

TNAU NEWS



TAMILNADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY NEWS LETTER

Patron : Dr. C. RAMASAMY - Vice Chancellor

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

TNAU AWARD CEREMONY >>>



Every year, under the 'Staff Development Programme', TNAU is honouring their Scientists by way of giving awards like Best Researcher, Best Teacher, Best Extension Worker etc. based on the evaluation of their performance in the particular area. The various

awards for the year 2005 were presented in the TNAU Award Ceremony held on 26.12.2007 at Golden Jubilee Hall, TNAU, Coimbatore.

The function was presided over by Prof. C. Ramasamy, Vice-

Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore. Dr. P. Thangaraju, Vice Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, Chennai was the Chief Guest of the function and distributed 17 individual awards and three institution awards. Dr. Kathiresan, Professor and Head, Cotton research Station, Veppanthattai and Dr. G. Dheebakaran, Dr. R. Jaganathan and Dr. D. Jagadheeswari, Agro Climate Research Centre, Coimbatore who have obtained patent were also honoured with cash award. During the function, the Vice Chancellor, TANUVAS, Chennai was felicitated. Dr. B. Chandrasekaran, Director of Research and Dr. R. Chandra Babu, Dean (SPGS), TNAU, Coimbatore offered felicitation. Dr. P. Santhana Krishnan, Registrar welcomed the gathering and vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. A. Vijayakumar, Deputy Registrar (Education).

'e-LEARNING' IN AGRICULTURE

ICAR Short course on e-education in Agriculture was conducted by Dr. K. Vanangamudi, the course Director and Dean (Agriculture),



AC&RI, Coimbatore at e-learning Lab between 26th November and 6th December 2007. Twenty two scientists from all over India participated in the training programme. The scientists were from field of Agriculture and Information Technology. Resource persons from TNAU, outside the campus and country trained the participants in creation of e-courseware and e-classroom account creation, use of ICT in Agriculture, e-content development through web pages, Browsing e-journals and e-books, online examination, HTML, trends in e-learning, hosting e-content,

power point presentation, photoshop, animation, graphics' video and photo editing. The various tools listed above which are used for the development of courseware material were taught in both theory and practical classes. The participants gave a good feed back and felt that, TNAU has given an insight and prepared them sufficiently on e-Education by learners centered education.

BOOK EXHIBITION

The Directorate of Students' Welfare organized a Book Exhibition on 18th to

CERTIFICATE COURSE ON 'ORNAMENTAL GARDENING AND LANDSCAPING' >>>

A certificate course on Ornamental Gardening and Landscaping was offered through Open and Distance Learning Programme from 23.9.2007 to 9.12.2007. Twenty five participants had registered for this course. The classes for the certificate course were handled by the Scientists of the Department of Floriculture and Landscaping.

The participants were taught the principles and were given hands on training in different areas of ornamental gardening such as scope and importance, principles of landscape gardening, types and styles of gardening, plant and non-plant components, plant propagation and indoor gardening, lawn and lawn making, bonsai, etc.



During this programme, the participants were taken to the Government Botanical Garden and also to the Rose Garden at Ootacamund to study the various styles of gardening and plant components suitable for temperate region.

20th December 2007. The three day Book fair was inaugurated by Vice-Chancellor. About 15 publishers from various places have put up stalls and more than 50,000 books from agriculture and allied subjects were displayed.

Nearly 2000 books were selected by the faculty and students. The selected books will be purchased for library from the annual grant of Rs.10 lakhs received from the ICAR, New Delhi.

VISIT OF REFERENCE CO-ORDINATOR FROM CORNELL UNIVERSITY, USA

Baseema, Reference Co-ordinator and Public Policy Librarian from Cornell University, USA visited Tamil Nadu Agricultural University on 3.12.2007 to follow up the discussions held at Cornell on September 12-14, 2007 by our faculty and Vice-Chancellor.

She met Vice-Chancellor, Director (Students' Welfare), Dean (Agri), Dr. K. I l a m u r u g u , Mr.R.Venkatachalam and the library faculty.

During the meet, it has decided to implement an Inter Library Loan Agreement between the two libraries and arranging a Professional Development Programme for library faculty at TNAU.

Ms.Baseema visited the University Library and its various sections and made a presentation about the e-journals / e-resources available at Cornell University Library.

VISIT OF DIRECTOR, NRC FOR GROUNDNUT

Dr. V. Muralidharan, Director, National Research Centre for Groundnut, Junagadh visited Regional Research Station, Vriddhachalam on December 31, 2007. During his discussion with the groundnut scientists of this station, he emphasized the need for



developing newer varieties and to take the varieties and technologies to the farmers through front line demonstrations (FLD). Further, he suggested to improve the infrastructure of the station using funds from 11th plan so that, programmes using inter specific crosses be strengthened to evolve groundnut varieties having desired traits. During his field visits, he stressed the need to evolve and evaluate varieties for drought resistance to help the rainfed farmers. He also suggested having more area of breeder seed production under polythene mulching system to improve productivity. He has also visited two Frontline demonstrations in nearby farmers' fields who have been cultivating VRI (Gn) 6.

COMPAIGN ON IPM OF SAPOTA STEM BORER

A field campaign was conducted by the scientists of Horticultural College and Research Institute, Periyakulam in collaboration with the Department of Horticulture at Valayangulam near Srivilliputhur recently, for the management of stem

SHORT COURSE ON HEAVY METAL CONTAMINATION IN SOIL >>>

An ICAR short course on "Heavy metal contamination in soil and their remediation by physico chemical and biological methods" was conducted for a period of 10 days from Dec 5th to 14th, 2007 at the Department of Environmental Sciences, Coimbatore.

This training programme was conducted for the scientists of State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) and ICAR institutions at all India level. Totally, twenty one participants were attended the short course.

The programme was inaugurated by Dr.S.Natarajan, Director, (SCMS) on 5th December,2007. In his inaugural address, he highlighted that cadmium is the major contaminant through fertilizers whereas, arsenic and mercury were through pesticides. Earlier, Dr. C.Udayasoorian, Professor & Head, Dept. of Environmental Sciences, in his welcome address have mentioned the objectives and also the theme areas of this short course. Dr.P.Thangavel, Professor (ENS) and also the course Director proposed vote of thanks.



In the training programme, resource persons spoke about the sources of heavy metal contamination in soil, health hazards caused by them and their remediation by various methods like adsorption, transformation, liming and biological methods such as bioremediation, phytoremediation, in addition to practical classes. The participants were also exposed to waste water treatment systems and methods on reduction of heavy metal loads in water, during the industrial visit to Mettupalayam.

The Valedictory function was held on 14th December,2007. The Director (SCMS) welcomed the gathering. Feed Back about the training programme was given by 2 participants. The Vice Chancellor, Dr C.Ramasamy in his valedictory address highlighted the pollution problems of heavy metal contamination in soil and also the need for remediation using the advanced techniques like Nanotechnology. He also distributed the certificates to the participants. Dr.P.Thangavel, proposed the vote of thanks.

borer in sapota. In the campaign, the IPM techniques by swabbing the basal stem with Carbaryl 50 WP 0.1% padding with 10 ml monocrotophos, hooking out the larva and drenching around the root zone with Carbaryl 0.1% were explained and demonstrated by Dr.N.Ganapathy, Professor of Entomology. In addition, nematodes management techniques were

demonstrated by Dr.R.Sundaram, Professor of Nematology. Dr.M.Suriachandraselvan, Professor of Plant Pathology explained about the disease management strategies in sapota.

SEMINAR ON COCONUT CULTIVATION

A one day "Seminar on Coconut Cultivation" was jointly organized by Coconut Research Station, Aliyarnagar and M/s. Coromandal Fertilizers limited (CFL) in Sakthi Hotel conference Hall at Pollachi on 20.12.2007 for the benefit of coconut growers of Pollachi Taluk. About 150 farmers were participated in the seminar. Mr.S.Karamaraj,

Assistant Area Manager welcomed the dignitaries, farmers and highlighted the importance of Boron application in Coconut. Dr.K.Rajamanickam, Professor and Head, CRS, Aliyarnagar described about the varietal aspects of coconut and their suitability for the Pollachi tract and highlighted IPM and IDM strategies on difference insect pests and diseases in coconut. Dr.K.Sathyamoorthi, Professor of Agronomy highlighted the importance of macro, micro nutrients, organic manure, water and drought management aspects in coconut. Dr.G.Selvaraj, Director, Open Distance Learning, TNAU, Coimbatore emphasized about the importance of knowing the coconut



cultivation practices and distributed the certificates to the farmers those who have completed six weeks certificate course on **"Coconut cultivation Technology"** conducted at Coconut Research Station, Aliyarnagar. Mr. Balakrishna Reddy, (Senior Zonal Manager) honoured the dignitaries. Th.S.P. Ramamohan, General Manager, emphasized about various features of products of the company. Th.V. Govindaraj, Marketing Officer, CFL proposed vote of thanks.

BEE IDENTIFICATION TRAINING

A special training programme was organized for two days on 13th and

14th December, 2007 for a scientist working in International Institute of Biotechnology and Toxicology on identification of honey producing bees. The training was arranged on pay and learn basis at Agricultural Research Station, Bhavanisagar. Hands on training were imparted to the scientist about the various techniques useful for differentiating various species of honey bees and stingless bees. A teaching apiary was specially established for training purpose, Dr.M. Muthuraman, Professor of Entomology working in Plant Clinic Centre was the trainer. Dr.M. Balusamy, Professor and Head extended all help in arranging this unique training programme and stressed the need for extending bee toxicity studies to wild honey bee

fauna to conserve the wild pollinators for ensuring good yield in cross pollinated crops.

TRAINING ON BIOLOGICAL FARMING IN SERICULTURE

A three day NABARD sponsored training to sericulture farmers on "Biological Farming in Sericulture" was conducted in the Department of Sericulture, Coimbatore. Twenty five farmers from all over Tamil Nadu participated in the training programme. The inaugural function was presided over by Dr.R. Samiappan, Director, CPPS who in his presidential address exhorted the sericulture farmers to adopt eco-friendly crop protection measures for enhancing cocoon and

GROUP MEETING ON NITRATE CONTAMINATION IN SOIL AND WATER >>>



The fourth group meeting of the ICAR Adhoc Scheme on **"Delineation and Mapping of Nitrate Contamination in Soil and Water in Heavily Fertilized and Intensively Cultivated Districts of the Country"** was organized in the Department of Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry, Coimbatore during 12th -13th December, 2007. During the inaugural session, Dr. C. Paulraj, Professor and Head welcomed the gathering.

Dr. A.K. Biswas, the Principal Investigator, Indian Institute of

Soil Science, Bhopal, briefed the origin of the project and the need to study on the nitrate contamination in ground waters of selected districts due to heavy fertilization and intense cultivation.

Dr. S. Natarajan, Director, Centre for Soil and Crop Management Studies, while delivering the special remarks mentioned that, there is a huge cry on the contamination of soil and ground waters due to intensive cultivation and heavy fertilization and it is the responsibility of the agricultural scientists to explore whether the

contamination is due to fertilization or any other factors such as industrial pollution. He also stressed the need for adopting the Integrated Nutrient Management.

Dr. Biswapati Mandal, Principal Investigator, West Bengal Centre also emphasized that a clear understanding on whether nitrate pollution is due to inorganic fertilization alone or is it also due to organic farming is needed.

Following this, Dr. P. Murugesha Boopathi, Director, Planning and Monitoring, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore and the Principal Investigator of the scheme, in his presidential address brought to the forefront that Coimbatore district was selected in Tamil Nadu owing to its high fertilizer consumption as reported by the All India Statistics. He also stressed the need for investigating nitrate contamination in waters and soils due to fertilization and if found, to provide solution. Dr. R. Natesan, Professor, Dept. of Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry, proposed the vote of thanks.

DOCUMENTARY FILM ON COCONUT PLANT PROTECTION

silk productivity. The Assistant General Manager in his special address insisted the farmers to effectively utilize the available organic resources in sericulture for their prosperity. Dr.R.Balagurunathan, Professor and Head, Department of Sericulture, briefed about the present scenario of sericulture in Tamil Nadu. The scientists of TNAU demonstrated the trainees how to use various biological control agents in mulberry cultivation as well as silkworm rearing for sustainable sericulture. The officials from State

Department of Sericulture and State Bank of India delivered special lectures for the trainees detailing development and loan facilities for sericulture farmers. The trainees were taken to Udumalpet and Manupatti to have first hand information on organic sericulture. They also interacted with the progressive farmers who shared their experience in practicing sericulture. The training certificates were distributed to the participants. Th.K.A.Murugesh, Assistant Professor (Sericulture) was training coordinator for the programme.

Plant Clinic Centre functioning at Agricultural Research Station, Bhavanisagar has produced a new documentary film on coconut plant protection. The film traces out the causes for the sudden death of palms in coconut garden. The short film lucidly explains the importance and ways and means of protecting the coconut palm against the attack of both rhinoceros beetle and red palm weevil.

TRAINING ON POLYETHYLENE MULCH IN GROUNDNUT >>>

In order to popularize the polyethylene film mulch technology in groundnut and also to train the extension officers as master trainers, the Director of Agriculture, Government of Tamil Nadu has provided funds under ISOPOM 2007-2008 to organize officers training on the use of polyethylene film mulch in groundnut production covering 25 districts of Tamil Nadu. Accordingly, the fifth batch of officers training on the use of polyethylene film mulch in groundnut production for the Department of Agriculture comprised of 30 extension officers from Salem, Dharmapuri, Vellore, Coimbatore and Namakkal districts has been conducted on 19.12.07 & 20.12.2007 at Regional Research Station, Vriddhachalam. In the two days training programme, the first day



programme was held at TANCOF, Neyveli. The Joint Director of Agriculture, Cuddalore has inaugurated training programme. The presidential address was delivered by the Professor and Head, RRS, Vriddhachalam. The lectures on the polyethylene film

mulch technology were delivered by the Scientists of RRS, Vriddhachalam. The Second day programme was held at the new farm, RRS, Vriddhachalam, where in method demonstration of the technology was conducted for the benefit of the participants.

IMPORTANT VISITORS

- ▶ **Dr.Ronald Titus**, President, Angel Hoeve Associates, Canning, NS and **Dr.Venkatesh**, CIDA co-ordinator, visited Home Science College and Research Institute on 7.12.07.
- ▶ Tamil Nadu legislative estimate committee visited AC&RI, Coimbatore on 6.12.07.
- ▶ **Dr.P.Thangaraju**, Vice-Chancellor, TANUVAS, Chennai visited AC&RI, Coimbatore on December 25 - 26, 2007.
- ▶ **Th.K.Ramachandran**, Hon'ble Minister for Khadi and Village Industries Board visited AC&RI, Coimbatore on December 26, 2007.

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NEW SCHEMES

Name of the Scheme	PI	Amount (lakhs)	Funding Agency
Climate change and persistent droughts: impacts, vulnerability and adaptation in rice growing sub- divisions of India.	Dr.V.Geethalakshmi, Professor, (ACRC)	235.54	Norwegian Embassy, India
Development of e-courses for B.Sc (Agriculture) degree program	Th.P.Venkatachalam, Assistant Professor (Hort)	119.43	ICAR-NAIP, New Delhi
Development and strengthening of infrastructure facilities for production and distribution of seeds	Dr.A.S. Ponnuswamy Special Officer (Seeds)	70.00	GOI
Molecular mapping of gene(s) / QTL for bruchid (<i>Callosobruchus</i> spp.) resistance in blackgram (<i>Vigna mungo</i> (L.) Hepper)	Dr.P.Jayamani, Assoc. Professor	15.22	DBT
Economic Empowerment of rural women through promoting micro enterprises a pragmatic approach	Dr.S.Parvathi, Prof. & Head (Human Development)	8.47	Dept. of Science and Technology
Therapeutic and Nutraceutical Products from Bael Fruits and Leaves	Dr.M.Illamaran	6.50	National Medicinal plants Board
Efficacy evaluation of metamitron 70 SC and Ethofumesate 50 SC for weed control in sugarbeet and its residue on succeeding crops and its persistence	Dr.N.K.Prabhakaran, Professor (Agronomy)	4.25	Punjab Chemical and Crop Production Ltd., New Delhi
Tracer studies on the uptake and translocation of nitrobenzene in crops	Dr.A.Raja Rajan Professor (SS & AC)	2.11	M/s.Devi Crop science Pvt. Ltd., Madurai
Improved Management practices for cotton (FLD on Cotton 2007-08)	Dr.P.Sridhar Assoc. Prof and Head	2.00	ICAR

PATENT OBTAINED

Product	Patentee
Cocolife (Coconut fertilizer briquette embedded in coirpith hollow briquette)	Dr.Ga. Dheebakaran Dr.R. Jaganathan Dr.D. Jegadeeswari

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