



TNAU NEWS

TAMIL NADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY NEWS LETTER

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ஊருக்கெல்லாம் உணவளிக்கும் உத்தம உழவர்களுக்கு
உதவிக்கரம் நீட்டும் பல்கலைக்கழகம்

COLLECTIVE FARMING - A NEW INITIATIVE



Collective Farming model has been introduced by Dryland Agricultural Research Station, Chettinad to a group of farmers at Kothamangalam village of Sakkottai block during 2012-13. The group was led by Mr. Solai, a retired engineer, from the village. He and his two neighbours organised all the land owners located in and around the village to join the new initiative of collective farming either by themselves or lease the land so that farming could be done collectively.

The farmers agreed on the new proposal and 'Kothamangalam Iyarkai Velan Pannai' took birth to look after collective farming activity. Currently, it has about 100 acres of land spread in three locations in the village owned by nearly 350 marginal/small farmers and they are confident of clearing the area infested by *Prosopis*. They jointly cleared the lands of *Prosopis* trees, formed feeding and drainage channels, fenced the area and took ploughing and prepared the land for crop cultivation.

During 2014 as per the suggestions of Scientists of DARS, summer sesame was sown in 45 acres using the summer rain. Even when uncertainty of rainfall severely affected the crop, the farmers obtained a yield of 200 kg of sesame per hectare. Presently, the farmers have raised 5 acres of maize and 5 acres of ragi by adopting improved production technologies. The farm was visited by District Collector Shri. V.Rajaraman, I.A.S. on 31.07.2014 who appreciated the efforts of Scientists of DARS, Chettinad.

DISSEMINATION WORKSHOP OF CIFSRF PROJECT IN THENI



The Department of Nano Science and Technology, Directorate of Natural Resource Management of TNAU organized the Dissemination Workshop on July 15, 2014 in one of the major mango growing regions in Theni. Dr. K.S. Palanisamy IAS, Collector, Theni District delivered the Inaugural Address. He emphasized the significance of minimizing the post harvest losses of fruits in order to augment the availability of fruits to ensure nutritional security to women and children in rural India.

Dr. R. Rabindran, Registrar (i/c) TNAU, presided over the Workshop and narrated the importance of managing post harvest diseases in mango for enhanced preservation of fruits. Dr. Jayasankar Subramanian, Professor from University of Guelph, Canada, and Co-ordinator of the International project, provided the overview of the research programme, achievements made in the project and future line of work. He indicated that the project has come up with a simple “hexanal technology” to extend the shelf-life of mango fruits in the orchards as well during the storage. This technology may be extended with more fruit crops such as banana, papaya, guava, etc., Canadian Professor Gopi Paliyath who is the inventor of the biomolecule “Hexanal” explained the mechanisms involved in the fruit retention and shelf-life extension. After the inaugural session, four technical sessions

on “Best Pre- and Post-Harvest Management Practices” were delivered to benefit over 350 farmers assembled for the event.

Lead Mango Growers from Krishnagiri and Theni Districts offered their feedback on the performance of the technology. Dr. V.P. Duraisami, Special Officer (i/c), Directorate of Natural Resource Management welcomed the gathering and Dr. K.S. Subramanian, Professor and Principal Investigator, Department of Nano Science & Technology, proposed a formal Vote of Thanks.

ICT INITIATIVE IN AGRICULTURE TO STRENGTHEN EXTENSION SYSTEM



The e-Extension Centre, Directorate of Extension Education, TNAU, Coimbatore and the Commissionarate of Agriculture, Chennai organized four batches of master trainers training on “Information and Communication Technology enabled Agriculture Tools and Methods” to the field extension functionaries in the Department of Agriculture, Government of Tamil Nadu during 10-17th March, 28.4.2014 to 2.5.2014, 9th – 13th June and 14th – 18th July, 2014. Totally 119 extension officials were trained by selecting four officers from each of the 30 districts of Tamil Nadu for a period of five days. The master trainers were in the cadre of Assistant Director of Agriculture (ADAs) and Agricultural Officers (AOs).

The main objective of the training was to educate, impart knowledge and skill on

various new media and ICT tools for transfer of farm technology. The e-Extension Centre has developed various ICT Tools viz., TNAU AGRI TECH PORTAL, Expert System, Daily Market Information for perishable commodities; e-Velanmai mode of extension, Mobile based Agro Advisory Services, Video clippings through cloud computing, Agricultural Marketing Information System (AMIS) and Multiple Video Conferencing facility. These were shared with the trainees. Further, resource persons from the AGRISNET Cell, Commissionarate of Agriculture, Chennai were invited to share the information on on-line billing, Farm Crop Management System (FCMS) and Kisan SMS Portal for the benefit of trainees.

The training programmes were organized and coordinated by Dr. K. A. Ponnusamy, Director of Extension Education (i/c), TNAU, Prof. R. Venkatachalam, ICT Coordinator, TNAU, Dr. C. Karthikeyan, Professor, Dr. N. Anandaraja, Assistant Professor (Agricultural Extension), e-Extension Centre and Dr. N. Sriram, Assistant Professor (Agricultural Extension), KVK, Salem.

REGIONAL RESEARCH AND EXTENSION COUNCIL MEETING



The 31st Regional Research and Extension Advisory Council (RREAC) Meeting was held on 21st July, 2014 at Tamil Nadu Rice Research Institute (TRRI), Aduthurai. Dr.K.Ramasamy, Vice Chancellor, TNAU and Chairman of the RREAC,

Shri.P.N.Vedanarayanan, I.A.S (Retd.), Chairman, State Pulses Production High Level Committee, Dr.R.Balasubramanian, International Consultant of Agronomy (Retd.), University Officers of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University participated in the programme and replied to the farmers queries. The meeting was also attended by other members of the Advisory Council viz., Heads of University Research stations and KVK Heads, members from State Department of Agriculture and allied departments and farmer members representing seven Cauvery Delta Zone(CDZ) districts.

The programme started with a field visit by the Chairman and all the members. Further, the discussions focused on various issues viz., cropping strategies for CDZ, integrating farmers on farm mechanization, formation of seed production units through Self Help Groups and identification of rice varieties to suit to CDZ. The Unit Heads of TRRI, Aduthurai viz., Dr.S.Saraswathi, Dr.P.Parasuraman and Dr.S.Suresh presented the latest technologies and future action plans pertaining to crops grown in CDZ. The Special Invitee, Shri.P.N.Vedanarayanan emphasized the need for forming farmers into groups to market their produce and establishment of separate Centre of Excellence in pulses in Cauvery Delta Zone to increase the pulses production. Dr.R.Balasubramanian indicated the critical issues in SRI technique of rice cultivation He asserted that farmers should form into groups to achieve their goals and commercialize agriculture by proper planning for a better future.

Dr. K. Ramasamy, Vice Chancellor, TNAU in his concluding remarks requested the farmers to practice agriculture in accordance with our culture for which the University and State Agriculture Department will extend helping hands. Finally, the Council members along with the farmer members visited the video conferencing unit of TRRI and interacted with Dr.S.Robin, Head, Department of Rice,TNAU and Dr.C.Karthikeyan, Head, e-Extension Centre of TNAU Coimbatore. Dr.R.Rajendran, Director i/c, TRRI welcomed

the gathering and the meeting ended with a formal Vote of Thanks by Dr.S.Suresh, Unit Head, Entomology, TRRI, Aduthurai.

FARMERS TRAINING ON CROP MANAGEMENT



A District level farmers training on “Crop management, micro irrigation, production and marketing of flower crops” under GOI-NHM-HRD-Sponsored by Managing Director, TANHODA, Chennai, was conducted at Floriculture Research Station, Thovalai, from 21.7.2014 to 25.7.2014. Fifty farmers from Thovalai, Agastheeswaram and Rajakkamangalam blocks of Kanyakumari district attended the programme.

During, the Inaugural Function on 21.7.2014, Dr.P.Nainar, Professor and Head, welcomed the gathering. Dr. V.Subramanian, Dean (i/c), Agricultural College and Research Institute, Killikulam presided over and inaugurated the programme. Th.P.Sivakumar, Deputy Director of Horticulture (i/c), Kanayakumari, delivered the Special Address. Dr. J.Jane Sujatha, Professor and Head, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Thirupathisaram felicitated.

The training included lectures on Production technology of rose, jasmine, marigold, tuberose, chrysanthemum, davana, thulasi, orchids, anthuriums, nerium, celosia, etc; and hi tech practices on precision farming techniques in flower crops, poly house cultivation of high value flowers, weed

management, export of flower crops, nutrient deficiency symptoms in major flower crops and pest and disease management in flower crops. Resource persons were drawn from various stations *viz*; Horticultural Research Station, Pechiparai, AC&RI, Killikulam, KVK, Thirupathisaram and ARS, Thirupathisaram.

CAPACITY BUILDING ON VALUE ADDITION IN FOOD CROPS TO TN-IAMWARM THENI FARMERS



A training namely “Capacity Building on Value Addition in Food crops” was conducted at Indian Institute of Crop Processing Technology, Thanjavur under TN-IAMWARM project operating at Theniyar sub basin under ARS, Vaigai Dam for a period of two days from 30.06.2014 to 01.07.2014. Forty farmers of B.Ammappetti, Palarpatti and Allinagaram from Theniyar sub basin attended the training programme. Dr. A.Balakrishnan Professor and Head, Agricultural Research Station, Vaigai Dam and Dr.M.P.Kavitha, Assistant Professor (Agronomy) arranged the training programme. During the training programme the farmers were exposed to post harvest handling of cereals and millets for value addition.

Farmers visited Food grains storage, Food testing lab and Food Microbiology lab. Dr. V. Hema, Assistant Professor (Food Science and Nutrition), IICPT, explained and demonstrated the operating principles of instruments and preparation of buffs, fruit juice, jams and jelly. Miss K.Jeevika, Senior Research Fellow, Agricultural

Research Station, Vaigai Dam organized and accompanied the trainee farmers of Theniyar sub basin to IICPT, Thanjavur. The training programme was Co-ordinated by Dr.K. Alagusundaram, Director, IICPT and Dr. M. Naveen Saviour TN-IAMWARM Farmer's Co-ordinator. The entire training programme was planned and funded by Water Technology Centre, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore-3.

FIELD DAY ON SUMMER SORGHUM CULTIVATION



A Field Day was organized at Agricultural Research Station, Kovilpatti on 17.07.2014 in coordination with the Directorate of Sorghum Research, Hyderabad in the presence of staff from the State Department of Agriculture. Totally 72 farmers, 5 scientists and 33 extension staff attended the programme. Field trips were arranged for visiting the Front Line Demonstration plots at different villages. Dr. R. Sankarapandian, Professor (Plant Breeding), demonstrated the TKSV 0809 - a dual purpose sorghum culture which is superior to the K 4 sorghum variety to the farmers.

Dr. D. Jawahar, Professor and Head, presided over the function. Dr. R. Chepke, Scientist from the Directorate of Sorghum Research, Hyderabad pointed out the better performance of the DSR hybrids than private hybrids.

The sorghum hybrid CSH 14 was found promising than any other sorghum

hybrids in the Front line demonstrations. Thiru. C.Chandrasekaran, Joint Director of Agriculture, Tirunelveli requested the farmers to adopt improved cultivation practices in their farms. Thiru. L.Perumal, Deputy Director of Agriculture advised farmers to aim for higher income with the cultivation of improved cultivars at lesser cost of cultivation. Dr. P. Anandhi Assistant Professor (Entomology) proposed a formal Vote of Thanks.

10TH FOUNDATION DAY CELEBRATION



On the occasion of Tenth Foundation day, a district level awareness cum training on "Backyard poultry rearing" was organized at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Needamangalam on 1st August, 2014. The seminar was chaired by Dr. M.Mathivanan, IAS, Collector, Thiruvarur district who emphasized the advantages and the need to have country bird rearing in the present farming situation of the district. Dr. K.A.Ponnusamy, Director of Extension Education (i/c) delivered the Key Note Address and explained the suitability of backyard poultry for diversified agro climatic conditions. The Joint Director (Animal Husbandry) spoke on role of backyard bird rearing as an income generating activity.

Eighty participants from Thiruvarur district attended the training. Different country birds were exhibited for identification and to

know about their nature. The technical session was handled by Dr. G.Mahendran, Assistant Veterinary Surgeon of Needamangalam. Dr. K.Chozhan, Professor and Head, KVK, Needamangalam welcomed the gathering. Officials from line departments such as

Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Marketing, Cooperation and NABARD also participated. All arrangements were made by the SMSs of KVK and Dr. T.Damodaran, Associate Professor (Extension) proposed a formal Vote of Thanks.

Important visitors

- ◀ Dr.R.R.Hanchinal, Chairperson and Dr.R.C.Agarwal, Registrar General, Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Rights Authority, New Delhi visited Seed Centre, Coimbatore on 18.7.2014 to monitor progress of GOI – DUS schemes.
- ◀ Dr.Janet Kyle, Scientist, University of Abesdeer visited KVK, Virinjipuram on 03.07.2014 to identify potential agri-nutrition collaborative research work with TNAU

New Scheme

S.No.	Name of Scheme	Principal Investigator	Amount (Rs.)	Funding Agency
1.	Developing technologies for converting banana pseudo-stem and poultry waste into wealth	Dr. S. Thenmozhi, Assistant Professor. (SS & AC), Agricultural Research Station, Bhavanisagar.	8,46,800	UGC, New Delhi.

