



# TNAU NEWS

TAMIL NADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY NEWS LETTER

Patron: **Dr. K. Ramasamy**, Vice Chancellor  
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Planning & Monitoring

ஊருக்கெல்லாம் உணவளிக்கும் உத்தம உழவர்களுக்கு  
உதவிக்கரம் நீட்டும் பல்கலைக்கழகம்

## NATIONAL SEMINAR ON EXTENSION MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES



In commemoration of the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of Agricultural College and Research Institute (AC & RI), TNAU, Madurai, the Department of Agricultural Extension and Rural sociology and the Extension Education Society, Coimbatore jointly organized a National Seminar on Extension Management Strategies for Sustainable Agriculture – Challenges and Opportunities on 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of December 2014.

Dr. K. Ramasamy, Vice-Chancellor, TNAU in his Presidential Address stressed the importance of developing need based technologies and need based extension services for farming communities rather than blanket recommendations. Further the Vice-Chancellor advised the forum to suggest suitable strategies for the policy makers for effective extension services.

Dr. Baskaran Manimaran, Vice-Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Fisheries University in his Inaugural Address insisted the need for location specific and cost effective extension service for the farming community.

Earlier Dr. J. Vasanthakumar, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, Annamalai University and President, Extension Education Society welcomed the gathering and Dr. H. Philip, Special Officer (P&PR), TNAU Coimbatore and Chief Editor – EES proposed a formal Vote of Thanks. More than 250 Extension Scientists and Research Scholars from all over India participated in the two day event.

## NATIONAL SEMINAR ON “CHALLENGES AND INNOVATIVE APPROACHES IN CROP IMPROVEMENT”



As a part of the commemoration of Golden jubilee Celebration of AC & RI, Madurai, the Department of Plant Breeding and Genetics and Department of Biotechnology in association with Indian Society of Plant Breeders forum organized a National Seminar on ‘Challenges and Innovative Approaches in Crop Improvement’ during 16-17 December, 2014. More than 500 participants including scientists, research scholars and graduate students attended the seminar. Dr. C. Chinnusamy, Dean (i/c), welcomed the gathering. Dr. K. Ramasamy, Vice Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University presided over the function and released the seminar compendium. Dr.S.K.Chakrabarthi, Director, Central Tuber Cops Research Institute, Thiruvananthapuram, The chief guest of the function congratulated TNAU for bagging the ‘Overall Excellence Award’ by TNAU instituted by FICCI. The retired eminent plant breeders of ISPB were felicitated. Dr. N. Senthil, Professor and Head, Department of Biotechnology, proposed a formal Vote of Thanks.

### ONE DAY AWARENESS cum TRAINING ON NATURAL DYE PLANT

A one day awareness training on “Popularization of annatto (*Bixa orellana*) for natural edible dye in Tamil Nadu” sponsored by NADP (RKVY) was jointly organized by



Department of Floricultural and Medicinal Crops, HC&RI, Periyakulam and DARS, Chettinad on 18.12.2014 at Chettinad. The project Investigator Dr.K.Kumaran, Professor (Forestry), explained the importance of Bixa extraction methods and uses of Natural dye from the plant and various activities of the project. Shri.S.Gurusamy, I.F.S., District Forest officer, Sivagangai the Chief Guest, indicated in his Special Address, various natural dyes and their uses in day to day life. Mr.R.Manivannan, ADA, Sakkottai felicitated and Dr.C.Sekhar, Professor (Economics) and Dr.T.L.Preethi, Assistant Professor (Horticulture) trained the participants on production, propagation, cultivation techniques, economics of cultivation and marketing. Totally, 125 participants from various development departments and progressive farmers from five blocks of Sivaganga district participated in the training. A field visit to Bixa plantation in DARS, Chettinad was organized. Dr.P.Kannan, Assistant Professor welcomed while Dr.M.Sivaprakash, Assistant Professor proposed a formal Vote of Thanks.

### LARGE SCALE DEMONSTRATION ON MILLET FEAST MEAL PREPARATION



Large scale demonstration cum training on primary and secondary processing of millets was organised at KVK, Madurai on 18.12.2014. Mr. E. Ramesh, Proprietor, Kalyani Mills (Millet Processing), Paramakudi explained the parameters to be considered for higher price through primary processing. The millet feast preparation with method demonstration of millet foods was handled by Mr.Mathampatti R.Thangavel and Mr.T.Krishnakumar, Proprietors, Lakshmi Catering Service, Combatore. Dr.C.Chinnusamy, Dean i/c Agricultural College & Research Institute, Madurai in his inaugural address stressed upon the impact of processing and value addition of millets in fetching additional and stable income. Dr.S.Kanchana, Professor, Home Science College and Research Institute, emphasised the health benefits and importance attached to the inclusion of millet foods in feast preparation in recent days. Dr.Chelvi Ramesh, Assistant Professor, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Madurai welcomed dignitaries and the gathering of 230 participants from different fields, viz., farmers, catering personnel, dietitians, SHG members and entrepreneurs engaged in value addition of millets. Dr.S.Kamalasundari, SMS (Food Science and Nutrition) made the arrangements and oriented the participants in mass level cooking.

### TRAINING ON ROOT FEEDING TECHNIQUES IN COCONUT



A one day training programme on coconut cultivation was organized by the Agriculture Support Centre, Palayamkottai, Agricultural College and Research Institute, Killikulam for coconut growers of Tirunelveli

district in the premises of Co operative Society Association at Keelapavoor village on 12.12.2014 to create awareness on nutrient management and pest and disease management in coconut crop. Dr.T.Abdul Razak, Professor (Entomology) explained the importance of pest control. Identification of diseases and right measures to control the diseases were covered by Dr.S.Thiruvudainambi, Professor (Pathology). Dr.C.Raja Babu, Assistant Professor (Crop Physiology) elaborated the nutrient management in coconut. Root feeding technique in coconut was demonstrated. Mr.Pauldurai - President of Agriculture Co operative Association, Keelapavoor welcomed the gatherings and emphasized the significance of the meeting to the participants. Thiru. Viswanathan, Secretary of the Co-operative Society proposed a formal Vote of Thanks.

### TRAINING ON GOAT REARING AND MANAGEMENT.



A one day on campus training on goat rearing and management was organized at KVK, Needamangalam on 18<sup>th</sup> December, 2014. Dr.K.Chozhan, Professor and Head, inaugurated the training and explained the importance of Integrated Farming System and the success story of Thiruvavur district farmers in goat rearing. Dr.Mahindiran, Veterinary Assistant Surgeon, trained the participants on goat rearing techniques and slatted goat rearing. The training was organized by Dr.S.Saravanan, Assistant Professor (Veterinary and Animal Sciences) who explained the management of goat and

solutions for frequently arising problems. Sixty farmers from across the district attended and benefitted from the training.

**TRAINING ON NUTRIENT RICH HOT SOUP FOR WINTER SEASON.**



A training on “Nutrient Rich Hot Soups for Winter Season” was organized by Dr.G.G.Kavitha Shree, Assistant Professor (Food Science) at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Needamangalam on 23.12.2014. She explained the nutritive rich soup preparation and gave hands on training Dr.K. Chozhan, Professor and Head highlighted the importance of soups during winter season which has got much impact on health issues like sinusitis, cold, cough, fever etc., due to poor immunity. He also spoke on the importance of soups as essential to improve the immunity.

Thirty participants from different parts of Thiruvarur District participated. Tmt.D.Reka, Programme Assistant (Technical) delivered the techniques of maintaining the nutritive value of herbals in the soup. Mr.A.Gurumoorthy, who is the successful entrepreneur from Thiruvarur District shared his experience in soup business with the trainees.

**RREAC MEETING FOR HIGH RAINFALL ZONE**

The Regional Research and Extension Advisory Council (RREAC) meeting for high rainfall zone was conducted at Horticultural Research Station, Pechiparai. on 15.12.2014. Dr. K. Ramasamy, Vice-Chancellor, TNAU

Chaired the meeting. RREAC Members including scientists, extension Officials and farmers cultivating banana, paddy, pine apple, etc., attended the meeting. Dr. S. Mariappan, Dean (i/c) (Horticulture) welcomed the gathering and briefed the activities of research stations/ KVKs at high rainfall zone.



Various issues for orienting future research and extension were discussed in the meeting. Farmers queries regarding various issues were clarified and practical measures were suggested. Dr. R. Kannan, Professor and Head, proposed formal Vote of Thanks.

**RREAC MEETING FOR SOUTHERN ZONE**



Regional Research and Extension Advisory Council meeting for Southern Zone was held on 11.12.2014 at RRS, Aruppukottai. The meeting was Presided over by Dr.M.Maheswaran, Director of Research (i/c), TNAU, Coimbatore. Dr.K.A.Ponnusamy, Director of Extension (i/c), Dr.K.Ramaraju, Director (i/c) CPPS interacted with the farmers of Southern zone and offered their remarks on the researchable issues as well as extension

research warranted. Dr.V.K.Paulpandi, Professor and Head, welcomed the gathering and Dr.S.Senthivel, Professor (Agronomy) proposed a formal Vote of Thanks.

## WINTER SCHOOL ON PRE AND POST HARVEST SEED CROP MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES



The ICAR 21 days Winter School on “Pre and post harvest seed crop management techniques for improving productivity of agricultural and horticultural crops and their marketability” was conducted on December 3-23, 2014 at Seed Centre, TNAU, Coimbatore. Twelve Scientists from Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu participated. The participants were exposed to different subject matter areas related to emerging seed issues on pre and post harvest seed management techniques and field visits.

Dr. K. Ramasamy, Vice-Chancellor inaugurated the Winter School on December 3, 2014 and released the training manual and highlighted the importance of seed as a main component in agricultural production and stressed that the seed scientists should focus on the area of seed quality improvement for maximizing the values of seed through priming and pelleting techniques and solutions for dormancy related issues. He insisted on maintaining the farmers’ varieties and preservation of traditional seed storage techniques, the effective seed multiplication system and the model seed village concept on a participatory seed production mode.

Dr.M.Maheswaran, Director of Research (i/c) felicitated. The Valedictory Function was held on December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2014. Dr.K.Ramasamy, Vice-Chancellor delivered the Valedictory address. Dr.M.Bhaskaran, Special Officer (Seeds) cum Course director and Dr.M.Chandrasekaran, Director(i/c) (Planning and Monitoring) also participated in the Valedictory function.

## TAMIL NADU WATER WEEK 2014



Tamil Nadu Water week 2014 was jointly organized by Water Technology Centre and Agricultural College and Research Institute, Madurai with a theme, ‘Agriculture and Irrigation’, on 09.12.2014 in the Department of Agronomy, Dr.C.Chinnusamy, Dean (i/c), welcomed the gathering. Introductory remarks were given by Dr.B.J.Pandian, Director (i/c), Water Technology Centre, TNAU, Coimbatore. Dr.V.Veerabadran, Professor (Retired), Agronomy, offered felicitations.

The importance of water management in tankfed agriculture was emphasized by Dr.C.R.Shanmugam, Former Dean, AEC&RI, TNAU, Coimbatore. Dr.K.Palanisami, Director, International Water Management Institute, Hyderabad delivered a lecture on Tamil Nadu water supply and demand, 2025. Dr.B.J.Pandian, Director(i/c) (WTC) delivered a lecture on upscaling of SRI in Tamil Nadu through TN-IAMWARM project. Dr.A.Raviraj, Professor (SWC), Water Technology Centre, proposed a formal Vote of Thanks.

## TNAU NSS OFFICER WINS ESSAY COMPETITION



Fifteenth Anniversary of Vallalar Aruljothi Sangam, Kulathupalayam was organised on 25.12.2014 by K.N.Lingasamy Memorial trust in Dharapuram. Earlier an essay competition on principles of Ramalinga vallalar was organised for school and college students and teachers throughout Tamil Nadu. Around 1000 participants submitted their essays. Dr.M.R.Latha, Assistant Professor (Soil Science) and NSS Programme Officer TNAU bagged the second prize for her tamil essay on "Compassion towards beings as a key to Moksha or liberation". Thiru.Lingam Chinnasamy, event organiser handed over

the certificate, gold medal, photograph of Vallalar, Rs.300 cash prize and books containing his principles to Dr.M.R.Latha.

## THADIYANKUDISAI FARMER BAGGED TNAU AWARD



Thiru.P.R.M.Ravichandran, a contact farmer of Horticultural Research Station, Thadiyankudisai received the "Best Vegetable Grower Award" during Golden Jubilee Regional Farmer's Mela held at Agricultural College and Research Institute, Madurai from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> January 2015. He attributed the frequent field visit and technological intervention of the scientists of Horticultural Research Station, Thadiyankudisai for his performance in vegetable cultivation.

### Important visitors

- ◀ Dr. C. Chandrahasan, Director of Extension Education, Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University visited Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Needamangalam on 19.12.2014.

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