

TNAU NEWS

TAMILNADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY NEWS LETTER

Patron : Dr. P. MURUGESA BOOPATHI- Vice Chancellor

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Launching of parasitoids against papaya mealy bug at Madurai →



Realizing the importance of biological control of papaya mealy bug *Paracoccus marginatus*, the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University in collaboration with the National Bureau of Agriculturally Important Insects (NBAIL), Bangalore imported three parasitoids viz. *Pseudleptomastix*

mexicana and *Anagyrus loecki* from Costa Rica and Mexico, USA and they were first released at Coimbatore on 7.10.2010 on Tapioca. Subsequently the parasitoid *Acerophagus papayae* was mass cultured in the Insectary at AC&RI, Madurai and released in the farmer's field on 1.12.2010 at

Errampatti, Alanganallur block, Madurai by Dr.P.Murugesha Boopathi, Vice Chancellor, TNAU, Coimbatore in the presence of Mr.C.Kamaraj. IAS, District Collector, Madurai, Dr. R.J. Rabindra, Director of NBAIL, and Mr.Moorthy, MLA of the Sholavandan constituency.

Field visit of experts from Sir Ratan Tata Trust

A Private Agency scheme on “Dissemination of resilient and productive varieties to improve income and livelihood security of rainfed rice farmers of Tamil Nadu” sponsored by Sir Ratan Tata Trust, Mumbai is in operation at ARS, Paramakudi from 2008-09 jointly with Department of Plant Molecular Biology and Biotechnology, CPMB, TNAU, Coimbatore. Under this scheme, a team comprising Dr. Ajit



Dhatt, Advisor, Dr. T.N. Balasubramanian, Advisor, RGR cell (TNAU), and Ms Khorshed Talati, Development Officer, Sir Ratan Tata Trust, Mumbai and Dean, SPGS, TNAU, Coimbatore visited the villages on 15.11.2010 where on-farm demonstrations are conducted with improved rice variety, Anna (R) 4 under rainfed condition. and discussed with the farmers on the performance of the rice variety, Anna (R) 4 in comparison to the land races which the rainfed rice farmers cultivated traditionally. Dr. Akihiko, Associate Professor, Laboratory of Regional Resources Reassessment, Asian Natural Environmental Science Centre (ANESC), University of Tokyo, Japan also visited the villages where the demonstrations are conducted and discussed with the farmers on the performance of the rice variety Anna (R) 4 over the land races.

Registrar and Director WTC visited RRS & KVK, Tirur

The Registrar and The Director, WTC and Nodal Officer,



TN-IAMWARM, TNAU, Coimbatore visited RRS and KVK Tirur on 21.10.10. Tree planting was undertaken at this station in which Registrar and Director WTC planted coconut seedlings.

Interactive session on Dual degree programs

An interactive session with UG final year and PG first year students was organized to sensitize on Dual degree programs jointly offered by TNAU and Cornell University. The interactive session was presided over by our Vice-Chancellor Dr. P.Murugesha Boopathi on 11.11.2010 at Anna Auditorium, TNAU, Coimbatore - 3.



National Training at AEC&RI, Kumulur

A five-day National Training on “Pre and Post Harvest Management Techniques for Seed Quality Assurance” was organized at AEC & RI, Kumulur. The training was sponsored by the National Seed Research and Training Centre, Varanasi. Agricultural Officers, Seed Certification Officers and scientists numbering 28 from different parts of the country attended the training.

Additional Secretary, Agriculture, GOI visited RRS and KVK, Tirur

Additional Secretary, Agriculture, GOI, Thiru. Ashish Bahuguna visited Rice Research Station, Tirur on 19.11.2010 to see the activities of NADP and Automatic Weather Station. He has visited the fields and discussed with the scientists of RRS and KVK about the research activities going on at the station.

Trainings at ORS, Tindivanam

a) Training on vegetable cultivation

A seven days training programme sponsored by NABARD on “Vegetable cultivation towards the maximization of yield in sustainable Agriculture” was organized for 30 Women Self Help Groups of Villupuram District during November 22 - 28 at ORS, Tindivanam.

b) Training on mushroom cultivation

A NABARD sponsored MEDP training on “Cultivation of Mushroom utilizing agricultural by-Products, for Women Empowerment” was conducted from 22.11.2010 to 28.11.2010 (7 days) at ORS, Tindivanam. Thirty women representing various SHGs from different Villages of Villupuram district participated in the Training programme.

AICRIP- Entomology at TRRI, Aduthurai

Dr. J.S. Bentur, Principle Scientist, Entomology, Directorate of Rice Research, Hyderabad has visited the TRRI Aduthurai for a Ph D Scholar Viva-Voice and visited the AIRCIP activities and Pheromone quality lab.

Field Exposure Meeting on Small millets

A project entitled, "Popularization of Small millets in Hilly Tribal Areas and Small Farms in Tamil Nadu" is operated at Department of Millets, Centre for Plant Breeding and Genetics, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore with the funding (Rs10.0 lakhs) of Sir Ratan Tata Trust, Mumbai from 2008. Small millet growing farmers are exposed about the High Yielding Varieties and trained in advanced cultivation practices at their villages in Erode, Thiruvannamalai and Cuddalore districts. In addition, field demonstrations are

also laid in *ragi*, *samai* and *varagu* crops. For the benefit of the farmers, a field exposure meeting was organized at Department of Millets on 5.10.2010. A total of 40 farmers participated in the programme.

An exhibition depicting the value added products of small millets viz.,



varagu, *tenai*, *samai*, *kuduraivali*, *panivaragu* and *ragi* flours and their recipes, *pakkoda*, *murukku*, *sevai*, *mixture*, *paniyarum*, *adhirasam*, *pongal*, *Halwa* and *payasam* made out of these small millets, cookies, biscuits, bread and health mix were displayed.

Dean (Horti.), HC&RI Coimbatore, inspects VRS, Palur

The Dean (Horti.), Dr. N. Kumar, HC & RI, Coimbatore visited the Vegetable Research Station, Palur on 20.10.10. Dr. R. Vaidyanathan, Professor and Head, VRS, Palur explained about the activities of the research station. A small exhibition was arranged

Golden Jubilee Award for Excellence 2010

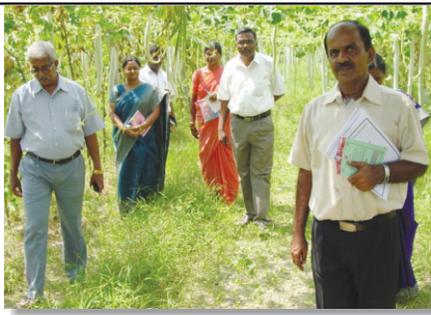
The Fertiliser Association of India, New Delhi, Golden Jubilee Award for Excellence in the field of Nutrient Management of Vegetable and Fruit Crops was presented to Dr. P.Murugesha Boopathi, Vice Chancellor, Dr.R. Santhi and Dr.R. Natesan, Professors of Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore. The team has been awarded for the commendable research work done on nutrient management through soil test based Integrated Plant Nutrition System (mineral fertilizers, organic manures and biofertilisers) on Inceptisols, Ultisols and Alfisols for vegetable crops viz., onion, bhendi, cabbage, carrot, potato, tapioca and chilli. They developed site and situation specific soil test crop response based Integrated Plant Nutrition System (STCR-IPNS) fertilizer recommendation packages for desired yield targets of vegetable crops. The STCR-IPNS packages are useful to avoid nutrient mining,



recycle the farm wastages, ensure balanced and efficient fertilizer use and sustain production potentials of vegetable crops.

On behalf of the team, Dr. R. Santhi, Professor, Department of Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry, Directorate of Natural Resource Management, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University,

Coimbatore-3 received the award on 29.11.10 in the Inaugural function of the FAI Annual Seminar 2010 at New Delhi from Mr. M.K.Alagiri, Hon'ble Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilisers, Government of India. The award carries a Citation, Gold Medal and a cash prize of Rs. 20,000/-



including the released varieties and vegetable seeds produced at the station. The Dean critically reviewed the seed production and NHM Model nursery activities and the orchard. He finally concluded by planting a Jack variety PLR 1 seedling in the nursery area.

Demonstration on machine transplanting

A field level demonstration on preparation of template nursery for machine transplanting and operation of power weeder in "Rajarajan 1000" rice field was conducted in A. Kullampatti village of Edapadi taluk, Salem district in the presence of District collector,



Salem and Dr. S. Chellamuthu, Director, Water Technology Centre, TNAU, Coimbatore. Thiru. Ravichandran, Joint Registrar of Co-operatives, Salem has explained the services and activities of PACS to farmers and also explained about the details of "Rajarajan 1000 (SRI)" rice cultivation.

Field day of ARS, Thirupathisaram

The field day of the Agricultural Research Station, Thirupathisaram

was celebrated on 28.9.2010 at Thirupathisaram. The Heads of the KVK Pechipari, HRS Pechiparai and FRS Thovalai and the Joint Director, Deputy Director, Assistant Directors of Agriculture and Progressive farmers of Kanyakumari District participated.

The farmers and extension officials inspected the pre-release rice culture TP08010, which was at the ripening stage. The performance and features of the



culture were explained by Dr. A. P. M. Kirubakaran Soundararaj, Professor & Head. A discussion on the prospects of Agriculture, Horticulture and Floriculture in Kanyakumari was held under the chairmanship of Th. V.Louis Rajarathinam, Joint Director of Agriculture, Nagercoil. The Field Day and the meeting were organized jointly by ARS Thirupathisaram and KVK, Pechiparai.

Motivational Talk on Leadership in Action

The Directorate of Students Welfare, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University organized a motivational talk on "Leadership in Action" on



21.10.2010 for the students. Dr.T.Rathakrishnan, Director of Students Welfare chaired the occasion and inaugurated the programme and the guest speaker Dr.C.Sylendra Babu, IPS, Commissioner of Police, Coimbatore, gave the motivational talk. In his talk on "Leadership in Action " spoke on the making of a leader; kinds of leaders and the characteristic traits required for a leader.

Sugarcane technology Tamil certificate course

Directorate of Open and Distance Learning (ODL) of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore organized a Tamil certificate course on "Sugarcane Production Technology" and inaugurated the first PCP class on 10.10.2010 at Tamilnadu Rice Research Institute, Aduthurai. The inaugural address was delivered by Dr.V.Valluvaparidasan, Director, (ODL), TNAU, Coimbatore.



Dr.T.Jayaraj, Director, TRRI, Aduthurai delivered the presidential address. Forty candidates from Ambika Sugars, Tanjore participated and benefited by the class.

Visit to Australia by Director (ABD)

Dr.R.Ganesan, Director (Agri-Business Development) attended the "Asia-Pacific Conference on Business Incubation" from 12-15 September 2010 at

Cairns, Australia which was sponsored by the Australian Government's International Development Agency (Aus AID). The International Conference was supported by Business Innovation and Incubation Australia (BIIA), National Australia Bank (NAB), Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research of Government of Australia, Australian Institute of Enterprise facilitators and Aus AID.

Exposure visit

Under Capacity Building activity of TN-IAMWARM, exposure visit to Regional Agricultural Fair was organized by Rice Research Station, Tirur. Fifty farmers each from Kosasthalaiyar sub basin and Araniyar sub basin were taken to

Regional Agricultural Fair held at CODISSIA Trade fair complex, Coimbatore on 01.10.10 and 02.10.10.

The exposure visit was organized to share various technologies developed by the Agricultural Universities of Southern states viz., Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Lakshadweep.

Elocution competition on National Press Day

In commemoration of the National Press Day, on 16th November, an inter-collegiate elocution competition was organized by the Directorate of Students Welfare on the theme, Media and Corporate World: Challenges and Opportunities.



Thirteen colleges including the ten constituent colleges and three affiliated institutions under Tamil Nadu Agricultural University participated in the competition.

P.S. Ranjani, I B.Tech (AIT) of Agricultural College and Research Institute, Coimbatore, bagged the first prize; M.Midhunraj, I B.Sc., (Ag.) of

TNAU Registrar nominated as Fellow of Indian Society of Agronomy

Dr. P. Subbian, Registrar and Professor (Agronomy), Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) has been nominated as Fellow of Indian Society of Agronomy (ISA) for the year 2007. He was honoured with the award on Dec. 2, 2010 during the Annual Meeting of ISA held at University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru. Dr. K. Narayana Gowda, Vice-Chancellor, University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru presented the award in the presence of Dr. Arvindkumar, Deputy Director General (Education), Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, Dr. J.S. Samra, Chief Executive, Rainfed Farming Authority, Govt. of India, New Delhi, Dr. M.S. Gill, President, ISA, New Delhi and Dr. H.V. Nanjappa, Dean, Post Graduate Studies, University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru.

Dr. Subbian has been nominated as Fellow in recognition of his contributions in the field of Agronomic research and education.



He was responsible for development of high intensity cropping systems suited to irrigated and dryland conditions; and Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) practices for major field crops, which have been widely adopted by farmers of Tamil Nadu.

Dr. Subbian is currently occupying the important positions in several national and state level

committees and professional bodies including President, Madras Agricultural Students Union. He has published over 250 papers in reputed professional journals, and authored six books in agriculture. He has guided several M.Sc. and Ph.D scholars in their thesis research. He has till date received five awards for best research work in agronomy. Currently he is serving as Registrar of TNAU.

Thanthai Rover Agricultural College, Perambalur won the second prize and K.Lakshmi, II B.Tech, (Bio-info.) of Agricultural College and Research Institute, Coimbatore, won the third prize. The winners received Rs.1000/-, Rs. 750/- and Rs. 500/- as cash prize respectively along with certificate of merit.

AICRIP Rice -Monitoring team Scientists visited TRRI, Aduthurai

The All India Co-ordinated Rice Improvement Project (AICRIP) monitoring team visited TRRI, Aduthurai on 7th and 8th October



2010 under the leadership of DRR scientists, Dr.V.Ravindra Babu, Principal Scientist (Plant Breeding), discussed with Dr. T.Jayaraj Director, TRRI and other related scientists working in Aduthurai centre.

Training Attended by scientists

1. Dr.D. Sasikumar, Assistant Professor (Pl. Breeding and Genetics) has attended a training programme on “Rice Breeding course -2010, from Oct 3-20, 2010, at IRRI, Philippines.

2. As a resource person for “International workshop on new paradigms in Rice hopper Resistance” Dr.G.Ravi, Associate Professor (Agl. Entomology), has visited International Rice Research Institute, Phillipines between 21 to 24 October 2010.

3. Dr.K.Raja, Assistant Professor

(Seed science & technology) has attended a training programme on “Varietal purity testing of specified traits” sponsored by National Seed Research and Training Centre, Varanasi held at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University Seed Centre Coimbatore on 25th October 2010.

Activities of HC&RI, Periyakulam



Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Murugesu Boopathi, inaugurated the Students Canteen and Club Day on 20.11.2010 at Horticultural College and Research Institute, Periyakulam. He also took part in “One student - one tree” campaign.

RAWE AC & RI, Madurai 2010

The final year B.Sc.(Agri) students numbering 86 (boys and girls) of Agricultural College & Research Institute, Madurai have been divided into 7 groups and placed in seven different IAMWARM basins under Rural Agricultural Work Experience - internship with farmers namely Girdhaml, Vaippar, Kanaludai, Uthirakosamnagaiyar, Lower Goundar, Palar for a period of one month from 23.9.2010 to 24.10.2010. The programme was organized by the Department of Agricultural Extension and Rural Sociology. Scientists incharge of IAMWARM basins facilitated and guided the students. As part of programme, the students learnt the practical experience

directly from farming community in Agricultural and allied fields in addition to



Interaction with farmers about mobile sprinkler irrigation at lower gundar subbasin

learning about their culture, customs, ITKS, rural institutions.

In this connection, an exhibition was organized by final year B.Sc. (Ag.) students of Agricultural College and Research Institute to show case their learning from farmers in seven different IAMWARM basins where they have stayed. Dr.K.Vairavan, Dean, Agricultural College & Research Institute, Madurai inaugurated the exhibition and appreciated the activities of students during village stay. Dr.V.Sekar, Professor and Head, Department of Agricultural Extension and Rural Sociology said that the realistic experience of students would help them to do better service to rural community. The Course Teachers Dr.J.Pushpa and Dr.K.Mahandrakumar, Associate Professor (Agricultural Extension) and Group Teachers of various basin evaluated the students and addressed the students.

Training for Deputy Collectors at TNAU

Inaugurating the one week training programme, organized by the Directorate of Extension Education of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University for the 24 Deputy Collectors by direct recruitment (2006-2007) batch on 15.11.2010, Dr. P. Murugesu Boopathi, Vice-Chancellor of

National symposium and workshop in food processing



The fourth National level symposium and workshop on unbound opportunities in food processing, FoodXplore 2010, was conducted at Agricultural Engineering College and Research Institute, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore on 13.10.2010. The symposium was organized to commemorate the celebration of World Food Day which falls on 16.10.2010. The symposium was presided over by Dr.S.Santhana

Bosu, Dean, Agricultural Engineering College and Research Institute, Coimbatore. Dr.P.Subbian, Registrar, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore, inaugurated the symposium and delivered the inaugural address. Dr.K. Alagusundaram, Director, Indian Institute of Crop Processing Technology, Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Thanjavur and Dr.Helmut Weidlich, George Kurz Institute, GmbH, Koln,

Germany delivered keynote address. Mr.Jegan. S. Damodaraswamy, Chief Executive, M/s.Annapoorna Groups, Coimbatore, Mr.P.Ravindran, Assistant General Manager, Agri Commercial Branch, State Bank of India, Coimbatore and Ms.B.Kayalvizhi, Assistant Director (Foods), Ministry of Micro, small and medium Industries, Government of India, Coimbatore addressed the gathering on entrepreneurship development and scope for food business in our country.

Four hundred and fifty students from 12 colleges participated in the symposium and presented 98 posters and 24 models. Also a Food Quiz was conducted for the participants. The posters and models were evaluated through a panel of judges and awarded accordingly. Dr.T.Rathakrishnan, Director, Directorate of Students Welfare, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore delivered the valedictory address and distributed the prizes.

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University called upon the participants to be proud of their selection as administrators of tomorrow's India.

Observance of Communal Harmony and Flag Day



The students of Anbil Dharmalingam Agricultural College and Research Institute,

Navalur Kuttapattu, participated in a rally, emphasizing communal harmony on 02.12.2010. The procession started from Head Post Office and ended at Central bus stand, via Muthiraiyar Silai. The students of National Service Scheme (NSS) of this college carried the placards with the messages related to communal harmony and national integration and created awareness to the public.

Papaya mealybug parasite released at ADAC&RI, Trichy

The Crop Protection scientists of Anbil Dharmalingam Agricultural College and



Research Institute, Tiruchirappalli organized a "Papaya Mealybug Parasitoid (*Acerophagus papaya*) Release Campaign" in different parts of Trichy district viz., Government Sericulture Farm, Manikandam, farmers fields at Pallakadu (Mulberry), Thoppampatty in Manaparai taluk (Tapioca) on 16.11.2010.

Honour for coconut farmer ➡



Thiru. O.V.R.Somasundaram, Board Member, TNAU, Coimbatore and a progressive coconut farmer from Pollachi has been honoured in recognition of his valuable contribution in integrating innovative technologies for realising higher income from coconut based farming system in the International Conference on Coconut biodiversity for Prosperity organized by Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Kasargod, Kerala held during October 25-28, 2010.

Papaya mealybug parasitoids production at SWMRI



Papaya mealybug exotic parasitoids mass production programme was inaugurated by Dr.T.Jeyaraj, Director, Tamil Nadu Rice Research Institute, Aduthurai during his visit to SWMRI, Thanjavur on 22.11.2010. During the occasion, Director, TRRI and Dr.B.Chandrasekaran, Professor and Head of this institute released mealy bugs on papaya plant raised under shade net condition for field culturing of *Paracoccus marginatus*.

Sudden incidence of the mango mealy bug

The mango mealy bug *Rastrococcus iceryoides* (Green) (*Pseudococcidae: Hemiptera*) is known to be notorious insect pest in mango and has caused damage to other horticultural crops like guava and cocoa. It is

one of the most dreaded insects at the quarantine in the western countries during the import of Indian mangoes. Recently it has been found invading agricultural ecosystems. It has been observed to have caused damage on cotton in Coimbatore during 2007-2008. In the wake of the newly emerging invasive pests keen vigilance on the incidence and damage by insect pests of the other



ecosystems into the agricultural ecosystems is imperative.

Keeping this in view, continuous surveillance and monitoring of the insect pests affecting pulses is being taken up at the National Pulses Research Centre, Vamban, Pudukkottai. The sudden incidence of the mango mealy bug *R. iceryoides* was observed in pigeonpea during November 2010.

The infestation was observed in the main stem at the base initially @ 5-10 colonies/5 cm in the vegetative stage of the crop. In each ovisac on an average of 300-355 eggs were observed. From the main stem the mealy bug infestation spread to the leaves. The nymphs were found on the ventral side of the leaves and their feeding resulted in premature leaf drying and severe infestation leads to drying of the young plants. Owing to their seriousness of causing damage, detailed bio ecology of the same is required in the future.

Cotton Research Station, Veppanthattai, Perambalur

Dr.T.Jayaraj, Director, Tamil Nadu Rice Research Institute visited CRS, Veppanthattai on 03.11.2010 and reviewed individual scientists. He urged the scientists to release new



onion variety suitable for the rainfed tracts of Perambalur district.

Training on Scaling up of Water Productivity and Management Technology



Training programmes on “Scaling up of Water Productivity and Management Technology” were given to officials from agriculture, horticulture and agricultural engineering departments of Erode, Salem, Namakkal and Karur districts (from 18.10.2010 to 31.10.2010 and 10.11.2010 to 23.11.2010). The officials were exposed to various phases of water productivity and management, micro irrigation design, operation and maintenance, fertigation techniques through lectures cum demonstrations given by the Scientists of Agricultural Research Station, Bhavanisagar.

Training on Technology for increasing productivity of Beans

A one day training programme on “Technology for increasing



productivity of beans” was conducted at Horticultural Research Station, Thadiyankudisai on 05.10.2010. About 28 beans growing farmers from Thandikudi village participated and benefited.

Interactive meeting of the ICRISAT Scientist with Erode groundnut farmers

The Tropical Legumes Project II, TNAU and ICRISAT is jointly implementing 'Farmer – Participatory Varietal Selection on Groundnut' in Erode district. A two years evaluation of eight Spanish bunch groundnut varieties, ICGV 00351 and VRI 2 was conducted in 40 farmer's field in four villages of Ammapettai block in Erode district.



Dr.S.N.Nigam, Principal Groundnut Breeder, ICRISAT, Hyderabad interacted with the farmers on 3.11.2010 at Punachi. They narrated their experience and the merits of ICGV 00351 over the ruling variety VRI 2. On an average they harvested 2600 Kg/ha in ICGV 00351 as compared to 2000 Kg/ha in VRI 2.

ATMA training program at RRS, Ambasamudram

ATMA training program was conducted on Pulses production techniques on 15th and 16th November 2010 at Rice Research Station, Ambasamudram. Joint Director of Agriculture, Tirunelveli inaugurated the function. Twenty

five farmers participated in the training programme.



ICAR – Sponsored Winter School on Biopesticides

An ICAR sponsored winter school on “Harnessing the potential of biopesticides against pests and diseases: Its implications in sustainable crop protection” was conducted at the Department of Plant Pathology, TNAU, Coimbatore between 9 – 29, November 2010. Twenty five scientists from State Agricultural Universities and ICAR Institutes all over India have attended the winter school. Prof. Dr. P. Murugesu Boopathi, the Vice-Chancellor of TNAU inaugurated the winter school on 9th November 2010.

The focus of the winter school was on the expansion of spectrum of biopesticides possessing individual or consortium of bioagents, improving bioformulations to extend shelf life, market adaptability and fostering industry institute linkage in the uptake and accessibility to biopesticides. The participants were also exposed by visit the



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demonstration plots and private biocontrol units viz., T.Stanes (India) Ltd, Coimbatore and Bannariamman Sugars, Sathyamangalam.

Bee Keeping Training Programme for SHG's Women at Lower Palani hills.

Ten days training programme on Bee keeping to Self Help Group women was organized



from 04.08.2010 to 14.08.2010 at Poolathur village, Kodaikanal Taluk, Dindigul District. Forty women participated and benefited. The training programme was organized by Horticultural Research Station, Thadiyankudisai, and SPACE, NGO, Dindigul District, with the financial support of the Project Officer, Mahalir Thittam, Dindigul District.

Onion bulb treatment demonstration under IPM-CRSP programme

The Department of Crop Protection, Anbil Dharmalingam Agricultural College and Research Institute, Trichy, has organized a "DEMONSTRATION PROGRAMME ON ONION BULB TREATMENT WITH BIOPESTICIDES" under the



US aided Project viz., Integrated Pest Management Collaborative Research Support Programme, Virginia Tech University, USA at Sathiramanai village in Perambalur district on 09.11.2010 in coordination with Department of Horticulture and KVK, Perambalur. Dr. G. Kathiresan, Dean of the college presided over the function. Dr. G. Gajendran, Professor and Head (Crop Protection) and Dr. D. Dinakaran, Professor (Plant Pathology) explained onion IPM package and organized method demonstration of onion bulb treatment with biopesticides. A total of 114 onion growers of Sathiramanai and Velur villages participated in the programme. The biopesticides viz., *Pseudomonas fluorescens* and *Trichoderma viridi* were also supplied at free of cost to all the participants to popularize the technology. The farmers interacted with the scientists and extension officials.

Skill Development Training at AC&RI, Madurai



The Soil Plant Analytical Advisory Centre (SPAAC) of the Department of Soil and Environment, Agricultural College & Research Institute, Madurai organized a five days training programme on "Soil, water and Plant Analysis for suitable agro advisory services from 18.10.2010 to 22.10.2010. About 16 participants from various agro-based industries, aspiring entrepreneurs, personnel manning

the private and co-operative Agri clinics cum Mini Soil Test laboratories were trained in soil testing techniques and interpretation of analytical test results through soil health card and computer health software (DSSIFER).

Field day on Precision Farming on Vegetables



Field day on precision farming on vegetables was conducted to showcase the benefits of precision farming to the farmers of Pollachi on 25.11.2010 by Coconut Research Station, Aliyarnagar. A total of 30 farmers participated in the programme.

Launching of new organic growth promoters 'SeedAid' and 'NutriGold'

Nitta Gelatin India Ltd., Cochin produces Di- calcium phosphate and Gelatin from animal bones and discards bone sludge which contains substantial amount of Secondary Proteins and minerals. A novel Project entitled "Seed and Seed crop fortification with Secondary Proteins" was operated during 2007-2009 at Seed Centre, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University with financial support from Nitta



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Gelatin India Ltd., Cochin. Through this project a protocol was developed to extract Secondary Protein extract from the crushed cattle bone sludge. The Secondary Proteins when applied through foliar spray in critical stages of crop growth increased the productivity of the crop by about 15 per cent. Similarly, the seed coating with a

variation of secondary protein extract increased the speed of germination, germination percentage, as well as seedling vigour. The 'Secondary Proteins' extracted in the liquid form will be marketed in the trade name of 'NutriGold' and 'SeedAid' by the Nitta Gelatin India Limited, Cochin was launched by Dr.P.Murugesha

Boopathi, Vice-Chancellor of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore in a formal function attended by scientists of TNAU, staff of Nitta Gelatin India Limited, Cochin, agro-input dealers, seed growers and farmers, at Farmer's Residency at TNAU on 21st, November, 2010.

← Rice and Maize Hybrids Field Expo at TNAU

The Directorate of Plant Breeding & Genetics organized a field day for Maize and Rice crops to promote latest hybrid technology among the seed companies. The recently released and other promising rice and single cross maize hybrids which are currently in All India trials, Adaptive research trials and Multilocation trials were displayed in the field exhibition on 19th October 2010. Representatives from nine National and Multinational seed companies viz., M/s. Pioneer Overseas Corporation (Dupont), Hyderabad, M/s. JK Seeds, Hyderabad, M/s. Rice Tech Inc., Hyderabad, M/s. Vibha Agro Tech, Hyderabad, M/s. Ankur Seeds, Nagpur, M/s. Krishidhan Seeds, Hyderabad, M/s. Foliage Crop Solutions Ltd., Attur, M/s. Agro Hitech (P) Ltd., Pasur and M/s. Dharani Agro Technologies, Udumalpet were visited the field exhibition and evaluated the hybrids.

Dr. K.Thiyagarajan, Director, Centre for Plant Breeding & Genetics highlighted the advancement in rice and single cross maize hybrids breeding with multiple disease resistance and suitability to different agro climatic regions of Tamil Nadu.

Dr. K. Mohana Sundaram, Professor and Head, Department of Rice explained the characteristics of rice hybrid CORH 3, TNRH 174 and TNRH 180 for their yielding ability and commercial value of the grains to the private company personnel. CORH 3 is a short duration non aromatic rice hybrid with multiple pest and disease



resistance. TNRH 174 is a medium duration hybrid with an yield potential of 8.5 t/ha with multiple pest and disease resistance. The participants evinced keen interest in assessing the seed production potential in the seed production plots of the respective hybrids. Importance and special features of these hybrids were explained in the field. Participants were convinced with the field performance of CORH 3 under "Rajarajan 1000" method of cultivation and the seed setting percentage of TNRH 174 and TNRH 180. Leaflets and sample seeds were distributed to all the participants.

Dr. G. Nallathambi, Maize Breeder explained the participants about various maize single cross hybrid cultures with different maturity groups viz., late (>100 days) and medium maturity (<100days) and the characteristics of maize single cross hybrids like yield potential, superiority over ruling hybrids, kernel traits, test weight, pests and

disease resistance. The promising maize single cross hybrid cultures viz., CMH08-282, CMH08-259 and CMH08-287 attracted the visitors. The hybrid CMH08-282 was identified as resistant to multiple diseases viz., Maydis leaf blight, Turcicum leaf blight, Sorghum downy mildew and Post flowering stalk rot with an average yield of 9 ton/ha. The other hybrids viz., CMH08-259 and CMH08-287 have recorded an average yield of 9.2 and 9.5 t/ha respectively with moderate resistance to downy mildew disease. The other special features of the hybrids include 15-20% higher yield than the existing check, highest test weight (38-42 g/100 seeds), high shelling (81-83%) and stay green at maturity.

Dr. P. Veerabhadhiran, Professor & Head, Department of Millets and Dr. Ashlam Basha, Professor (Agribusiness) interacted with the seed company representatives regarding TNAU consortium to commercialize the hybrid technology of the University.

New schemes

Name of the scheme	Principal Investigator	Amount (Lakh ₹)	Funding Agency
Molecular mapping of Mungbean Yellow Mosaic Virus (MYMV) resistance genes in blackgram (<i>Vigna mungo</i> (L) Hepper)	Dr.P.Jayamani, Assoc. Professor	39.55	DBT
Investigation on diversity of arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi in agricultural soils of Tamil Nadu for improved inoculant development	Dr. D. Balachandar (PI)	15.16	Board of Research in Nuclear Sciences, Department of Atomic Energy, Mumbai.
Minimizing the global warming potential of flooded paddy using methanotrophs	Dr.V.Davamani, Asst. Professor	14.72	DST, New Delhi
Bioefficacy and baseline studies with <i>Helicoverpa armigera</i> and <i>Spodoptera litura</i> for Widestrike cotton	Dr.V.Balasubramani	13.31	Dow Agrosience India Pvt, Ltd.,
Organizing training on quality seed production in rice, pulses and groundnut through seed village concept	Dr. T.Jayaraj,	8.61	NABARD, Chennai
Nutritional Management strategies for Irrigated and Rainfed Bt cotton	Dr.T.Sherene Jenita Rajammal Asst. Prof. (SS &AC)	6.52	M/s. Monsanto India Ltd
Evaluation of granular soil nutrients and foliar bio-enzyme composite on growth and yield of rice, banana and vegetable crops	Dr.K.Saravanan	5.52	SWROOP Agro Industries, Nashik
Demonstration of Suitable Pulp wood species for Cauvery old deltaic region	Dr.E.Subramanian	2.53	TNPL

Important visitors

- ▶ Dr.R.P.Sharma, PMMC Chairman, Dr.V.P.Gupta, Adviser, DBT, New Delhi, Dr.K.Veluthambi, Professor, School of Biological Sciences, MKU, Madurai visited DCPMP &B on 12.11.2010.
- ▶ Dr.Ajay Bhat, Scientist, TU Delft University visited Dept. of Environmental Science from 12.11.10 to 16.11.2010.
- ▶ Dr.B.Pritiviraj, NSAC, Canada visited DSW from 25.11.2010 to 27.11.2010.
- ▶ Dr.H.P.Singh, DDG (Hort.), ICAR, New Delhi visited HC&RI, Coimbatore from 26.11.2010 to 28.11.2010.
- ▶ Dr.Aki Kamoshita, University of Tokyo, Japan visited DCPMP &B from 29.11.10 to 30.11.2010.

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To
Thiru

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