

TNAU NEWS



TAMILNADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY NEWS LETTER

Patron : Dr. P. MURUGESA BOOPATHI - Vice Chancellor

Editor : Dr. P. SIVASUBRAMANIAN - Director, Planning and Monitoring

Centenary celebration of the RI building)))



A function to commemorate 100 years of the historical Research Institute building, popularly known as RI building of TNAU was celebrated on 14.07.09 at RI building. Dr.V.Jayabal, Dean (Agriculture) welcomed the gathering. The most renowned alumni,

former Deans, Directors and Vice Chancellors were invited and every one shared their remarkable moments in “**Talk on RI building**”. The special address was delivered by our Vice-Chancellor Dr.P.Murugesha Boopathi. The vote of thanks was proposed by

Dr.K.Ilamurugu, Professor (Education).

The building which presently houses the Offices of Dean (Agriculture) and School of PG studies, Directorate of Research, Centre for Plant Breeding and Genetics and e-learning lab was declared opened on 14th July, 1909 by Sir Arthur Lawley, the then Governor of Madras state.

The grand RI building was designed in Anglo-Saracenic style by G.S.T. Harris, the then consultant Architect to the Madras Government. The new style, followed in many buildings in the Madras Presidency, was a blend of European, Hindu and Islamic style and design.

The Tamil Nadu Agricultural University takes utmost care and attention to preserve this historical building in its original shape and glory as a monument.

Refresher course on nanotechnology to UG teachers of TNAU

A refresher course on “**Fundamentals and applications of nanotechnology**” was inaugurated by Dr. P. Murugesha

Boopathi, Vice-Chancellor TNAU, on 29th June, 2009 at Freeman Hall. In his address, he pointed out that the use of nanotechnology in agriculture has been mostly theoretical, but it has begun and it will continue to have a significant effect in the main areas like plant protection, the food industry: development of new functional materials, product development, and design of methods and instrumentation for food safety and bio-security. He has also dedicated a nanotech hall during that occasion

nanotechnology in 10 constituent and 4 affiliated colleges of TNAU were given training for five days between 29th June and 3rd July, 2009 to deliver the course content and course materials in effective manner to the students. The Nanotech experts from University of Madras, Bharathiar University and PSG College of Technology were the resource persons, besides TNAU experts.

Blood donation camp by NSS unit of AEC&RI, Kumalur

The NSS volunteers of AEC&RI, Kumalur conducted a blood donation camp in association with Lions Club on 31.7.2009 at Lalgudi. Fifty units of blood were donated by the NSS volunteers and



Thirty five undergraduate teachers offering the course on



students of AEC & RI, Kumulur. Dr.A.Tajuddin, Dean inaugurated the function by donating his blood. Dr.K.Annadurai, Staff Advisor and Er.S.Sriramajayam, NSS Programme Officer coordinated the function.

TNAU. About 300 short-listed graduates had participated in the event. Dr.M.Thangaraju, the then Director (Students' Welfare) welcomed the gathering. In his inaugural address, he articulated on the measures undertaken in the curriculum revision towards industrial needs. Dr. K.S. Subramanian, Professor (Students' Welfare) narrated the importance of Banking Sectors for agri-graduates.

(RMO) with a handsome salary package of 3.00 lakhs per annum. Union Bank of India has recruited **5 graduates** as Rural Development Officers. The TNAU graduates are being abundantly recruited by nationalized banks for permanent positions as Agricultural Officers. Canara Bank and Punjab National Bank have started the on-campus recruitment process and at least 60-80 graduates are likely to be benefited. In 2008, 183 graduates have been recruited through Campus Interviews by various banks.

Banking sector – A boon to agri-graduates

The Directorate of Students Welfare organized Campus Interviews for Union Bank of India and Indian Bank recently to recruit agri-graduates from the main campus and also from the constituent colleges of



The Indian Bank recruited **30 graduates** as Rural Marketing Officer

Honour for TNAU scientist

Dr. B. Meena, Assistant Professor of Plant Pathology, Coconut Research Station, Aliyarnagar has been selected for Tamil Nadu Scientist Award (TANSA Award) – 2008 in Agricultural Sciences which carries a citation and a cash prize of Rs. 10,000/-. This award was given by Tamil Nadu State Council for Science



Launching of e-registration >>>

TNAU is the first State Agricultural University in India to implement the ICT based teaching since 2003. For effective use of ICT based teaching and learning as well as to enrich the students' knowledge through web based learning, the students' hostels of all the colleges of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University have been networked with Wi-Fi. The e-course resource materials were hosted in the centralized TNAU server for the access of not only the students and teachers of TNAU but also for the 44 State Agricultural Universities of India and clientele.

Besides hosting updated version of web notes, the lecture presentation of teachers in the lecture halls from semester I to VIII were video filmed, edited and hosted in TNAU website (www.mms.tnau.ac.in). Students



could access from anywhere and anytime to the teachers' lectures frequently.

In continuation of the above, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University is initiating e-registration. So far, the semester registration by the students

was done manually. Now the students can log on to TNAU student management system and register their courses using their laptop. The registration particulars can be viewed only by the concerned student, Dean and Controller of Examinations.

110th campus interview in TNAU >>>



The Directorate of Students Welfare at the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), Coimbatore, organized the 110th Campus

Interview on July 24, 2009 in order to provide jobs for the fresh, under-employed and unemployed graduates of TNAU and its

constituent colleges. Four organizations have participated in the event and other five companies requested this Directorate to forward curriculum vitae of interested students for further processing. About 100 students from all constituent colleges of TNAU had attended the Campus Interview and 25 are expected to benefit from the event. Dr. T. Rathakrishnan, Director (Students' Welfare) inaugurated the Campus Interview and highlighted the achievements made by DSW in order to ensure zeroing of unemployment in Tamil Nadu Agricultural University. Dr. K.S. Subramanian, Professor (Students' Welfare) presented the protocol to be adopted in the pre-placement talk and conduct of the recruitment process.

and Technology, Chennai based on her research contributions in Plant Pathology.

Jawaharlal Nehru award for TNAU scholar

Agricultural Science Congress Complex, Pusa, New Delhi on 16th July, 2009. The award carries a medal, citation and Rs. 20,000/- cash.

TNAU students gesture to under privileged

Final B.Tech (Agricultural Engineering) students of Agricultural Engineering College and Research Institute, Kumulur celebrated their year day in the rehabilitation centre for the physically challenged at Irungalur by sharing lunch with them on 31.7.2009. As a part of the programme, essential commodities were provided to 65 physically challenged. Money collected from the staff were also handed over. Dr.A.Tajuddin, Dean of AEC&RI, Kumulur chaired the function. Dr.K.Annadurai, Staff Advisor and Dr.A.Surendrakumar made the arrangements.



The prestigious Jawaharlal Nehru Award for the year 2008 was bagged by Dr.S.Balasubramanian, formerly Ph.D. scholar of Department of Food and Agricultural Process Engineering, Agricultural Engineering College and Research Institute, Coimbatore, for his Ph.D. thesis entitled "**Studies on Pearling and Development of Pasta from selected Minor Millets**". He received the award from Mr. Farook Abdulla, Hon'ble. Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy Sources, New Delhi, in a function held at National

Biotechnology work experience program for agri students

The Bio technology Work Experience course was offered to the final year students of B.Tech (Biotechnology) and Bioinformatics between 18.6.09 and 4.7.09 by the

Dept. of Agrl. Extension and Rural Sociology. The students were placed in different area with a prime objective of inculcating knowledge and first hand information on rural scenario among the students.

The programme really helped the students to learn the ways and means of behaving in a sociological set up apart from acquiring knowledge of the rural farming situations. The students were well exposed under varied environments during their village stay programme and it also helped them to mould their characters to facilitate the welfare activities of the rural people. After completion of the programme, the students have documented their



experience in the form of observations, photographs and project reports. An exhibition was arranged by the department to exhibit the documented materials and models by the students.

The Vice Chancellor, TNAU inaugurated the exhibition and interacted with the students. He wanted the students to document the feed back information properly to further strengthen the TOT mechanism

The Dean (Agriculture), Professor and Head, Department of AE&RS, the Course teachers and the group facilitators also participated in the exhibition. Finally the students were given time to present the experience and knowledge gained from the village

stay program.

Inplant training - a career building opportunity

The Final year B.Sc (Home science) students of Home Science College & Research Institute, Madurai underwent practical training at the Post Harvest Technology Centre, Agricultural Engineering College & Research Institute, Coimbatore from 20.6.2009 to 21.7.2009, which is an essential and integral component of their curriculum. The students were provided with skilled training on commercial production of value added



fruits and vegetables products, bakery products and analytical techniques with regard to food safety and quality control. Exposure in these lines helped the students to develop confidence to meet the challenges in the field of food industry. Students were also given a certificate as well, which helps them for their further

Launching of NAIP >>>



The Launch function of the project titled "**Establishing and Networking of Agricultural Market Intelligence Centres in India**" was held in Tamil Nadu Agricultural University on 27th June, 2009.

Dr. Mruthyunjaya, National Director, NAIP, New Delhi inaugurated the project and expressed that agricultural transformation is being attempted through NAIP in the country as a whole. The NAIP is a unique project with a budget outlay of 250 million US \$ (200 m. US \$ by World Bank

and 50 m. US \$ by Govt. of India). Out of the 176 projects, 15 projects have been sanctioned to TNAU on different subjects worth Rs.14 crores. Dr. Mruthyunjaya further informed that the current project on Market Intelligence is one of the **star projects** sanctioned under NAIP to TNAU. This project aims at bridging the gap in providing market intelligence support to the farmers for enabling them to take better decisions.

Dr.P.Murugesu Boopathi, Vice-Chancellor, TNAU in his Presidential address, stated that this

project will be implemented as a network project involving 11 State Agricultural Universities in 10 States covering 16 major crops. The budget outlay for the project is Rs.6.20 crores, of which, TNAU's share is Rs.1.16 crores. The project will provide price forecasts for major commodities so as to improve the marketing skills of the farmers and to maximize their profits. Therefore, farmers are advised to utilize the Market Intelligence Centres regularly for market and price related information for taking quality decisions, and in the interest of avoiding market glut.

Dr.N.Raveendaran, National Consultant of this project explained the project details. Dr.B.Chandrasekaran, the then Director of Research, Dr.P.Subbian, the then Director, Agri Business Development and the present Registrar and Dr.M.Chandrasekaran, Prof and Head, Department of Agrl. Economics also spoke during the occasion. Dr.N.Ajjan, then Professor & Principal Investigator of this project and the present Director, CARDS welcomed the gathering. Dr.S.Senthilnathan, Co-Principal Investigator proposed a vote of thanks.

Workshop on open educational resources in agriculture >>>



Dr. Murugesu Boopathi, Vice-Chancellor, TNAU, Dr.V.Valluvaparidasan, Director (ODL) and Dr.G.Selvaraj, Professor (ODL) participated in the workshop on open educational resources in agriculture held at ICRISAT, Hyderabad on 13.07.2009. In his Inaugural address of the workshop, the Vice chancellor emphasized the convergence of e-learning and ODL programmes for the development of agriculture education and also underlined the importance of

collaboration of TNAU and other institutions for exchange of ideas for revamping the content and delivery mechanism of ODL Programmes.

The Vice chancellor emphasized the importance of e-education and its major functions to strengthen the open and distance learning programmes for the benefit of various segments of the learners who lack opportunities for campus based education. Some of the functions of e-Education are Network

Management-Content Development and Delivery, Learner Support Services, Research and System Development, Quality Assurance and Feedback Management.

The workshop gave an insight on Connexions (<http://cnx.org/>) an internet repository which has tools for writing, organizing and the cnx content can be used online or to produce a printed book or to produce an e-book. The Vice Chancellor also congratulated Dr Sidney Burrus, distinguished computer scientist and Senior Strategist of Connexions project for describing and demonstrating the use of Connexions platform for use by agricultural educators in India and elsewhere and also suggested that topics on tropical agriculture and food production can be incorporated in the Connexions.

opportunities. Earlier, during the inaugural session held at Home Science College & Research Institute, Madurai, Dr.P.Banumathi, Dean (Home Science) highlighted that such training programmes enhances the ability of students for getting jobs and also opens a gateway to outside world.

Director (ABD) visits Agri-Business Institutions at Hyderabad

Dr.R.Ganesan, Director, Agri-Business Development undertook the

institutional visits to “**Wadhvani Centre for Entrepreneurship Development**” of Indian School of Business (ISB), an internationally recognized Business School at Gachibowli, Hyderabad on 14.7.2009.

A discussion meeting was held with Dr.Krishna Tanuku, Executive Director on “**Business Incubation and Enterprise management**” in the light of executive programs of ISB. He discussed on establishing linkages with different sectors in agriculture and identifying *business value* for technologies. Ms. M a y u r a Balasubramnian, Associate Director explained the Business

Incubation studies undertaken by the trainees of the ISB.

Intensive farmers training under NHM



A five days intensive training to farmers organized by state Department of Horticulture and Plantation Crops at Perundurai in Erode District was attended by Dr.R.Ganesan, Director, Agri-Business Development on 17.7.2009. He oriented the farmers on newer initiatives needed in the



agricultural and allied sectors highlighting the scope of commercialization and agri-business challenges. He underlined the farmers' participation in the ensuing Agri-Business Incubator (ABI) of TNAU through which farmers can add business-value to the technologies. Dr. S. D. Sivakumar and Thiru.R.Bhubesh Kumar of the Directorate of Agri-Business Development explained to the larger gathering about the multi-dimensional activities of the Directorate intended to benefit the farmer clientele.

Technological Commercialization of herbal insect repellent

TNAU has licensed M/s. Bhuvu Care (P) Ltd, Tirunelveli for large scale production and marketing of the Herbal Insect Repellent synthesized from Sweet Flag (*Acorus calamus*). The licence was awarded on

25.07.2009 in the presence of Dr. P. Murugesu Boopathi, Vice - Chancellor of TNAU. He expressed the scope of popularization of this herbal insect repellent as it has the efficacy of repelling the rice ear head bug. Dr. R. Ganesan, Director of Agri-Business Development took the initiatives in the effort of technological commercialization of the innovation under the core activities of the Directorate. Dr.P.Subbian, Registrar, Dr.E.I.Jonathan, Director, Centre for Plant Protection Studies, Dr.P.Sivasubramanian, Director, Planning and Monitoring, and Mr. T.G.R.Kunjharhamoney, Managing Director, M/s. Bhuvu Care, Tirunelveli were also present on the occasion.



the interaction, he suggested that the research should be carried out based on the farmers' needs to solve the regional problems. He further emphasised that all the findings emanated from research should reach the farmers and more particularly the drip fertigation technologies developed at this station. The Vice-chancellor visited the seed processing complex, honey bee unit, drip fertigation experiments and hybrid rice seed production fields.



VC's visit to ARS, Bhavanisagar

The Vice-Chancellor, the Registrar and the Director of Research, TNAU, Coimbatore visited the Agricultural Research Station, Bhavanisagar on 07.07.2009. The Vice-chancellor interacted with the staff members and Diploma students. During

Laser leveler demonstration

CIMMYT – India, New Delhi under the CSISA project has supplied a Laser Leveler unit to a farmer in Orathanad village of Cauvery New Delta for popularization among the farmers. A demonstration of this laser leveller was organized at Thiruppanipettai village near Thiruvidadimarudur on 14.07.2009. The Director, TRRI, Dr. T. Jayaraj, explained the farmers about

VC visits Agri Business Incubator at ICRISAT: >>>

Our Vice-Chancellor and Dr.R.Ganesan, Director, ABD visited ABI-ICRISAT, Hyderabad on 13.7.2009. Dr.Kiran Sharma, Head, ABI-ICRISAT along with Mr.SM.Karuppanchetty arranged the visit and a video show was arranged illustrating the accomplishments over a period by ABI-ICRISAT and the committed staff and entrepreneur-clientele. The different issues basically required for establishing the ABI such as infrastructure, space utilization, entrepreneurial initiatives, collaboration / linkages, stake-holder participation, budgeting etc were studied in the light of experiences accrued by ABI-ICRISAT.



Agriculture field officers review conference in TNAU >>>



Inaugrating the Agriculture Field Officers Review Conference held on 24.7.2009 in TNAU, Coimbatore, Dr.P.Subbaian, Registrar of TNAU called upon the Field Officers and Bank Officials to take advantage of high income generating and farmer

-friendly new technologies developed by the university. He urged the bankers to help the agri-entrepreneurs who are in need of finance to readily take up the large scale manufacturing of the commercial technologies and

products recently scaled up at the university.

Presiding over the function, Dr. P. Kalaiselvan, Director of Extension Education, TNAU, lauded the diversified role of banking sector and called upon them to consider financing the needy projects like Post-harvest technology units, Storage facilities, manufacturing of farm implements, so as to facilitate generating high and sustained income to the farming community.

Th. V. Thangaraju, Deputy General Manager, Corporation Bank, Coimbatore Zone, mapped out the credit growth in agriculture over a period of time which in turn helped the development of agriculture in our country. "The role of Bank Managers and Field Officers in this context is very important", he reiterated.

the laser leveler and its benefits. Farmers from Thanjavur, Thiruvarur and Nagapattinam participated in the demonstration. Dr.R.Rajendran, Research Agronomist, CSISA project, TRRI, Aduthurai coordinated the demonstration.

Director, TRRI, Aduthurai. Scientists who are the Co-PIs of CSISA project Objective 2 have participated in the discussion. Dr.R. Rajendran, Research Agronomist coordinated the entire programme.

Professor & Nodal Officer (Biofuels), Dr. R. Venkitaswamy, Professor (Agronomy), Dr. R. Jude Sudhagar,

Technical work group meet of CSISA

The Technical Work Group Meet of CSISA scheme was held at TRRI, Aduthurai on 21.07.09. Roland Buresh, Humphreys Elizabeth, J.K.Ladha and Yash Saharawat, Water and Cropping system scientists of IRRI discussed with TRRI scientists under the leadership of Dr. T. Jayaraj,

High yielding plus tree of *Jatropha* in Anaikatti

An ICAR – Niche Area of Excellence scheme "Improvement and Popularization of Biofuels" is being implemented at Centre of Excellence in Biofuels. One of the main objectives of the centre is development of high yielding varieties and hybrids in *Jatropha* and other Tree Borne Oilseeds (TBOs). In this context, a survey for exploring phenotypically superior genotypes in *Jatropha* was conducted in Anaikatti region during July 2009. During the survey, the scientist team comprising Dr. V. Muralidharan,



Assistant Professor (Forestry) and Dr. M. Paramathma, Director of Research, identified a very old plus tree in *Jatropha curcas* (more than 30 years old) with promising morphological features. The plus tree was designated as CJCS-7 and the clones from the plus tree were designated as CJCC-3.

Semi hard wood cuttings of the plus tree were collected and are being propagated in the TBO nursery of the Centre. Upon evaluation, the vegetative propagules and seeds will be sent to National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources, New Delhi



NEW SCHEMES

| Name of the Scheme | PI | Amount (lakh Rs.) | Funding Agency |
|--|--|-------------------|--|
| Biodiesel from algae | Dr. N. O. Gopal Professor (Microbiology) | 32.23 | Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd., (BPCL), Cochi |
| Evolving suitable herbicide for tropical sugarbeet | Dr.A.Balakrishnan Professor (Agronomy) | 11.29 | Syngenta India Ltd., |
| Balanced fertilization for yield maximization and impact of root exudates on soil health in glory lily (<i>Gloriosa superba</i>) | Dr.D.Vasanthi Professor (SS&AC) | 9.50 | NMPB-GOI |
| Bioefficacy, phytotoxicity effect on natural enemies and residues for Fipronil 5% SC on chilli and rice | Dr.P.Sivasubramanian Director (DPM) | 3.41 | M/s. Coromandel Fertilizers Ltd. |
| Studies on the bio efficacy and phytotoxicity of Ethoxysulfuron 15 WG (sunrice 15 WG) in sugarcane | Dr.R.Panneerselvam Professor (Agronomy) | 1.99 | Bayer Crop Science Ltd., |
| Evaluation of sunwin and Basiya for the yield enhancement in sugarcane | Dr.S. Panneerselvam Professor (Agronomy) | 0.80 | Skywin Bio.Tech. |
| Evaluation of power plus on sugarcane ratoon for yield achievement | Dr. D. Packiaraj Prof & Head SRS, Sirugamani | 0.40 | The Scientific Fertilizers Company Pvt. Ltd., |

IMPORTANT VISITORS

- Dr. G. S. V. Raghavan, Mc Gill University, Canada between 7.7.09 and 8.7.09.
- Dr. Gerard Barry, Program leader for IRRI program 4 on Rice and Human Health and Golden Rice Network Coordinator, IRRI, Philippines, on 13.7.2009.
- Dr. K. D. Kokate, Dy. Director General (Extn.), ICAR on 31.7.2009.
- Dr. V. Venkatasubramanian, Asst. Director General (AE), ICAR between 31.7.2009 to 1.8.2009.

Published by :
Directorate of Planning & Monitoring, TNAU.
Coimbatore - 641 003.

Printed at :
Directorate of Open & Distance Learning,
TNAU Offset Printing Press,
Coimbatore - 641 003.

To

From
Directorate of Planning and Monitoring,
Tamil Nadu Agricultural University,
Coimbatore - 641 003