



TNAU NEWS

Patron; **Dr. P. Murugesha Boopathi**, Vice Chancellor
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TAMIL NADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY NEWS LETTER

International Workshop on “Nano-film for Enhancing Shelf-life of Fruits”



The Department of Nano Science & Technology, organized an International Workshop during August 24-25, 2011, to develop a Collaborative Research Project on *“Enhanced Preservation of Fruits by Controlled Delivery of Hexanal using Nano Fibres and Bio-films Developed from Indigenous Crops”* involving Scientists from TNAU, University of Guelph,

Canada, and Industrial Technology Institute, Colombo, Sri Lanka and Myrada.

Our Vice Chancellor, Dr. P. Murgugesha Boopathi, inaugurated the event and emphasized the importance of prevention of post-harvest losses from fruits and vegetables. He insisted that the nano-film technology will be quite appropriate to reduce the post harvest losses

from perishables.

Dr. Jayasankar Subramanian, Associate Professor, University of Guelph and the Team Leader of the Project explained the genesis of the collaborative project. Dr. V. Velu, Special Officer (DNRM) welcomed the gathering and Dr. N. Varadaraju, P & H, Post-Harvest Technology Center, proposed vote of thanks.

Training on commercial bee keeping and value addition

One day training programme on commercial bee keeping and value addition was jointly organized by HRS, and Department of horticulture, Kodaikanal on 21.09.2011, to promote rural entrepreneurs, farmers and farm women.



the training. Thiru. S. Sundaram Pillai, DDH, Kodaikanal inaugurated the training. Dr. J. Rajangam, Assoc.

Totally 60 participants encompassing farmers, farm women and Self Help Group women have participated in

Professor and Head, HRS, spelt out the medicinal properties of honey and Dr. K. Premalatha, Asst. Professor (Ento.), briefed the bee keeping techniques and value added products of honey. The participants were given a booklet on “Commercial Bee Keeping”. The demonstration on bee keeping also exhibited during this training.

Training on vermicompost production technology

Training on “Vermicompost production technology” was organized recently. Totally 50 commercial cutflower growers, farmers and entrepreneurs participated in this training. Dr. J. Rajangam, Associate Professor & Head, inaugurated the function and spelt out the importance of vermicompost in crop production. Dr. D. Janaki, Asst. Prof.



(S S & A C) delivered the technical details. Finally, the trainees were taken to

vermicompost production unit available in the station for gaining hands on experience.

VC Inaugurated the Students Club at AEC & RI, Kumulur

Our Vice Chancellor Dr. P. Murugesu Boopathi, inaugurated the Students Club on 09.09.2011. Dr. A. Tajuddin, Dean, presided over the function.



During his special address, our Vice Chancellor, appreciated the role of TNAU in production of quality seeds and development of

modern farm equipment towards the betterment of farming community. He also appreciated the scientists of TNAU for obtaining self sufficiency in food grain production. He declared opened an Irrigation Park installed with modern irrigation equipment. Dr. K. Nagarajan, Staff Advisor, reported the Students Club Activities.

Farmers joined e-Velanmai scheme

Seminar on coconut cultivation and marketing was conducted to the farmers of e-Velanmai on 17.09.11 at Senjerimalaiadipalayam village (Palar sub basin). On that occasion, about 50 farmers joined e-Velanmai scheme to access agricultural extension advices instantly from the scientists of TNAU using ICT tools. About 100 farmers belonging to three Water Users' Association participated in the seminar. Dr.K.Rajamanickam, P&H, CRS, Aliyar and Dr.Ushanandhini, Assistant Professor (Horticulture) and. Dr.A.Rohini Assistant Professor spoke on coconut and other important crops of the sub basin. Mr.S.R.Rajagopal, President of Kumarapalayam Water Users Association proposed vote of thanks.

Programmes at TRRI, Aduthurai

Seed village training programmes

One day training programmes on “Quality seed production in pulses and rice through seed village concept were conducted on 07.09.2011, 20.09.2011 and 21.09.2011 at Aduthurai, Pudhur and Muttakkudi villages respectively. These training programmes were organized under the scheme, “Training on quality seed production in rice, pulses and groundnut through seed village concept to the farmers of Thanjavur District” funded by NABARD. In each training, 30 enrolled farmers of the respective seed village were participated and benefitted.



National training on “System of Rice Intensification”

One day National level capacity building training programme on, “System of Rice Intensification” was conducted on 28th September, 2011. Twelve Technical Officers from Bayer Bio Science Private Limited, representing different states in India have participated in the training. Dr. V. Ravi, Professor and Unit Head (Agronomy) welcomed the gathering. Dr. T. Jayaraj,



inaugurated the session and delivered the presidential address. A booklet on SRI and a training manual were released by the Director. Mr.V. Saravanakumar, Area Manager, South India, Bayer Bio science Private Limited facilitated the programme and Dr, S. Babu, Bayer Bio science Private Limited, proposed the vote of thanks.

B.F.(Tech) Programme for farmers

Dr.T.Jayaraj, Director, has inaugurated the first PCP class of B.F. Tech. programme (2011-2012) on 10.09.2011 and narrated the various ODL courses conducted by TNAU and their importance for the farming community. Dr.V. Ravi, Professor and Unit Head

(Agronomy), described about significance of B.F.Tech. course containing farm technologies developed by TNAU. The identified scientists of TRRI, Aduthurai delivered the lectures of first semester courses. Twelve candidates from various districts registered and benefited in the class.

Seed certification refresher course

A refresher course for the 30 seed certification officers from seven districts was held on 18th & 19th August, 2011. Dr T.Jayaraj, Director, inaugurated the course.



The ADA, Seed Certification, Thanjavur welcomed the gathering. The JDA, Thanjavur and JDA, Seed

certification, Coimbatore felicitated the inauguration function. The refresher course covers, Rice, pulses and oil seeds varieties and it features, besides imparting DNA fingerprinting technique in pulses and oilseeds crop varieties for identification.

Climate change and rice production

An awareness programme on climate change and rice production was organized at Manalur Clima village on 23.08.2011. Dr.T.Jayaraj, Director, elaborated the problems associated with climate change on crop

production. Dr. V. Ravi, Professor (Agronomy), explained the rice varieties released for different seasons from TRRI, Aduthurai and the



Maize hybrid field day by Dept. of millets



blights, post flowering stock rot etc.) and moderate resistance to stem borer. It possesses high starch (76.30 %), protein (11.25%) and beta-carotein (0.48 mg/100g) with moderate level of fat (4.65 %) and crude fibre (1.25%).

Dr. K. Ramasamy, member of State Planning Commission and Vice-Chancellor, Karpagam University,

To demonstrate the potentiality of pre-release maize hybrid, a field day was organized by involving the farmers of Kamadhenu Farmers Forum and farmers of Vadakkipalayam village on 13th September 2011. In the field day, Dr. N.Jeyaraman, President of Kamadhenu Farmers Forum, Vadakkipalayam has welcomed the gathering.

The our Vice-Chancellor has presided over the function after releasing a pamphlet on “Maize Production Technologies” and highlighted the potentiality of the new maize hybrid culture CMH-08-282. The hybrid exhibited a multiple disease resistance (Sorghum downy mildew, leaf

Coimbatore has participated and highlighted the importance of maize as a food, feed and fodder in the state. Dr. K.Thiyagarajan, Director, CPBG, Dr. P.Kalaiselvan, DEE, Professor and Head (Millets), Dr. N. Kempu Chetty, Director, Vanarayar Institute of Agriculture, Pollachi, Dr. S. Ramanathan, Former Director of Research, TNAU and maize scientists of Department of Millets and MRS, Vagarai have also participated in the function. A total of 100 farmers and State Department Agriculture officials have graced the occasion. Dr. G. Nallathambi, Maize Breeder proposed vote of thanks.

special features of the newly released variety ADT 49. Clima farmers were distributed with 5 kg of ADT(R)49 Rice variety. Dr.T.Ramesh, Assistant Professor (Agron), proposed the vote of thanks.

Installation of automatic mini weather station

An Automatic Mini Weather Station (AWS) has been installed on 17.08.2011. The AWS instrument records major weather parameters automatically at a particular time interval. The recorded data is utilized for the conduct of weather related research including pest & disease forewarning in rice and rice fallow crops and running climate change scenario models. Dr.T.Jayaraj, Director, inaugurated the automatic mini weather station.

Awareness programme on rice variety ADT 49

An awareness programme on newly released ADT(R) 49 rice variety was conducted at Thirubuvanam Clima village on 08.08.2011 under ClimaRice programme. Dr. R.Vaithilingam, Professor (Plant



Breeding and Genetics)enlightened the desirable features of the new ADT(R) 49 and its suitability to different seasons and all regions of Tamil

Nadu. Clima farmers were distributed with 5 kg of ADT(R) 49 Rice variety. 30 progressive Clima farmers participated in the event. Miss V.Rajamani JRF, Clima rice project proposed vote of thanks.

ClimaRice review team visits TRRI, Aduthurai

A progress review meeting for the ClimaRice project was conducted on 30.08.11. Dr.Udaya sekhar Nagothu, Senior researcher, The Norwegian Institute for Agricultural and Environmental Research (Bioforsk), Norway, Dr.A.Arivudai Nambi, project Director, climate change programme, MSSRF, Chennai visited the Clima village and interacted with Clima farmers. Dr.T.Jayaraj, Director, TRRI, Aduthurai explained the activities carried out in the ClimaRice programme. The awareness created, technologies demonstrated in the farmers field and training activities were appreciated. Dr.V.Geethalakshmi P & H, Agro Climate Research

Centre, Dr.Lakshmanan, Assoc. Professor (Agrl. Microbiology) TNAU Coimbatore accompanied the team. The review team suggested for revamping the programme schedule to be implemented in future at TRRI, Aduthurai.

Programmes at HC&RI, Periyakulam

Training on propagation techniques

Training on propagation techniques of medicinal plants, mango and vermicomposting was conducted on 15th & 16th September, 2011. The participant were 45 extension personnel from the state department of horticulture especially from the state horticulture farms.

The training was inaugurated by Dr. V. Ponnuswami, Dean. Dr. N. Selvarajan, P & H, Fruits



welcomed the audience. Th. Murugan, DDH and Th. Ravi, ADH, Theni District felicitated the programme. The vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. A. Rathinsamy, Professor and Head, Dept. of Social Sciences.

Parthenium eradication campaign

Parthenium is a menace not only in the wastelands but also in farmlands. In this context the NSS students have stepped forward to cleanup the weed from the campus. The parthenium eradication campaign was given a formal start by Dr. V. Ponnuswami, Dean, on 15.09.2011. The students are now involved in the work of managing this weed.

Programmes at SWMRI, Thanjavur

Silpaulin Vermibag training

One day training on “Silpaulin Vermibag” was organized on 24.08.2011 under TN-IAMWARM project for TN Govt. Agriculture Department Officers. Forty six Officers including Agricultural Officers, Assistant Directors of Agriculture and Deputy Directors of Agriculture from Thanjavur District participated. Dr. K. Ganesan, Assistant Professor (Entomology)

welcomed the gatherings. Dr. P. Parthasarathy, P & H, inaugurated the training programme. Shri V. Balasubramaniam JDA, Thanjavur District offered felicitations. Demonstration on Silpaulin Vermibag was conducted. Shri A. Vallinayagam, JRF, proposed vote of thanks.

Awareness camp on Parthenium

An awareness camp on “Parthenium” weed control has been organized in the collector’s premises on 30.8.2011 jointly by the Department of Agriculture and SWMRI, Kattuthottam, Thanjavur. Deputy Director, Mr. G. Ramadoss (Central Scheme) welcomed the gathering and Mr. K. Baskaran, District collector of Thanjavur, insisted on the importance of parthenium weed control as per the directions of the Hon’ble Chief Minister to eradicate the parthenium in a mission mode programme. Dr. B. Chandrasekaran, P and H, SWMRI Thanjavur, delivered a lecture. Posters on parthenium weed control and live specimens were also exhibited during the awareness camp. Various officials and Representatives of the Agricultural Department, Agricultural Universities, Educational Departments, NGOs, Farmers, ADAs, AOs and public participated in the campaign.

Review cum interactive meet on NADP

The NADP consultant, Shri. P.T. Umashankar, secretariat, Chennai visited Thiruvarur district on 24.8.2011 and discussed with Dr. S. Marimuthu, Assistant Professor (Agronomy), ARS, Pattukkottai about the progress of the NADP Scheme on “Enhancing rice production in salt affected soils of Tamilnadu”. He reviewed the project activities. He also visited paddy field at Korgai village of Thiruthurai poondi block, Thiruvarur district. Shri Elancheliyan, Deputy Director of Agriculture, Thiruvarur district presiding over the function. Shir. N.Devendran, Agricultural officer and officials from Department of Agriculture and more than 50 farmers participated.

M.L.A. Visits CRS, Veppankulam

Shri C. Arunpandian, M.L.A., Peeravurani Constituency visited on 26.08.2011. The mandate of the Station, Crop improvements, crop management and crop protection techniques on coconut was delivered by Dr. S. Mohandas, Associate Professor (SS & AC)

and Dr, K. Ganesan, Assistant Professor (Entomology). Area, production, productivity, value addition and by-



products were discussed. All research activities undergoing at CRS, Veppankulam were explained during the field visit.

Mechanized rice cultivation at AC&RI, Madurai

Periyar-Vaigai command area received water for 1st season for cultivation after five years on 23-8-11. Due to sudden receipt of water, mechanized rice nursery and transplanting was planned for 45 acres. Pre soaked seeds at the rate of 10kg/acre were sown in the trays. Fourteen days old seedlings were ready to be transplanted. Seedling mat were loaded in 6 row transplanter and planted with a spacing of 30 x 21 cm. which covers an acre in an hour. Thirty days after transplanting, weeding was done using Garuda weeder and conoweeder.

TN-IAMWARM - Theniyar sub basin off campus training on SRI

Off campus training was conducted on SRI at Bodi Meenachipuram on 28.9.2011 by ARS, Vaigadam. In this training, Dr.M.Kathiravan, Assistant Professor (SST) welcomed the gathering. Dr.P.R.Renganayaki (Associate professor and Head) explained importance about the SRI technology and scheme activities. Dr.C.Vaniitha, Assistant Professor (SST) expressed the importance of seed quality and enhancement techniques. Dr.M.P.Kavitha, Assistant professor (Agronomy) explained the Pai Nursery and its advantages over conventional nursery and discussed management of rice crop from nursery to harvest. More than 50 farmers participated.

Inauguration of NICRA project by ARS, Kovilpatti

The inauguration of NICRA project was conducted at Nakkalamuthanpatti village of

Thoothukudi District on 30.08.2011. The District Collector, Th. Ashish Kumar, inaugurated the project and delivered presidential address. He advised the farmers to cultivate the crops according to changing weather condition. The Professor and Head, delivered the key note address and explained core activities of NICRA project.

The charts depicting special features of dry land agriculture and publications regarding cultivation practices were displayed. The farm machineries used in dry land agriculture were demonstrated to the farmers.

Free Medical Camp for the Creche children by HSC&RI, Madurai

A free medical camp for the crèche children was organized on 26.08.2011. Dr. P. Banumathi, Dean, presided over the function and spoke on the impact of good nutrition on health. Dr. Ramesh, Medical Officer conducted the general health checkup for the crèche children in the presence of their parents. Anthropometric measurements of the crèche children were recorded and nutritional assessment were made. Dr.S. Amutha, P & H, delivered lecture on Nutritious foods suitable for infants and children to improve their health status. The parents actively participated in the camp.

Programmes at ARS, Bhavanisagar

Papaya mealy bug eradication programme

Agricultural Research Station, Bhavanisagar has organised a function on 14.9.2011 in Rajan Nagar. District Collector, Erode was invited and he issued the papaya mealybug parasitoids to selected tapioca growing farmers for the successful management of papaya mealybug. He also reviewed the status



of parasitoid release in Erode district and opined that the papaya mealybug problem has been checked effectively and

kept in control in Erode district with the help of TNAU.

He emphasised the importance of biological control to farmers and insisted them to release the parasitoids in affected fields and conserve them without applying chemical pesticides for successful and sustainable management of papaya mealybug.

Parthenium eradication campaign

Parthenium eradication campaign was organized on 15th September, 2011. Dr. P. Subbian, Registrar, chaired the program and narrated the history of parthenium invasion in India and emphasised for sustained efforts of the students community for eradicating the parthenium. Dr. M. Mohamed Yassin, P & H, welcomed the gathering and Dr. S. Marimuthu demonstrated and explained the various parthenium control measures during the program. Dr. V. Palanisamy, Professor (Seed Science and Technology) enlightened the ill-effects of the parthenium to the human beings and livestock. Dr.V. K. Duraisamy, Professor (Agronomy) delivered the vote of thanks.



Papaya mealybug parasitoid awareness campaign in Bhavani area

Dr. Mohamed Yassin, P & H, ARS, Bhanvanisagar and Dr.P.A.Saravanan, Assistant Professor (Ento.) educated the farmers about the Papaya mealy bug (PMB) parasitoids and its conservation methods. They also issued PMB parasitoids to 35 tapioca growers in a function organized by Department of Horticulture which was presided over by Mr. Vincent, DDH, Erode district and Mr. Babu and Mr. Muniandi, ADH, Bhavani were also participated in the event held at Kannadipalayam village, Bhavani on 16.9.11



Tribal welfare through NAIP

The stake holders cum beneficiaries of the

NAIP on "A Value Chain on Wild Bees" were given their due from the sale of clear honey processed from the wild honey supplied by them. The final installment of



Rs. 1, 72, 770/- was distributed to them on 15.9.2011, in a specially arranged function at the office of

District Forest Officer, Sathyamangalam. Mr.N.Satheesh, IFS, District Forest officer, Sathyamangalam presided over the function. Dr.S.Santhana Bosu, Dean, AEC&RI, and Dr.P.Karuppuchamy, P & H, Dept. of Agrl.Entomology, were the special guests.

Programmer at FRS, Thovalai

Meeting on flower Production and trade

A brain storming meeting on flower production and trade was held recently, for having an elaborate discussion among the flower growers, traders, Scientists and department officials. Dr. P. Hemalatha, Assistant Professor (Hort.) welcomed the gathering.



Dr. R. Richard Kennedy, Associate professor and Head, presided over the function, Mr.

K. Sethumadhavan, Managing Director, Vanguard Exports, Coimbatore elaborated the export procedures and opportunities available for the export of loose flower crops such as jasmine, tuberose, marigold and certain foliage crops from Thovalai region. Mr.V. Perumal, Managing Director, Natural Flowers Trading, Dubai, discussed about the Prevailing market potential of the Thovalai Flowers in Arab countries.

Training on Precision Farming in Flowers

Farmers training on "Precision Farming in Flowers" was organized recently for farmers from Tirunelveli and Kanyakumari districts. Dr. R. Richard Kennedy, Associate Professor and Head, welcomed the guests and explained the activities of the project.

Dr. N. Kumar, The Dean (Horticulture) inaugurated the function and delivered a special lecture on 'Scenario of Precision Farming in Tamil Nadu'. An interactive discussion was also organized involving flower growers, traders and Scientists. Dr.G. Preetha, proposed vote of thanks.



Training on Improved Production Technology in Pulses

A farmers' training on "Improved Production Technology in Pulses" was organized recently at Panagudi. Dr. G.Preetha, Assistant Professor (Agricultural Entomology) welcomed the gathering. The Associate Professor and Head, Dr. R. Richard Kennedy, explained the activities of the project and suggest the farmers to adopt modern technologies to augment pulses production. Dr. N. Senthil Kumar,



Assistant professor (Agronomy), Dr. S. Suresh, Associate Professor (Soil Science), Dr. G. Preetha have demonstrated the concepts of improved pulse production technologies. Farmers from Tirunelveli district participated in the training. Mrs. K. Kokila, JRF, proposed Vote of thanks.

Forestry Minister inaugurated tree planting

The tree planting mela was organized in the places of worship with a view to conserve RET tree species. It is promoted for greening the surroundings and also make a healthy and pollution free environment from the hazardous air, noise and soil pollution.

Mr.P.Patchaimal, Hon'ble Minister for Forestry, planted Krishna Al (Ficus Krishnae) in the premises of Thovalai temple and inaugurated



the planting programme. The planting of religious trees such as Parijat, Michelia, Millingtonia, Guttarda, Amaltas, Nyctanthes, Nerium, etc., were taken. Dr. N.Kumar, Dean (Hort.) presided over the function.

New schemes

Name of the scheme	Principal Investigator	Amount (Lakh ₹.)	Funding Agency
Mitigating abiotic stresses and enhancing resource use efficiency in pulses in rice fallow through innovative resource conservation practice in rice.	Dr. V. Ravi, Prof. (Agronomy), Dr G.Thangamani, AP(Ag.Micro) Dr K.Saravanan, AP(Soil Science) Dr.D.Sasikumar, AP(Breeding)	34.53	IIPR, Kanpur
Commercial exploitation and industrial application of tamarind for food grade pectin, gum and other value added products	Dr. V. Ponnuswami, Dean, HC&RI	29.78	MFPI, New Delhi
Genetic and Molecular basis of diamondback moth (<i>Plutella xylostella</i> L.) resistance to <i>Bacillus thuringiensis</i>	Dr. M. Kannan, Assistant Professor (Entomology), Thadiyankudisai	23.20	DST, SERC, New Delhi
Evaluation of herbicides in rice	Dr.T.Jayaraj, Dr.E.subramaniyan, Dr.V.Ravi, Dr.K.Chozhan	7.75	FMC, Bangaluru
Physiological effects of Nativio (Triflozystrobin + Tebuconazole) in rice, tomato, cabbage and cucumber	Dr. P. Jeyakumar, Associate Professor (Crop Physiology),	6.16	Bayer Crop Science
National initiatives for Climate Resilience Agriculture- real time pest monitoring in rice	Dr.G.V.Ramasubramanian, Prof. (Ag.Ento) Dr.SN.Jalaludeen, Prof. (Ag.Ento) Dr.A.Karthikeyan, Prof.(Pl. Pathology)	5.00	NCIPM, NICRA
Evaluation of Bayer rice hybrids and National training on SRI	Dr.T.Jayraraj, Dr.V.Ravi, Dr.K.Raja Dr.E.Subramaniyan	1.55	Bayer Bio-Science

Important visitors

- Dr.Srinivasan Raghavan, Spatial Laboratory, Texas A&M University, USA visited Dept. of ACRC between 16th and 18th September, 2011.
- Merv Pritchard, Associate Dean and Dr. Michael Trevan, Dean, Faculty of Agri. & Food Sciences, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Canada Dean, visited AEC&RI, Coimbatore between 24th and 27th September, 2011.

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To
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From
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