



TNAU NEWS

TAMIL NADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY NEWS LETTER

Patron: Dr. K. Ramasamy, Vice Chancellor
Editor: Dr. M. Chandrasekaran, Director (i/c),
Planning & Monitoring

ஊருக்கெல்லாம் உணவளிக்கும் உத்தம உழவர்களுக்கு
உதவிக்கரம் நீட்டும் பல்கலைக்கழகம்

NCC DAY CELEBRATIONS



As part of NCC day celebrations, National Cadet Corps of 4th and 5th TN Battalion NCC, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University organized competitions on Essay writing, Elocution and Painting for the NCC cadets from schools and colleges from Coimbatore and nearby Districts. Dr.K.Ramasamy, Vice Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore presided over the function on 23.11.2014 and distributed the prizes for the winners of the various events. Mr Guna and Miss Kaviarasi of TNAU got the Best NCC cadet awards respectively for boys and girls for their performance during 2012-14. The Vice Chancellor praised the role of NCC in shaping the young NCC cadets in the welfare of our country. Former Army Officer in Indian Army and former student of TNAU, Captain P.S. Dheenadhayalan offered his special address and narrated his experience in Indian Army and employment opportunities in Indian Army and methods of preparation. Dr. S. Mahimairaja, Dean (Agriculture) (i/c), former NCC Officers Dr. P.Rajasekaran and Dr. A. Palanisamy participated and felicitated the students. The NCC officer Lieutenant Dr. K.M. Sellamuthu welcomed the gathering and Dr.S.Manonmani proposed a formal Vote of Thanks.

AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY AWARENESS CYCLE RALLY



Seventy five NSS volunteers participated in Agricultural Technology awareness cycle rally on 1st November 2014 as part of initiative by National Academy of Agricultural Sciences, New Delhi.

The rally was flagged off by Dr.S.Mahimairaja, Dean (Agriculture) (i/c) and Dr.S.Mohan, Dean (SPGS) (i/c). Dr.K.Kumutha, NSS Programme Coordinator briefed the importance of rally. Thiru Thennai Shiva, Panchayat President expressed his gratitude to TNAU for organizing an awareness cycle rally on agricultural technologies and emphasized that organic farming is gaining momentum and asked for organizing programmes related to organic farming and assured their assistance for that. He also joined with the volunteers in their rally. Students carried placards indicating the importance of Agricultural technologies like use of vermicomposting, Biofertilizers, green manures, reduction in use of chemical inputs, use of machinery to circumvent labour shortage, conserve water, growing healthy crops like millets, vegetables and fruits, use of biocontrol agents, Integrated farming system, Mushroom production as allied activity, ODL degree and certificate programmes, Journal Uzhavarin Valarum Velanmai, etc., Dr.Era.Pavendan, NSS Programme Officer proposed a formal Vote of Thanks. Dr.K.Kumutha, NSS Programme Coordinator and NSS Programme Officers Dr.Era.Pavendan, Dr.M.R.Latha and Dr.G.Guru made arrangements and participated in the programme.

BRAINSTORMING ON PRE AND POST HARVEST MANAGEMENT OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES



In commemoration of the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of Agricultural College and Research Institute, Madurai, the Department of Horticulture and the Department of Seed Science and Technology jointly organized a Brainstorming Session on “Pre and Post Harvest Management and Processing of Fruits and Vegetables for Food and Nutritional Security” on the 20-21 November, 2014. Dr. T.N. Balamohan, Dean (i/c), Horticultural College and Research Institute, Periyakulam released the seminar souvenir and shared his experiences with the farmers and also stressed the need to travel with the commodity to prevent the huge loss in income between production and marketing.

Dr. S.M.Ibrahim, Professor and Head, Department of Biotechnology highlighted the need for familiarizing the available innovative technologies among the farmers to reduce the post harvest losses. Dr.G.Pushpa, Dean (i/c), Home Science College and Research Institute stressed the need to reduce the post harvest loss by enhancing the cold storage capacity and through modernization of marketing facilities. Mr. C.Moorthy, Deputy Director(Agri Business)and Mr. S.Muthudurai, Deputy Director of Horticulture, Madurai also offered felicitations.

Earlier Dr.V.Swaminathan, Professor and Head, Department of Horticulture, welcomed the gathering and Dr.K.Balakrishnan, Professor and Head, Department of Seed Science and Technology proposed the Vote of Thanks. More than

150 participants consisting of Scientists, Entrepreneurs, Industrialists, and Research Scholars participated in the two days event.

ICAR SPONSORED WINTER SCHOOL

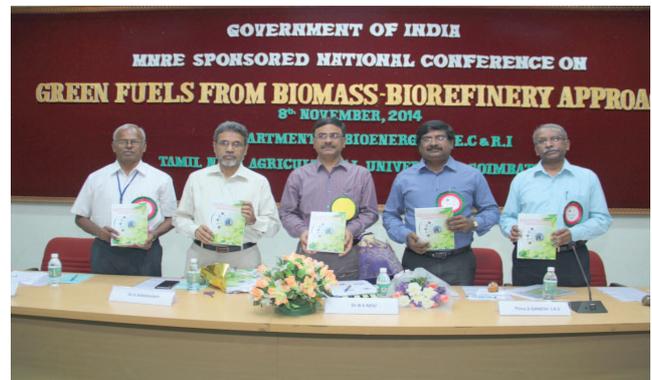


The Department of Bioenergy, Agricultural Engineering College and Research Institute (AEC&RI), TNAU, Coimbatore organized a ICAR sponsored 21 days Winter school on “Renewable Energy Resources as an option for mitigating Climate Change” during November 6 - 26, 2014. During Inaugural Function on 7.11.2014, Dr. S. Kamaraj, Professor and Head and Course Director welcomed the participants and stressed the importance of energy security and the role of renewable energy in future. Dr. K. Alagusundaram, Deputy Director General, ICAR, New Delhi in his Inaugural Address, pointed out the need for rural development based on the renewable energy technology to pave way for creation of more job opportunities and enlisting the role of rural people in achieving the energy security.

The rural people can also meet their energy requirements by utilizing the locally available biomass through various bioenergy conversion technologies. Dr.K.Ramasamy, Vice Chancellor, TNAU in his Presidential Address highlighted the importance of biomass as a source of renewable energy which is available in plenty. He also emphasized the biomass based power generation potential of about 1589.9 MW in Tamil Nadu. He also stressed the power requirement for agricultural operations and the need for renewable energy technologies

in powering those operations which would reduce half of the difficulties faced by the farmers. Dr. C. Divaker Durairaj, Dean (i/c) Agricultural Engineering College and Research Institute, Coimbatore, proposed a formal Vote of Thanks.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON GREEN FUELS FROM BIOMASS



The Department of Bioenergy, AEC&RI, TNAU, Coimbatore organized a one day National Conference on “Green Fuels from Biomass: Biorefinery Approach” supported by MNRE, GOI on November 8, 2014. Dr. S. Kamaraj, Professor and Head, Department of Bioenergy and Conference Director welcomed the participants and mentioned that to meet the increasing energy demand, the State and Central governments are supporting renewable energy programmes including National Biogas Manure Management Programme, Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission, Unnat Chulha Abhiyan (Programme on improved chulhas), Solar roof top power plants, Solar powered Agricultural Pumping Systems, Biomass and Biogas based power generation systems, etc.

Dr. Negi, Director, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, GOI, New Delhi. indicated that India has total estimated renewable energy potential of about 2,45,880 MW. In addition, the country receives solar radiation, on average at 6.6 kWh/day. Renewable energy witnessed over 20% growth in the last five years. He also appreciated the efforts taken by the Department of Bioenergy in TNAU being the South Indian Regional Centre for Biogas. Thiru Ganesh I.A.S, in his Special Address said that Coimbatore has been

selected as one of the “Solar city” among the various cities in the nation and kitchen waste based biogas plants have been installed in the ‘Amma Unavagam’.

Dr. K.Ramasamy, Vice Chancellor, TNAU noted that emission of carbon-di-oxide is alarmingly increasing and therefore the need for alternatives. He mentioned that biomass availability is about 120 – 150 million metric tonnes per annum covering agricultural and forestry residues corresponding to a potential of about 18,000 MW. Apart from this, 5000 MW additional power could be generated through bagasse based cogeneration in the country’s 550 Sugar mills. Totally 200 participants attended the seminar. Dr.C.Divaker Durairaj, proposed a formal Vote of Thanks. A students exhibition was arranged with innovative models such as Floating windmills, Utilisation of Solar energy effectively by Nanoparticles, Hydrogen production using combined technology by Hyper Solar and Nano Tubes, Solar bottle power generation and Wind stalk arm.

FARMERS CAPACITY BUILDING TRAININGS – CLIMA ADAPT SCHEME



Four Capacity building training programmes on 05.11.2014, 07.11.2014, 11.11.2014 and 13.11.2014 were conducted in Karungalpalayam, Vairapalayam, B.P.Agraharam and Kombanaiputhur villages of Kalingrayan canal basin by Agricultural Research Station, Bhavanisagar under ClimaAdapt scheme on Improved Crop Management Practices in Paddy, Integrated Nutrient Management in Paddy, Integrated Pest and Disease Management

in Paddy and Alternate livelihood options for Kalingrayan basin. The trainings were organized by Dr. S. K. Natarajan, Assistant Professor and CO PI of the ClimaAdapt Scheme. The plant protection scientists Dr. P.Karuppuchamy, Professor (Agricultural Entomology), Dr. S.Maruthasalam, Assistant Professor (Plant Pathology) and Dr. Sheela Venugopal, Assistant Professor (Agricultural Entomology), ARS, Bhavanisagar delivered technical sessions on various aspects to the rice growers. Farmers totaling 130 from the Kalingrayan canal basin area participated in these training programme.

SCIENCE FORUM - COACHING FOR ATS EXAMINATON

The Science Forum functioning at DARS, Chettinad organized three months coaching classes for Account Tests for Subordinate officers (Departmental Examinations) from October to December 2014. Dr.C. Swaminathan, Professor and Head, DARS has arranged coaching classes for the benefit of both Teaching and Non Teaching Staff during evening hours once a week. Mr. J.K. Kumarnath, retired Administrative Officer of Department of Animal husbandry, Sivaganga, conducted coaching classes free of cost. About 15 staff members were benefitted. The trainer was felicitated on 26.12.2014.

TRAINING PROGRAMME ON ORGANIC FARMING



A training was organized by the Department of Sustainable Organic Agriculture, TNAU, Coimbatore under Tribal Sub Plan of ICAR to 25 tribal farmers of

Kethakadu village of Karamadai block of Coimbatore district at GTR School premises of Maanar during 14th and 15th November 2014.

Dr.S.Ramasamy, Professor and Head, welcomed the participants and explained the importance of organic farming. Dr.K.Sathyamoorthi, Professor (Agronomy) detailed the training programme and inputs to be distributed to the tribal farmers. Mr.Krishnasamy, Forest Ranger, Karamadai Forest Division, Coimbatore district delivered a Special Address and expressed the need for improving the livelihoods of tribal farmers. Topics on LEISA, Organic farming factors, Composting and vermicomposting, Biofertilizer production and application techniques, Floriculture and vegetable production, Pest management in organic farming, Apiculture in organic farming, Animal rearing and fodder cultivation, Participatory Guarantee System for organic production, were covered by resource persons. Besides, Mushroom production techniques and Panchakavya production were demonstrated for promoting entrepreneurship among the tribal farmers. Inputs like seedlings, seeds, biofertilizers, *Pseudomonas* and *Trichoderma viridi* were distributed to the trainees. Dr.S.Kalaivani, Assistant Professor (Agricultural Extension), proposed a Vote of Thanks.

EXHIBITION STALL AWARD TO VRS, PALUR.



Vegetable Research Station, Palur participated and put up exhibits in a stall in the HORTI INTEX - 2014 during 6-9th November at Coimbatore. Live specimens

and charts of released varieties and cultures, scientific demonstration models of "Terrace Garden", "Integrated Farming Systems", "Vertical Vegetable Garden" with polythene/plastic waste and "Poly house for Vegetable Cultivation", vegetable carving pieces, a statue made out of vegetable seeds were displayed for public attraction including scientists, school and college students. The stall had won appreciation and accolades among public and received 2nd Best Stall Award among 150 stalls from all over India.

MASS TREE PLANTING CAMPAIGN



A mass tree planting campaign was organized at VRS, Palur on the eve of Children's Day programme on 14.11.2014. School children of Government Primary School at Palur, scientists and staff of VRS, Palur and the officials of Tamil Nadu Forest Department participated in the programme. Dr. M.S. Aneesa Rani, Professor & Head welcomed the gathering and highlighted the importance of tree planting to the school children. All the participants planted the tree seedlings in the premises of VRS, Palur.

A PATH LESS TRAVELLED – INSPIRATIONAL TALK

The Directorate of Students Welfare organized a motivational talk on the topic 'A Path less Travelled' by Ms. K.Masha Nazeem a student serial inventor and KVPY Fellow on 13.11.2014. Ms. Masha narrated her journey as an ordinary girl with inclination towards innovations. Ms. Masha is doing 1st M. Tech in SRM University but her journey of innovations has seen 12 projects so far of which 3 are awaiting patents. She is a winner

of 2 international, 2 presidents and 5 national awards. She has made presentations with Dr. Abdul kalam and Ms. Prathiba Patel during their presidency.



Her projects on seal maker and railway toilet have been pilottested by the Government. She has started her own 'Masha Innovation Centre' to motivate school students to bring into light their innovativeness.

Ms.Masha's speech highlighted the qualities of hard work and perseverance that every student must inculcate. Dr.N.Ragupathi, Director (i/c) of Students Welfare, welcomed the gathering; Dr.S.Mahimairaja, Dean (Agri) (i/c) and Dr.S.Mohan Dean (SPGS) (i/c) participated in the interactive session. The students were enthusiastic in clarifying their doubt on the innovations discussed by the speaker.

GOLD MEDAL TO TNAU STUDENT



Selvi.S.Shibani, 1st B.Sc. (Agri.) student has brought pride and honour to Tamil Nadu Agricultural University and Agricultural College and Research Institute, Killikulam by winning the Gold Medal in High Jump event at 28th Tamil Nadu Junior Open Athletic Championship under the Age group of below 20 held at Thanjavur during 29th september

to 1st October, 2014. She has also won the Bronze medal in 4 x 100 m relay. She also participated in the 22nd Karunya Evangeline Memorial Tournament held at Karunya University, Coimbatore on 7 – 11th October, 2014 and won the gold medal in the High Jump competition. She cleared a height of 1.55m. She also represented Tamil Nadu State team in the South Zone Junior Athletic Championship held at Hyderabad on 13-14th October, 2014 and won the Bronze medal in the meet. It is the first time in the history of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University that an agri-student won a medal at state open Athletic Championship. She was selected to represent Open National Athletic Championship at Ranchi. Dr.V.Subramanian, Dean (i/c), Dr.D.S.Rajavel, Staff Advisor, Dr. G.Ragavan, Deputy Director of Physical education, Professors and Students of the college appreciated her great achievement.

SEASON LONG TRAINING ON DIRECT SEEDED RICE



To fulfill the need for popularization of Direct Seeded Rice Technology in rice in labour scarcity areas of Thanjavur Delta, a season long training was organized at Krish Vigyan Kendra, Needamangalaram for the extension personnel in 10 blocks of Thiruvarur District during September to December, 2014.

Various aspects of direct seeding of rice technology were taught as hands on training to the extension personnel. Also they were trained in land preparation, laser leveling, seeding techniques and selection of seed, weed control techniques and nutrient management. The training on weed management was conducted on 07.10.2014

by Dr.S.Porpavai, Professor (Agronomy), SWMRI, which covered lessons on major weeds, control of weeds using herbicides, weed identification, population maintenance in DSR, water management, etc., Field demonstration on post emergence herbicide application, weeding techniques were also taught.

TRAINING ON “FARMERS ORIENTED INTEGRATED AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SYSTEM”



To bridge the gap between the farmers and Agricultural Extension personnel of Thiruvarur District, a one day on campus training on “Farmers oriented Integrated Agricultural Extension System” was conducted at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Needamangalam on 06.11.2014. The Training programme was attended by 60 officers in the cadre of JDA, DDA, ADA, AO and AAO of Thiruvarur district.

During the training various aspects of linkage between farmers and Agricultural Extension personnel were discussed and need for the linkage and orientation of the farmers towards integrated agricultural extension system was emphasized. The training was organized by Dr.T.Dhamodaran, Associate Professor (Agri. Extension) of Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Needamangalam and the programme was presided by the Joint Director of Agriculture of Thiruvarur District and Dr.K.Chozhan, Professor and Head, delivered the Key Note address.

TRAINING ON INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT IN RICE

In order to emphasize the importance of Integrated Pest Management in rice,

one off campus training was organized at Poonthottam Village of Needamangalam block in Thiruvarur district by KVK, Needamangalam on 05.11.2014.



The training was organized by Dr.T.Dhamodaran, Associate Professor (Agricultural Extension) and Dr. Raja Ramesh Assistant Professor (Agricultural Entomology) delivered lessons on identification of insect pest and natural enemies and explained about botanicals, uses of bio pesticide like *Pseudomonas fluorecens*, etc. and use of natural enemies like *Trichogramma chilonis*, *T. japonicum* and spiders, in controlling the pests in rice ecosystem. Twenty five farmer members of NABARD – KVK farmers club of Poonthottam Village in Needamangalam block attended the training.

ON CAMPUS TRAINING ON GREEN FODDER CULTIVATION



In order to emphasize the importance of fodder crop, a one day on campus training on “Green fodder cultivation” was organized at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Needamangalam on 11.11.2014 by Dr.S.Saravanan Assistant Professor (Veterinary and Animal Science). Dr.K. Chozhan, Professor and Head highlighted the importance of fodder cultivation and also reiterated the need for integrated farming system.

Dr. S. Saravanan delivered lectures on different types of fodder crops, their nutrient contents, cultivation practices and alternate sources for green fodder. Also he explained usage of fodders to treat minor diseases like enteritis, worm load, etc. A visit to model fodder bank and azolla plot had also been arranged, besides demonstration on cutting and harvesting of green fodder. Fifty participants across Thiruvarur District attended and benefited from the training.

TRAINING ON “PRODUCTION OF SPIRULINA AND ITS VALUE ADDITION IN VARIOUS FOODS”



A one day on campus training on “Production of Spirulina and its Value Addition in various foods” was organized at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Needamangalam on 25.11.2014 by Dr.G.G.Kavitha Sree, Assistant Professor (HS&FS). Hands on training on Production techniques of Spirulina and Value Addition in various foods, their nutrient contents, its importance and addition of spirulina in food preparation were given. Totally, 70 participants from Thiruvarur District attended and benefited from the training.

DEMONSTRATION ON FERTILIZER MANAGEMENT IN PEAR

A field demonstration on fertilizer management in pear was organized at Pragasapuram by Horticultural Research Station, Kodaikanal on 25.11.2014. The role of macro and micro nutrients for the increase of production in pear was highlighted by Dr. J. Rajangam, Professor and Head. Dr. B. Senthamizh Selvi explained the production and post harvest technology in pear.



The method of fertilizer application was demonstrated by Dr. G. Sathish and Dr. S. Ashok kumar. The pest and disease management in temperate fruits were explained by Dr. N. Seenivasan. Fruit growers numbering 30 participated and benefited in this programme.

PARTICIPATION IN HORTI EXHIBITION AT KARUMANTHURAI HILLS



Mr.K.Maharabushanam, I.A.S., the District Collector, Salem inaugurated the HORTI exhibition and farmers training programme at Karumanthurai, Salem district on 27-11-2014. Varietal collection of tapioca, value added products of tapioca and other horticultural crops collected from the farmers field were displayed in the exhibition stall. Tmt.P.Saroja, Member of Legislative Assembly, Yercaud presided over the function. Dr.S.Manickam, Professor and Head, TCRS, Yethapur, Dr.L.Pugalendhi, Professor (Horticulture), Th.S.Ganesan, Deputy Director of Horticulture, Salem, Th.P.Selvaraj, Assistant Director of Horticulture, Pethanaickenpalayam, Dr.M.Velmurugan, Assistant Professor (Horticulture) and other department officials

and 250 farmers in Karumanthurai hill area participated in the programme.

Lectures on importance of tapioca, varietal wealth of high yielding and high starch content varieties with special emphasis to Tapioca Yethapur-1, Sree Apoorva and Sree Athulya were delivered to benefit the farmers. The improved agro-techniques viz., drip fertigation, mulching technology, integrated weed management technology, control of mealy bug through the release of parasitoid were delivered. During the demonstration session, importance of sett treatment and raised bed system of nursery were explained to the farmers. The importance of the selection of virus free planting materials was explained to the farmers and extension department officials with suitable specimens.

Marketing strategies and the optimum maturity indices for tapioca were also highlighted for the benefit of farmers. Dr.S.Manickam, Professor and Head narrated the achievements on the distribution and availability of planting materials of newly released tapioca YTP 1 to the farmers. Th.K.Kannan, Deputy Director of Horticulture delivered a formal Vote of Thanks. A Pamphlet on recent agro-techniques of cassava was distributed to the farmers at the end of the training programme.

GOLD MEDAL AWARDS



Dr. C. CHINNUSAMY, Dean (i/c), Agricultural College and Research Institute, TNAU, Madurai was conferred with two National Awards for his contributions in the field of weed science research and teaching. The CWSS Gold Medal Award 2014 from Crop Weed Science Society, BCKV, Kalyani was

presented by Prof. Dr.Chitharanjan Kole, Vice Chancellor, BCKV, Kalyani in the presence of Mr. P. Mazumdar, Advisor (Agriculture) to Chief Minister, West Bengal on 07-11-2014 on the occasion of International Seminar of the Crop Weed Science Society. The ISA Gold Medal 2012 from Indian Society of Agronomy, New Delhi was presented by Dr.R.S.Paroda, former Director General of ICAR, New Delhi in the presence of Dr. Gurbachan Singh, Chairman ASRB, New Delhi and Dr.Panjab Singh former DG,ICAR at PAU, Ludhiana on 18-11-2014 during ISA Biennial Conference 2014.

DENGUE FEVER AWARENESS PROGRAMME

Two hundred NSS Volunteers of TNAU participated in the Dengue Fever Awareness campaign and Mosquito multiplication reduction in waste Programme organized jointly by NSS, Students hostel and Directorate of Students' Welfare in TNAU and Coimbatore Corporation on 9.11.14. Dr.C.Divaker Durairaj, Dean (i/c), (Agricultural Engineering) initiated the programme with brief words about need for waste reduction to prevent diseases.



Dr.P.Aruna, City Health Officer, Mr.R.Radhakrishnan, Zonal Officer, Mr.K.V.Thirumal, Sanitary Inspector, Coimbatore Corporation explained the effects of Dengue fever and initiative taken by the Government of Tamil Nadu to control the disease and also spoke about the disease causing virus borne by a vector, *infected Aedes aegypti* mosquito. He said that environment cleanliness should be maintained by every

individual to protect themselves from diseases. Dr.M.R.Srinivasan, Warden, Dr.M.R.Latha NSS Programme Officer and Dr.K.Kumutha, NSS Coordinator, organised the Programme. Mr. M. Maruthachalam, Sanitary Officer, TNAU and Deputy Wardens, Dr.S.Meena and Dr.K.Amutha and Hostel residential tutors participated in the programme.

UNITY RUN OBSERVED IN TNAU



Three hundred National Service Scheme volunteers from Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore participated in Unity Run on 31st October 2014 as part of Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day) to mark the birth anniversary of Iron Man of India, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel an initiative by the Government of India.

The rally was flagged off at TNAU by Dr.S.Mahimairaja, Dean (Agriculture) (i/c) and Dr.M.Chinnadurai, Director (CARDS) (i/c). Earlier, Dr.S.Mohan, Dean (SPGS) (i/c) administered the Unity day pledge. Dr.K.Kumutha, NSS Programme Coordinator and Mr.A.Manikandan, Security Officer, TNAU participated in the programme. Students carried placards indicating the importance of unity among people of different states and religions. Students distributed notice to public containing information on the ideals of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. Arrangements for the programme were made by NSS Programme Officers Dr.M.R.Latha, Dr.R.Paavendan and Dr.K.Hema Prabha.

EXTENSION TRAINING PROGRAMME ON ORGANIC FARMING



An extension training programme on "Organic Farming" was organized by the Department of Sustainable Organic Agriculture, TNAU, Coimbatore in collaboration with Regional Centre of Organic Farming, Bangalore on 19th and 20th October 2014 in which 45 PG and Ph.D. students participated.

Dr.S.Ramasamy, Professor and Head and coordinator of the programme welcomed the participants. Dr. Jagath Singh, Director, Regional Centre of Organic Farming, Bangalore explained the importance of organic farming. Dr.S.Mohan, Dean (i/c), Post Graduate Studies, TNAU, Coimbatore delivered the Special Address and emphasized the need of organic farming. Several Topics in the areas of Organic Farming and Innovative ITK were covered. Besides films on Organic Farming and Vermi Composting were shown for the benefit of students. Dr.S.Kalaivani, Assistant Professor (Agricultural Extension) and Dr.K.Ganesan, Assistant Professor (Agrl. Entomology), were the Associate Coordinators of the training programme. Dr.S.Kalaivani, proposed a Vote of Thanks.

TRAINING ON ORGANIC FARMING FOR FARM WOMEN

A special awareness camp on Vermi compost and Azolla production for women was conducted at the Agricultural College and Research Institute, Killikulam on 30-31, December, 2014. The training

was inaugurated by Sri. N.Ramalingam, Assistant General Manager of NABARD, Tirunelveli who delivered the Key Note Address. Dr.V.Subramanian, Dean (i/c), in his Presidential Address explained the importance of vermicompost and the urgent necessity to use it to preserve soil fertility. Dr.C.Udayasuriyan, Professor and Head, Department of Soil Science. Dr.M.Hemalatha, Dr.P.T.Ramesh and Dr.R.Umasankareswari, Assistant Professors served as resource persons and conducted a demonstration on the production of organic sources of nutrients to the farm women of Melacheval.



The spot demonstration and training were conducted in Veeravanallur village. Dr.L.Shrimathipriya, Assistant Professor, proposed a formal Vote of Thanks.

DEMONSTRATION ON MICRO IRRIGATION IN CARNATION

Demonstration of micro irrigation in carnation under poly house cultivation was organized by Horticultural Research Station, Kodaikanal at Upper Palani hill region on 20.10. 2014. Dr. J.Rajangam, Professor and Head, expressed the importance of drip irrigation for water use efficiency in the production of quality flowers in protected structures.



Dr.B.Senthamizhselvi, Dr.G.Sathish and Dr.G.Ashok kumar demonstrated the micro irrigation system and use of water soluble fertilizers in carnation. Dr.N.Seenivasan explained the control of nematode and mite in poly house. The progressive flower growers of the region participated and benefited.

TRAINING ON "IMPROVED TECHNOLOGIES FOR COCOA CULTIVATION"



A Three day farmers training on "Improved technologies for cocoa cultivation" was conducted at Department of Spices and Plantation Crops, HC & RI, Coimbatore on 29-30 October, 2014 in collaboration with the Directorate of Cashewnut and Cocoa Development, GOI, Cochin. Totally 50 farmers from different places of Tamil Nadu viz., Erode, Salem, Namakkal, Coimbatore, Tirpur, Pollachi, Sathyamangalam, Bhavani, Kanyakumari, and Thanjavur participated. Dr. J. Suresh, Professor and Head, welcomed the gathering. Dr. M. Chinnadurai, Director (CARDS) (i/c) and Dr.R.M.Vijaykumar, Professor and Head, fruit crops participated and highlighted the importance of cocoa cultivation under coconut garden and use of cocoa beans in the food/consumable industries. A booklet on "Naveena cocoa sagupadi" was released. Dr. V. Jegadeeswari, Assistant Professor (Horticulture), Dr.J.Suresh, Professor and Head, Dr. P.Paramaguru, Professor (Horticulture), Dr. S. Subramaniam, Professor (Horticulture), Dr.M.Suganthi, Assistant Professor (Agrl. Entomology), Dr.C.Usha malini, Assistant Professor (Plant Pathology), Dr.C.Indurani, Assistant Professor (Hort.). Dr.N.Shoba, Professor and Head, CRS, Aliyar Nagar and

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Thiru. C. Sivakumar, Technical Executive, Mondelez foods India Ltd. served as resource persons.

An exposure visit to cocoa fields at Anaimalai, Sethumadai, Pollachi was arranged. Demonstration of training and pruning of cocoa trees was done in the farmer's field.

TRAINING PROGRAMME ON IMPROVED TRAINING AND VISIT SYSTEM



A one day training programme on Improved Training and Visit system (T & V) under "Farmer oriented Integrated Agricultural Extension System" was organized on 28.10.2014 at KVK, Vamban, wherein 81 Extension officials of Department of Agriculture (64) and Horticulture and Plantation Crops (17) of Pudukkottai district participated. The training was inaugurated by Dr. R.P.Gnanamalar, Professor and Head, KVK, Vamban and presided by Mr.K.N.Shajahan,

Joint Director of Agriculture, Pudukkottai. The AAO's were explained on the improved Training and Visit System implemented from the year 2014-15 as per the directions from the Government of Tamil Nadu. The major features of improved T & V system, Integrated disease management techniques, recent advances in pest management and Improved management techniques in horticultural crops were explained by the faculty members of KVK, Vamban. Study material on improved T and V system was distributed to the beneficiaries.

SEE FELLOW AWARD



Dr.K.A.Ponnusamy, Director (i/c), Extension Education, TNAU, Coimbatore was honoured with SEE Fellow Award from Society of Extension Education for his outstanding contribution in the field of Teaching, Research and Extension during the 7th National Extension Education Congress-2014 held at ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region, Umiam, Meghalaya on November 8-11, 2014.

Important visitors

- ◀ Th.P.R.Meiyalahan, Senior Quality Control Manager, Rasi Seeds, Attur delivered a guest lecture entitled "Post harvest handling" on 10.11.2014 in the fortnightly seminar organized at Seed Centre, TNAU, Coimbatore.

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