

# TNAU NEWS



## TAMILNADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY NEWS LETTER

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### National group meeting on Spices )))



The XX National Group Meeting of All India Co-ordinated Research Project on Spices (AICRPS) was organized at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University,

Coimbatore from 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> June 2009. The meeting was organized by ICAR to review the Nation wide operated net working research projects on Spices. The Deputy

Director General Horticulture Dr.H.P.Singh inaugurated the group meeting. The Vice-Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University Dr.P.Murugesha Boopathi presided over the function. Dr.E.Vadivel, then DEE, Dr.V.A.Parthasarathy, Director, IISR, Calicut, Dr.M.Anwer, Director, National Research Centre for Seed Spices, Dr.M.Anandharaj, Project Co-ordinator (Spices) and Dr.K.Rajamani, Professor and Head, Department of Spices and Plantation Crops, HC&RI, Coimbatore were also present. About 120 scientists working in the AICRP on Spices scheme functioning in 19 centres spread over 14 states from all over India including ICAR Institutes participated in the group meeting.

### Workshop on ODL content development methodologies

The inaugural function of the Distance Education Council of India sponsored workshop on "ODL Content Development Methodologies" was held on 27.5.2009 at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore under the Chairmanship of Dr.P.Santhana Krishnan, then Registrar of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University.

Dr.G.Selvaraj, then Director, Open and Distance Learning in his welcome address, highlighted the

importance of ODL programmes in the agricultural scenario in view of its many qualities favourable for promoting life long learning among various stakeholders.

Dr.P.Santhana Krishnan, then Registrar TNAU said, the future belonged to ODL education. This was more so in the case of the agricultural sector. "Of late, with the increasing exodus of many youth from the agricultural sector due to its losing appeal, the direct involvement of scientists is necessary

under the developing circumstances to reverse the situation. New approaches of the University such as Precision Farming, System of Rice Intensification, Seed Village etc., have gained momentum. TNAU has



taken a lead in delivering extension services to farmers through e-extension and mobile agro services, Dr.Santhana Krishnan added.

While delivering the inaugural address, Dr. V. Balaji, Global Leader, ICRISAT, Hyderabad stated that a new generation of farmers and stakeholders in the agricultural sector is emerging in our country. This new generation is characterized by the presence of mobile phones, computers, use of internet, etc.

Further, he said new extension technologies and approaches were required to deal with this new generation of farmers, especially in the form of ODL programmes.

Developed country like the US is not in a position to teach agriculture through distance learning to those in the developing countries as they are not equipped to do so. But, India is highly suited to offer ODL education and related services to other developing countries, especially Africa, he informed. TNAU had taken a lead in ODL education in the country and was slated to become a

National and global leader in the days to come.

Though ODL education had gained late entry into the agricultural sector, it was rapidly progressing. The potential of ODL education was so high that in the future, ODL graduates in agriculture would be considered on par with regular graduates.

Dr.S.Palanisamy, Professor (Agricultural Extension), Directorate of Open and Distance Learning, TNAU, Coimbatore proposed a vote of thanks.

**Annual Research Meet on Palms**

The Annual Research Meet on Palms 2009 was held for two days between 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> June 2009 at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore. In the inaugural session, Dr.B.Chandrasekaran, then Director of Research, offered welcome and introductory remarks. He stressed up on the need to contain the Coconut wilt in Cauvery delta region and to take quick action for developing nucleus dwarf seed garden at

NPRC, Vamban. He also insisted the importance of organic management in Coconut and for identifying high neera yielding Palmyrah. Dr. P. Murugesha Boopathi, Vice-Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, presided over the meet and inaugurated the two days programme and suggested various research priorities for the betterment of coconut growers. In the concluding session on 17<sup>th</sup> June, 2009, Dr. Natarajan, Deputy Director of Research proposed vote of thanks.

**Training on integrated vegetable grafting technology**

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), Coimbatore in collaboration with AVRDC – The World vegetable centre, Taiwan and USAID supported IPM CRSP, Virginia Tech, USA jointly organized a training on “**Integrated vegetable grafting technology for managing soil-borne diseases**” at Dharmapuri Precision Farmers Nursery, Somanahalli, Dharmapuri District on 04.06.2009. Dr. S. Mohankumar, Professor, Dept. of Plant Molecular Biology and

**Inauguration of DNA finger printing and GM crop testing laboratory >>>**



Under Centre of Excellence in Seed Science & Technology, Rs.70.00 lakhs was sanctioned by Ministry of Agriculture, New Delhi for strengthening existing seed testing laboratory and establishment of new DNA finger printing and GM Crop testing laboratory at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore. Our Vice-Chancellor Prof. P. Murugesha Boopathi inaugurated the newly established DNA Finger Printing and GM Crop Testing laboratory at the 1<sup>st</sup> Floor of Seed Centre on 22.06.2009.



addresses emphasizing the needs of vegetable grafting and prospects achieved with the training in different countries.

Members of Dharmapuri Precision Farmers Association participated

explained regarding construction of tunnel-type grafting chamber, which is the pre-requisite for establishment of vegetable grafted seedlings using locally available materials. Grafting technique was explained and hands on training was imparted using pro-tray raised seedlings of tomato, brinjal,



Biotechnology, TNAU explained the various activities under IPMCRSP. Dr. K. Angappan, Associate Professor, Dept. of Plant Molecular Biology and Biotechnology, TNAU and Dr. R. Srinivasan, Entomologist and Head of Entomology Unit, AVRDC delivered special

and benefited out the training. Out of 55, fourteen women farmers also actively participated. The participants were divided into six groups. The farmers were

## NSS SPECIAL CAMPS >>>

### At HC&RI, Periyakulam



A special camp of National Service Scheme (NSS) was conducted for the students of Horticultural College and Research Institute, Periyakulam at Alagarsampuram village of Periyakulam Taluk from 20.05.09 to 26.05.09. Dr. S. Natarajan, then Dean in his inaugural address stressed the need for a stronger collaboration between youth and public for the upliftment of the rural areas. Mr. M. Justin Prabhakaran, Inspector of Police, Mrs. Seethalakshmi, Chairman of the Periyakulam block, Mr. M. Abdul Samud, Vice

Chairman, Mrs. Lakshmi Thangapandi, President of Keelavadakar ai village, W a r d Councillors of the village, Presidents of various farmers' associations and village heads

delivered felicitation address. A special Eye Camp was conducted by Aravind Eye Hospital, Theni in which 186 people were treated and 29 were sent for further examination at this hospital. A General Health Camp was conducted by a team of Medical Officer in association with Rotary Club of Periyakulam. The awareness about the use of ambulance service was also highlighted to the general public.

A special programme on Horticultural Technology was conducted in which technical

lectures on various aspects of horticulture were delivered. Soil test camp was conducted by the staff of STL, Theni. Preparation of juice, jam and mushroom cultivation trainings were also given to the farm women. Tree planting was taken up as a part of the environment awareness programme.

In addition, a special Veterinary Camp was also conducted, in which 200 animals were treated for various ailments by Dr. K. Palaniandi, Veterinary Surgeon of the Periyakulam Veterinary Hospital. Sports events were held for children of the village. The camp was organized by Dr. P. Geetharani, NSS Programme Officer of the College.

### At AC&RI, Killikulam

The Special Camp of the NSS unit of Agricultural College and Research Institute, Killikulam was conducted in Murappanadu village of Thoothukudi district from 25.05.2009 to 31.05.2009.

Dr.P.Vivekanandan then Dean, AC&RI, Killikulam, inaugurated the camp and delivered the presidential address. The seven days camp included programmes on Social awareness, Education awareness, Women and child welfare, Environmental conservation, Youth development, Agriculture technology spread, Village development, Self employment, AIDS awareness, free Veterinary camp and free Health and Eye camp. Rallies on Social awareness, Environmental awareness and Education awareness were organised by the second year NSS volunteers. Eminent personalities from various Government and link Departments, NGOs participated and delivered the various beneficiary schemes available for the villagers. The volunteers also undertook cleaning of temple and school premises in the village. Competitions on sports and games, singing and dancing were also held and prizes distributed. Cultural programmes were also held highlighting women education, environmental conservation and AIDS awareness. The NSS programme officers Dr.R.Jhansirani and Dr.P.T.Ramesh co-ordinated the camp.

**At ADAC&RI, Trichy**

The NSS volunteers of Anbil Dharmalingam Agricultural College and Research Institute, Navalur Kuttapattu, Tiruchirappalli conducted the NSS special camp at Periya Alampattipudur, Manikandam Block, Tiruchirappalli from 24.5.09 to 30.5.09.

The special camp was inaugurated by Dr. S. Jeyaraman, then Dean, ADAC&RI, Trichy.



Greening the village and environmental awareness was the motto for the first day of the camp. Totally, 200 tree saplings were planted throughout the village by the village VIPs, students and youth club members. The roads, thorny bushes and garbage were cleaned in front of the school, temple, church and mosques. Tree saplings were also planted in these religious places. The primary schools were cleaned, white washed completely and slogans were written on the walls depicting the importance of education. The NSS volunteers contributed 50 slates, 60 notebooks to the school students and 100 books to the village library. A free medical camp was organized in collaboration with the primary Health Centre, Inamkulathur. About 116 village people and 22 of our own students have benefited. Free checkups for blood pressure, cold, cough, dysentery, wheezing were done and free medicines were also supplied.

In the free Veterinary Camp, 186

animals were treated. The doctors also interacted among the NSS volunteers and explained the disease management practices, pregnancy verification and general

care of cattle. A free eye camp was also conducted in collaboration with Mahathma Eye Hospital, Tennur, Trichy. Totally 126 villagers were screened for eye complications



and volunteers also sponsored money for cataract surgery to 9 aged people.

For rural youth, self employment special sessions viz., apiary, mushroom production, piggery and vermicomposting techniques were organised. Awareness programmes were also conducted for polythene free environment and importance of blood donation. Agricultural techniques like drip fertigation, SRI and soil sampling techniques were also emphasized among the villagers. Sports were also conducted to encourage the village children on extra curricular activities and prizes were also distributed.

## A book on palmyrah )))

A book on *panai* (palmyrah) in Tamil authored by Dr.V.Ponnuswami, Dr.M.Prabhu, Dr.A.Ramesh Kumar and Dr.B.Senthamizh Selvi was prepared under the DBT funded scheme entitled "Entrepreneurship development of edible and non edible products formulation, value addition and marketing of palmyrah (*Borassus flabellifer*) palm" at Horticultural College and Research Institute, Coimbatore. This book contains complete information on palmyrah. It has 18 chapters with attractive colour photographs. In his foreword the Vice-chancellor, TNAU, highlighted about ancient tradition of palmyrah in our culture, distribution, value addition and uses of palmyrah products, constraints and scope in



palmyrah cultivation and government schemes for development of palmyrah industry. He also opined that this book will be useful for the palmyrah tappers and their family members, academicians, researchers and policy makers. This book was released by the

Vice-Chancellor, TNAU, during Annual Research Meet on palms held at Coimbatore on 16.06.2009. Those who are interested to have the book may contact Dr.V.Ponnuswami, Dean, HC&RI, Periyakulam & Principal Investigator, DBT Palmyrah schemes.

chillies, bitter gourd, bottle gourd, watermelon and pumpkin. The training was concluded with distribution of participation certificates to the participants.

### Interactive meeting on breeder seed production and distribution

The interactive meeting on breeder seed production and distribution with private seed producers and TNAU scientists was held on 22.06.2009 at Seminar Hall – I of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University,, Coimbatore. The Vice-Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, the Special Officer (Seeds), Director of Research, Director (Agri-Business Development) and Chairman of Tamil Nadu Seed Producers' Association, Scientists of TNAU and private seed producers from various parts of the state attended the meeting.

Dr. A. S. Ponnuswamy, then Special Officer (Seeds) welcomed the gathering. The Vice-Chancellor, TNAU in his presidential address, stressed the importance of quality seed for the production and productivity of crop plants and the need to increase the seed replacement rate especially in pulses and oilseeds. He requested the seed producers to produce good quality seeds in higher quantities in order to achieve higher seed replacement rate for higher productivity. The Vice-Chancellor assured that Tamil Nadu Agricultural University is ready to impart trainings for needy seed producers on quality seed production and processing techniques.

The special features of different crop varieties released by Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, and the procedure for commercialization of technologies

developed by Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, were explained and the seed producers were requested to make use of the services provided by the University. The need to follow the recommended generation of seed multiplication chain was also insisted.

### Farmers' training camp

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) has organized a farmers' training with the Co-operation of Union Bank of India at Virinjipuram on 26.6.08. More than hundred farmers participated in the training camp.

Dr.S.Nanthakumar, Programme Co-ordinator welcomed the gathering. They were explained about the mechanization of farming, farm and crop

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## Group discussion on IPM in vegetable crops >>>



A "Group discussion on IPM in vegetable crops" was conducted in the Department of Bio technology, through Integrated Pest

Management Collaborative Research Support Programme (IPM CRSP) on June 2, 2009. Thirty farmers from various villages around Coimbatore participated.

Dr. M.L.Chadha, Director, AVRDC Regional Centre, Hyderabad, Dr. R. Srinivasan, Entomologist, World Vegetable Centre, Taiwan and Professor and Heads of Entomology, Pathology, and Nematology and scientists of this department and plant protection group participated in the discussion and gave solutions to the queries raised by the farmers.

management aspects, organic farming and related components, soil and water management and quality seed production by the staff members of Agricultural Research Station, Virinjipuram

An exhibition was organized in the experimental farm, farmers were taken round the farm and were exposed to the latest development on Drip fertigation, Water saving techniques, advanced method of

crop production etc.,

The one day training programme came to an end with vote of thanks by Thiru. T. Nagarajan, Branch Manager of Union Bank of India.

### NEW SCHEMES

Name of the Scheme	PI	Amount (lakh Rs.)	Funding Agency
A value chain on Mango and Guava for Domestic and export markets	Dr.T.N.Balamohan Prof.&Head (Fruit Crops)	103.17	ICAR-NAIP
Studies on the bio efficacy and phytotoxicity of Ethoxysulfuron 15 WG (sunrice 15 WG) in sugarcane	Dr.R.Panneerselvam Professor (AGR)	1.99	Bayer Crop Science Ltd.,

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