REALITY- AN EXERCISE IN EXPERIMENTAL LEARNING

The sixteen final year B.Sc Home Science students of Home Science College and Research Institute,

SHORT COURSE ON STORAGE ENTOMOLOGY



The ICAR sponsored Short Course on “Post Harvest Entomological Techniques For Insect Free Grain Storage To

Achieve Nutritional Security” was organized by the Centre of Advanced Studies in Entomology, TNAU, Coimbatore from Sep 19th

to 28th, 2007. There were 16 participants from different ICAR institutes and SAUs.

The Vice-Chancellor inaugurated the short course on Sep 19th, 2007 and stressed the importance of minimizing post harvest losses caused by insects particularly during grain storage.

Dr.S.Mohan, Director of the Short Course gave an outline about the course. Earlier, Dr.R. Samiyappan, Director, Centre for Plant Protection Studies while welcoming the gathering, highlighted the achievements of TNAU in Storage Entomology. Dr. S.Kuttalam, Professor and Head, Department of Agricultural Entomology, proposed formal Vote of Thanks.

TRAINING ON CORH 3 HYBRID RICE SEED PRODUCTION



One day training programme on **“Hybrid rice seed production”** was organized at Department of Rice, Centre for Plant Breeding

and Genetics on 12.9.2007 and 25.9.2007. Eighteen rice scientists from Research Stations and Colleges of TNAU attended

on 12.9.2007 and nine Agricultural Officers representing State Seed Farms and in-charge of Agricultural Extension Centres from 7 districts participated on 25.9.2007.

Hands on training on hybrid rice seed production techniques pertaining to the latest rice hybrid CORH 3 was given through lectures, field visits and demonstrations.

The training programme was inaugurated by Dr. T.S. Raveendran, Director, Centre for Plant Breeding and Genetics. Dr. K. Mohana Sundaram, Professor and Head, Department of Rice explained the success of hybrid rice cultivation.

Madurai have organized an exhibition on Friday (7.9.2007) after their return from Kutladampatti village of Madurai district, where they have done individual home planning as well as village development planning.

Dr.P.Muthiah Manoharan, Professor and Head, Department of Home science Extension and also the course teacher welcomed the gathering. Dr.A.Andal, Dean (Home Science College and Research Institute) who inaugurated and declared open the exhibition said that the village stay enables the students to compare what they learnt with what does really exist. Dr.D.David Rajasekar, Professor, Department of Home Science Extension proposed a vote of thanks.

DOLE TEAM VISITS TNAU

A team of members from Dole, world's largest producer and marketer of fresh fruit and vegetables, comprising of Wenceslao P.Abilary, Jr. Director, Regional Production and Judith Bongon, Commercial Manager from Dole Asia and Min Kim, Sales Manager / Key account II team from Dole Korea Ltd., made a visit to

TNAU, Coimbatore on the 25th of September 2007.

The purpose of their visit was to peruse the possibilities of banana procurement for their company. They were taken to banana fields at Sirumugai and Karamadai, where they could see stretch of Neypoovan banana fields, apart from varieties like Rasthali, Robusta, Grand Naine and Nendran. They interacted with the farmers on various cultivation and marketing issues. The team left with a few suckers of Neypoovan for

small trials under Philippines conditions.

TRAINING ON TAPIOCA CULTIVATION

One day training on **“Techniques of Tapioca cultivation”** was conducted at Tapioca and Castor Research Station, Yethapur to field staffs of SPAC Tapioca Products (India) Ltd, Poonachi, Erode District. SPAC Tapioca Products (India) Ltd which is one of the private firms involved in the production of tapioca products in



Tamil Nadu. A group comprising of 34 field level staffs attended this training programme. Dr.S.Venkatesan, Professor and Head, Tapioca and Castor Research Station, Yethapur welcomed the trainees. Staff members of CRS Yethapur emphasized the various aspects of castor cultivation.

INTERACTIVE MEET ON MANGO MARKETING

Department of Fruit Crops arranged for an interactive meeting of the Tamil Nadu Mango Growers' Federation members at HC&RI, TNAU, Coimbatore on 28.9.07. The growers discussed on various issues related to mango marketing and pricing. Fluctuation in prices and challenges faced during marketing one's produce were discussed in detail. The need for strengthening district level association was emphasized which would primarily reduce the communication gap in market price fixation. Dr.E.Vadivel, Director (Extension Education) presided over the function and D.T.N.Balamohan, Professor and Head, Fruit Crops thanked the gathering.

TRAINING FOR WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS

A one day CIDA sponsored The Dharmapuri District Collector

(Canadian International Development Agency) training on "Scope and Importance of Food Processing" was conducted by the department of Family Resource Management, HSC & RI, Madurai on 19.9.07. Earlier Dr.A.Andal, Dean, HSC&RI, guided and offered suitable suggestions for the successful conduct of the training.

Inaugurating the training, Dr.P.Muthiah Manoharan, Professor and Head Department of Home science Extension stressed the need for such training to become self-reliant and successful entrepreneurs. Thirty participants belong to Self-Help Groups & Entrepreneur in and around Madurai & Rajapalayam attended the training.

SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATION OF AME

Agricultural Man Ecology (AME) foundation and Tapioca and Castor Research Station, TNA, Yethapur are conducting a scheme on "Upliftment of dryland farmers of Harur Block of Dharmapuri District in dryland agriculture through tapioca cultivation". The AME Silver Jubilee celebration was conducted on 11th September 2007 a Rotary Hall of Dharmapuri District.

Mr.Pankaj Kumar Bansal, IAS, the Professor and Head, RRS Paiyur Dr.A.K.Mani, the Professor and Head, TCRS, Yethapur, Dr.S.Venkatesan, the Assistant General Manager (NABARD) Dharmapuri, Dr.C.Ganesan and Executive Director, AME, Bangalore Dr.Arun Balamatti and Agronomist of KVK, Papparappatti attended the function and delivered special lectures to the participants of Self Help Groups, NGO's and progressive farmers for their betterment.

A DISTINCTION FOR TNAU SCIENTIST

Dr.K.S.Subramanian, Associate Professor (Soil Science) of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University is one of the eight recipients of a Fellowship Award in the world to participate and present his research findings at the Ninth International Conference on Biogeochemistry of Trace Elements (9th ICOBTE), Beijing, China, during July 15-19, 2007. About 600 scientists across the globe were participated in the Conference. Currently Dr.Subramanian's research team is working on exploring a possibility of using mycorrhizas as a biological agent to alleviate micronutrient deficiencies especially Zn which is a serious concern in crop production.

NHM TRAINING AT HC&RI, PERIYAKULAM



The National Horticulture Mission sponsored Human Resource Development training programme to Assistant Agricultural Officers of state Department of Horticulture and plantation crops was organized and inaugurated on 03.09.2007 at Horticultural College and Research Institute, Periyakulam. Dr. S. Natarajan, Dean, Horticultural College and Research Institute, Periyakulam, presided over the function. Explained about the objectives and activities of the mission to the participants in his inaugural address.

NEW SCHEMES

Name of the Scheme	PI	Amount (lakhs)	Funding Agency
Genetic Engineering of Sunflower for resistant to Tobacco Streak Virus causing sunflower necrosis diseases through RNA Silencing.	Dr. R.Velazhahan Professor	26.70	GOI-DBT
Testing the efficacy of newer chemical molecule of fungicide against coffee rust and capsule rot of cardomom	Dr. V. Paranidharan Assistant Professor	4.55	Dupont
Land surface characterization over PRWONAM domains	Dr. R.Jagannathan Professor and Head (ACRC)	8.0	IIRS
i) FLD on cotton production technology ii) FLD on farm implement	Dr. A. Saravanan Professor and Head KVK, Needamangalam	2.10	ICAR
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IMPORTANT VISITORS:

- ▶ **Dr. E. A. Short Heinrichs**, IPM CRSP Consultant, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, USA and **Dr. Greg C. Luther**, Scientist, AVRDC, Taiwan, visited Centre for Plant Molecular Biology, during 10 – 12 September 2007, to review the progress made under the project IPM CRSP funded by Virginia Tech, USA.
- ▶ **Dr.R.P.Rao**, Principal Scientist, NRC Mushroom, Solan HP visited the Department on 13, 14, 15 of September 2007.
- ▶ **Dr.L.Radha Krishnan**, Scientist 'F' Defence Food Research Laboratories, Siddhartha, Nagar, Mysore visited the college and delivered a special lecture on Performance of Functional foods on 10.9.2007.
- ▶ **Dr.P.Rajyalakshmi**, Dean, Centre of Advances in Foods and Nutrition, College of Home Science, Acharya N.G.Ranga Agricultural University Hyderabad visited the college on 16.9.2007.
- ▶ Accreditation Team visit on September 25 & 26

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To
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From
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