



# TNAU NEWS

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

TAMIL NADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY NEWS LETTER

## Honourable Agriculture Minister visited AEC & RI, Kumulur



Honourable Minister for Agriculture, Government of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. S. Damodaran visited AEC&RI, Kumulur on 12.06.2012 along with Thiru. J. Sekar, JDA, Trichy. The Minister visited the class rooms, computer centre, workshops, food processing laboratory and irrigation park of the college.

Prof. A. Tajuddin, Dean of the college explained the various activities of the college. Tractor operated multipurpose hoist, engine operated weeder, tractor drawn weeder, improved coconut tree climber and tamarind shell huller were demonstrated. The Minister appreciated the efforts taken by the scientists of the college in fulfilling the felt needs of the farmers by carrying out the need based applied research.

Dr. T. Pandiarajan, AP & H demonstrated various food processing equipments. Dr. D. Jayakumar, Professor (Soil

Science) and Dr.P. Masilamani, AP (SS&T) explained the breeder seed production activities. Dr. K. Nagarajan and Dr.S. Somasundaram AP (Agronomy) demonstrated different irrigation technologies including surface and sub – surface irrigation methods, operation, maintenance and advantages of drip and sprinkler

## Uzhavar peruvizha activities at KVK Madurai



Uzhavar Peruvizha was jointly organised by KVK Madurai and officials from state Department of Agriculture. Thiru. U. Sagayam, Madurai District collector inaugurated the programme at Kallanthiri village on 13.04.12. Uzhavar Peruvizha activities was undertaken in Nine blocks ie, Madurai East, Melur, Alaganallur, Chellampatti, Kottampatti, Madurai West, Kallikudi, Thirupparakundram, Thirumangalam of Madurai District. All the latest technologies on rice, pulses, oilseeds and sugarcane were exhibited and demonstrated to the farmers. More than 5000 farmers actively participated and empowered their knowledge.

## Best Rice Centre Award presented to TNAU



attained worldwide recognition, and since then has been used in several national and international breeding programmes as progenitor for their varieties. Other noteworthy rice varieties released blast resistant CO 4 and CO 25, inter-specific cross derivative CO 31, semi-dwarf varieties CO 37 and CO 38, high yielding long duration variety CO 40, salt tolerant CO 43 and CO 47. The recently released CO (R) 48 and CO (R) 49 are finegrain rice varieties that caters to the

The Paddy Breeding Station (PBS) of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore has won the "Best Centre Award in Rice Breeding" for its overall accomplishments in rice varietal developments, informed Dr.P.Murugesu Boopathi, Vice-Chancellor, TNAU.

The Vice-Chancellor added that it is noteworthy that the PBS has won this award at this time when it is celebrating its centenary year. It is praiseworthy to mention that PBS has been selected for this Award from among the 107 Rice Breeding Stations in the Country. The landmark varieties that have been developed through Pure Line Selection by this Station triggered the growth of rice production in the state. The first variety of this Station - GEB 24 (Kichili Samba) - released during 1921, played an unique and significant role in the development of rice cultivars over the years, not only in this country, but also at the global level. GEB 24 became very popular with wide coverage and thereby

current market demands.

Dr.K.Thiyagarajan, Director, Centre for Plant Breeding and Genetics, told that The PBS is functioning with the objective of breeding improved new rice varieties and hybrids for irrigated, drought and aerobic (growing rice without stagnant water) situations. Modern biotechnological tools of DNA markers are also currently employed for rice breeding. Dr. S. Robin, P&H, PBS, informed that the award was given by DRR Hyderabad. The award was presented by Dr. Swapan K. Datta, Deputy Director General (Crop Sciences), ICAR in the presence of Padmashree Dr. E.A.Siddique, Former DDG (Crop Sciences), Dr. R.P. Dua, ADG (Food and Fodder Crops), Th. V.Nagi Reddy, Vice-Chancellor, Acharya NG Ranga Agricultural University, Hyderabad and Dr.B.C. Viraktamath, Project Director, DRR, Hyderabad, on April 2012, during the 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Rice Group Meeting held at Hyderabad between April 7<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>, April 2012.



Dr. P. Subbian, Registrar,  
Tamil Nadu Agricultural University  
has assumed the charge of  
acting Vice-Chancellor of the  
University on 04.06.2012.

## AWARDS

### Best Castor Centre Award to Tapioca and Castor Research Station, Yethapur



All India Annual Research Worker's Group Meet on Castor was held at Yercaud from May 10-12<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

Dr.P.Murugesu Boopathi, Vice-Chancellor, inaugurated the meeting. Dr.K. Thiyagarajan, Director, CPBG, delivered the welcome address. Vice-Chancellor in his Presidential address mentioned about the achievements of Tapioca and Castor Research Station, schemes operated to popularize the castor crop in Tamil Nadu and the Hybrid Castor YRCH1 released from TCRS. During the meeting TCRS, Yethapur has been awarded the "Best Castor Centre Award" by ICAR, New Delhi, for the year 2011, for its commendable research and development work done on Castor. The award was presented by Dr. K. S. Varaprasad, Project Director, Directorate of Oilseeds Research, Hyderabad to Dr. V. Rajendran, Professor and Head, TCRS in the presence of Dr. P. Murugesu Boopathi, Vice-Chancellor, Dr. K. Thiyagarajan, Director, Centre for Plant Breeding and Genetics, TNAU and other Scientists during the meet. In this Annual Group Meet three publications viz., a comprehensive pictorial bulletin on castor production technology in English and Tamil. About 70 Scientists from all over India participated in the meet. Finally Dr.V. Rajendran, P&H, TCRS proposed vote of thanks.

### Best Research Paper Award

Mr.S.T.Kumaran, PG Scholar student of Dr. G. Kathirasan, director(P&M), and Dr. P. Murali Arthanari, Assistant Professor (Agronomy), Department of Agronomy were conferred with Indian Society of Weed Science Best Paper Awards ranked with first and third position respectively. The awards were conferred for their research papers entitled "Evaluation of Bispyribac sodium 10% SC on weed control in direct seeded rice" and "Integrated weed management in direct wet seeded rice". The awards were presented in the recently concluded ISWS Biennial Conference valedictory function held at Kerala Agricultural University, Thrissur, Kerala.

## IEF Endowment Awards Instituted

The International Extension Forum (IEF) has been functioning in the Department of Agricultural



Extension and Rural Sociology, TNAU, Coimbatore since 1995. So far the IEF has organized 14 National/International seminars/ Conferences in various SAUs and ICAR institutes of our country. Recently, the IEF has announced its closure and it has decided to contribute its balance amount of Rs.2.0 Lakhs to Tamil Nadu Agricultural University for the institution of two IEF Endowment Awards in the name of "IEF award for the Best M.Sc.(Ag.) Student in Agricultural Extension and "IEF award for the best Ph.D. student in Agricultural Extension". These two awards will be given every year during the convocation of TNAU.

In this connection, the cheque bearing Rs.2.0 Lakhs was granted by Dr.A.G.Sawant, Chairman of the IEF to Dr.P. Murugesu Boopathi, Vice-Chancellor, TNAU in the presence of Dr.P.Subbian, Registrar, TNAU, Dr.G.Perumal, General Secretary (IEF), Dr.R.Ganesan, Vice-Chairman(IEF) and Dr.C.Karthikeyan, Treasurer(IEF) on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2012.

### Dean, Horticultural College and Research Institute, honoured

Dr.V. Ponnuswami, Dean (Hort.), Horticultural College and Research Institute, Periyakulam has



been honoured with "Fellow of Confederation of Horticulture Associations of India" during Global Conference on Horticulture for Food, Nutrition and Livelihood Options held at Bhubaneswar, Odisha during 28<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> May 2012.

## TRAININGS

### Training conducted by TCRS, Yethapur

One day training programme was conducted at Thanneerpantha kadu village of Namagiripettai block of Namakkal district on 23.04.12 under NADP castor



onion Inter cropping system. Dr.V. Rajendran, P&H, TCRS, Y e t h a p u r 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.

**Training programme by CAFTA, DCM**



Twenty one days training on "Natural Resource Management for Sustainable Agriculture"

sponsored by ICAR was conducted at the Department of Agronomy, TNAU from Feb. 9-29, 2012. Twenty Scientists from SAU and ICAR institutes from Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharastra, Meghalaya, Orissa, and Tamil Nadu participated

**Groundnut Training at CRS, Aliyarnagar**



One day farmers training programme was organized at CRS, Aliyarnagar on 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2012 under ARCRP on "Groundnut

Production Technologies". A total of Sixty five farmers participated in this training programme. The inaugural address was given by Dr. K. Rajamanickam, P&H, CRS, Aliyarnagar. In his inaugural address, he has highlighted the importance of Groundnut cultivation among all the nine annual oilseed crops. Dr. R. Sridhar, Professor (Agricultural Microbiology), and Mrs. R. Umarani, ADA, Pollachi (North) have participated and delivered their address on the importance of bioagents and their significance on groundnut yield enhancement.

The scientists of CRS, Aliyarnagar viz., Dr. N. Premalatha, AP (Plant Breeding and Genetics), Dr. V. Vasuki, AP (Agronomy), Dr.J. Sheela, AP (Plant Pathology), Dr. T. Srinivasan AP (Agricultural Entomology) and Dr. I. Johnson, AP (Plant Pathology) imparted training to the groundnut farmers. Dr. K. Nelson Navamaniraj, AP (SS&T) explained the seed hardening procedures. Training was concluded by proposing vote of thanks by Dr. D. Rjakumar, AP (Agronomy).

**Conservation Agriculture in Dryland farming -Training manual released**

"Water harvesting technology and conservation agriculture in dryland farming" Training manual published by



the Dept. of Agronomy, DCM, TNAU, Coimbatore was released by Dr. A.K. Singh, DDG (NRM), ICAR; Dr.Y.P.Abrol, Chair of the Expert Committee and Dr.B.Venkateswarlu, Director, CRIDA during the inaugural session on 12th June 2012 as a part of the NICRA project. Dr. S. Jeyaraman, Director, participated in the function.

**Training on quality seed production in pulses through Seed village programme**

One day training on "Quality Seed Production in Irrigated Pulses" through seed village concept was organized by TRRI,



Aduthurai under NABARD Seed Village Scheme at Perumpuliyur of Thanjavur and Pinnaiyur of Thiruvonam blocks on 06.06.2012 and 08.06.2012, respectively. Scientists from TRRI, Aduthurai and Officers from Agricultural Departments attended and graced the events. In these trainings pre-sowing seed management techniques, varieties suited, agronomic management practices and plant protection measures for quality seed production of irrigated pulses and demo on designer seed technology were explained to the farmers.

## The Inaugural Function for NRM Training

Dr. A. Chandrasekaran, Director of Research i/c, TNAU in his inaugural address emphasized that natural resource management is a key to achieve food security on sustainable basis. Dr. G. Kathiresan, DPM, in his address highlighted the importance efficient utilization of solar radiation, soil and water to achieve sustainable crop production in dryland area. Dr. S. Jeyaraman, DCM, TNAU in his presidential address, stated that world population has



touched the 700 crore mark, which underlines the need of natural resource management for developing sustainable production technologies to the prevailing challenges in agriculture. Dr. P. Muthukrishnan, P&H, Department of Agronomy and Course Director briefed the course contents of the training.

### Facilities Created

## Inauguration of Plant Quarantine Laboratory by the Directorate of ODL

Plant Quarantine laboratory has been established with 4 compound microscopes, 10 stereo zoom microscopes and other equipments viz., seed sieves, boerner divider, illuminator, micro-centrifuge and autoclave by the strenuous efforts and financial support from CIDA and DEC grant from IGNOU, New Delhi, and self supporting scheme by Dr.V.Valluvaparidasan, Director, ODL.

This lab was inaugurated by the Vice-Chancellor, Dr. P. Murugesu Boopathi. This lab would serve the purpose of training the officials and research scholars involved in the field of export / import, seed industries. Agro based industries department officials from agriculture, horticulture, microbiology and policy makers.



## Inauguration of Multimedia Laboratory

A well established Multimedia Laboratory with all necessary components was inaugurated by the



Registrar Prof. Dr. P. Subbian, at the Directorate of ODL. The Directorate of ODL is offering a Diploma programme in Multimedia in Agriculture since May 2012. Multimedia refers to the integration of text, images, audio, and video in a variety of application environments in the competitive world.

## New research facilities at Department of Crop Physiology

Thiru. Sandeep Saxena, APC, Government of Tamil Nadu inaugurated the power operated Rain Out Shelter (ROS) facility and



commissioned the state of art Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer (AAS) at Department of Crop Physiology, on 07.05.2012. Dr. Murugesu Boopathi, Vice-Chancellor appreciated the efforts taken in developing the facilities utilizing the funds received from DST- FIST programme. Dr. S. Jeyaraman, DCM, Dr. V. Velu, Special Officer (NRM), staff and students were present. Dr. C. Vijayalakshmi, P&H, Department of Crop Physiology, TNAU, CBE thanked the staff and students for their cooperation in development of the facilities.

## New Research scheme in Marigold at TNAU

The research scheme on "Selection of best genotype and development of production technologies for



maximizing the flower, seed and xanthophyll yield in Marigold" has been sanctioned to the Seed Centre, TNAU, Coimbatore by Synthite Industries Limited, Cochin. The scheme will be functioning in the Seed Centre, Agricultural Climate and Research Centre,

TNAU, Coimbatore and Horticultural College and Research Institute, Periyakulam with the budget outlay of Rs.30 lakhs.

The research scheme is focused on identifying best genotype with maximum Xanthophyll content and developing technologies for maximizing flower and seed yield in Marigold. In this connection, Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed between Tamil Nadu Agricultural University and Synthite Industries Limited, Cochin for initiating the above research project on Marigold in the presence of Dr. P. Murugesu Boopathi, Vice - Chancellor, TNAU, Coimbatore on 25.05.2012.

On this occasion, Dr.P. Subbian, Registrar, TNAU, Dr.M. Bhaskaran, Special Officer (Seeds) and Project Director of the scheme and Dr.K.Vanangamudi, Professor (SST) and Principle investigator, Dept. of Seed Science and Technology, TNAU were present and graced the occasion.

**TNAU weather soft**



Dr. G.A. Dheebakaran, AP (Agronomy), Maize Research Station, Vagarai-624 613 has developed TNAU weather soft v.1.01.

and was released by eminent ICRISAT Agroclimatology scientist Dr. S.M. Virmani during the valedictory function of the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Review Workshop of NICRA held at CRIDA, Hyderabad on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2012 as a part of the NICRA project entitled “Water Harvesting Technology to cope with Climatic Variability in Dryland Agriculture in Tamil Nadu”. Dr. S. Jeyaraman, Director, Directorate of Crop Management and Dr. G.A. Dheebakaran received the CD from Dr. S.M. Virmani.

**KCC Functioning Inside TNAU Campus**

The Kisan Call Centre (KCC) is the Toll Free Service Centre for getting agriculture related information at free of cost. The farmers can obtain any information related to agriculture by calling the toll free 1551 or 1800-180-1551. This service is sponsored by the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, New Delhi under Public Private Partnership mode.

There are 13 KCC locations across the country and for Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry and Andaman Nicobar Islands, the KCC is situated in Coimbatore. The Directorate of Extension Education, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University is the Nodal Agency for monitoring the performance of KCC at Coimbatore.

The Kisan Call Centre hitherto run by M/s Caretl Infotech Ltd., New Delhi has taken over by M/s IFFCO-Kisan Sanchar Ltd.,(IKSL), New Delhi , a subsidiary of IFFCO since April 2012. After taking over the responsibility of operating the KCC, the IKSL has located the call centre inside the TNAU premises with necessary infrastructure.

The toll free service offered by the IKSL with the technical support of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University has been appreciated by many farmers from different districts of Tamil Nadu.

**VISITS**

**Vice – Chancellor of Bihar Agricultural University visits TNAU**

Dr. M. Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, Bihar Agricultural University, Sabour, Bhagalpur, visited for two days on March 28 & 29, 2012



Dr. P. Subbian, Registrar, received the guest and appraised about the University activities, and showed the layout of the Centenary Building (Arignar Anna Administrative Building) and other infrastructure facilities.

Dr. M. Chaudhary visited the E.extension centre of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Dr. Vadivel, Project Officer (E.extension) explained the activities. The visitor was then taken to the Directorate of Students Welfare, around the facilities available in the Directorate. He also visited the Tissue Culture Lab and Micro Analytical Lab at Horticultural College & Research Institute and classroom facilities at Department of Agronomy, Plant Biotechnology, Oilseeds and the Gene Bank of Department of Plant

Genetic Resources. Finally, the Vice-Chancellor was taken to the Department of Nano Science & Technology, Wherein he was explained about the ongoing R & D programmes, and shown around the lab, especially the Transmission Electron Microscope and Scanning Electron Microscope available in the Department.

### **TRRI Scientists visited Israel**

Dr. T.Jayaraj, Director, Tamil Nadu Rice Research Institute, Aduthurai and his team of scientists Dr.V.Ravi, Dr.T.Ramesh and Dr.E.Subramanian, visited Netafim Irrigation Company, Israel from April 13<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012. They visited Netafim factory at Kibbutz Hatzerim and Research and Development Wing at Kibbutz Magal and discussed with scientists on production of different drip materials that are currently under use. They also visited Ben Gurion University of the Negev, and witnessed various field experiments under drip irrigation besides the use of solar system for irrigation in rice and corn. They saw water balance studies using lysimeters with Automation of irrigation and fertigation. Scientists were also taken to the orchard where sewage water was used for irrigation to orchard crops.

They also visited Research and Development Station at Central and Northern Arava, and saw trials on the use of desalinated water for irrigation in corn, vegetables and flowers under protected cultivation. It was also very interesting to see the use of saline water for straw berry, pepper, tomato and egg plants in green house.

They shared their experiences with farmers at Ein Yahav where vegetables, pepper, tomato, melon were grown under green house and net house with drip fertigation. The above programme was coordinated by Mr. Eli Vered, Senior Agronomist, Netafim, Israel.

### **IDRC Inception Workshop in TNAU**

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and International Development Research Center (IDRC), Canada, has granted a research project on “Enhanced Preservation of Fruits in



South Asia using Nano-film” under the Canadian International Food Security Research Funds (CIFSRI) to the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore, involving scientists from University of Guelph, Canada, and Industrial Technology Institute, Colombo, and Myrada, Erode, with a total budget outlay of Rs. 12.5 crores.

The Department of Nano Science & Technology, Directorate of Natural Resource Management of this university organized the inception workshop during April 24-27, 2012. The Inception Workshop was designed to discuss the program besides setting the activity milestone. Dr. Kevin Hall, Vice President (Research), University of Guelph, Canada, delivered the inaugural address. During his speech, he congratulated the scientists involved in the project and narrated the significance of the project in strengthening ties between University of Guelph and TNAU.

Dr. P. Murugesu Boopathi, Vice Chancellor of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, presided over the inception workshop and highlighted that the post harvest losses of fruits and vegetables was estimated as Rs. 40,000 Crores annually in India and the proposed research program on “Nano-film” would help to circumvent the losses while improving per capita availability of fruits. Dr. Sara Ahmed, Senior Program Specialist, IDRC Regional Office for Asia and China in New Delhi, presented the overview of the program.

Dr. Jayasankar Subramanian, Professor, University of Guelph, Canada, presented the details of the research project. Presidents of Mango Growers Associations from Krishangiri, Theni and Kanyakumari offered their suggestions for the project. Dr. V. Velu, Special Officer, Directorate of Natural Resource Management, welcomed the gathering and Dr. K.S. Subramanian, Professor & Head, Department of Nano Science & Technology, proposed a formal vote of thanks.

## New schemes

Name of the scheme	Principal Investigator	Amount (Lakh ₹.)	Funding Agency
Nutrient management in horticultural crops with – Tagbio, humacid and tag bumper.	Dr. V. Ponnuswami, Dean, HC&RI, Periyakulam	4.00	Tropical Agro system
Selection of a best genotype and development of production technologies for maximizing the flower, seed and xanthophylls yield in marigold Component I- Selection of best genotypes in marigold with good flower yield and xanthophyll	Dr. V. Ponnuswami, Dean, Horticulture College and Research Institute, Periyakulam	11.82	Synthite, Kerala
Development of Technology for Resistant / Modified Starch Substituted Cereal / Millet and Pulses Blended Bakery and Pasta Products	Dr. Banumathi, Dean, Home Science College and Research Institute, Madurai	37.96	Ministry of Food Processing Industries, New Delhi
Enhanced Preservation of Fruits in South Asia using Nano-film	Dr. K.S. Subramanian Professor and Head, Department of Nano Science and Technology, TNAU, Coimbatore	449.10	CIDA - IDRC, Canada
Physiological, biochemical and molecular basis of seed bioprimering with biocontrol agents and liquid biofertilizer in rice and maize.	Dr.M.Bhaskaran Special Officer (Seeds), TNAU, Coimbatore	10.96	UGC, New Delhi
TL II-Phase 2- Enhancement of Legume Productivity- Economic component- Objective 1	Dr.K.R.Karunakaran, Assoc. Prof (AEC)	Rs 6.24	ICRISAT, Hyderabad

## Important visitors

- ★ Dr. Gopi Paliyath, Professor, University of Guelph, Canada visited Professor and Head, Department of Nano Science and Technology, during 06-05-2012 to 09.05.2012.
- ★ Dr. G.S.V. Raghavan, Project Director, MC Gill University, Canada visited Professor and Head, Post Harvest Technology Centre on 09-05-2012.
- ★ Dr. Amelia Henry, Scientist, IRRI, Philippines visited Professor and Head, Department of Rice on 13-05-2012 and 14.05.2012.
- ★ Dr. Mallikarjunan, Virginia Tech, Blacks burg, USA visited the Dean, Agricultural Engineering College and Research Institute on 20-05-2012 and 21.05.2012.

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