

TNAU NEWS



TAMIL NADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY NEWS LETTER

Patron : Dr. P. MURUGESA BOOPATHI - Vice Chancellor

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GREETINGS

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University
Coimbatore,
extends warm greetings to the
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu,
Dr. Selvi J. Jayalalithaa
on assuming the Chief Ministership
for the third time on 16th May, 2011

41st Foundation Day Celebration



The 41st Foundation day was celebrated on 02.06.2011 at Coimbatore. Our Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Murugesha Boopathi presided over the function and Dr. P. Subbian, Registrar welcomed the gathering.

Thiru S.P. Velumani, the then Hon'ble Minister for implementation of special programmes, Government of Tamil Nadu awarded medals and certificates to the 91 staff members,

who had completed 25 years of meritorious service in TNAU. During the function, 35 Best scientist awards, Best College, Best Research Station and Best KVK awards were presented for the year 2009 - 10. Further, scientists who have obtained externally funded projects, involved in release of new varieties / hybrids, invented farm implements and who have developed management technologies were honoured.

Thiru K.A. Sengottaiyan, Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture, Government of Tamil Nadu, delivered the presidential address and felicitated the awardees. Several members of Legislative Assembly and other dignitaries have also felicitated the awardees. Dr. M. Paramathma, DR, proposed vote of thanks.

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Government of Tamil Nadu,
on 16th May, 2011



Sensitization training to amla growers

The amla growers of Coimbatore, Tirupur and Erode districts of Tamil Nadu were given training on the production of amla squash, amla candy, amla shreds, amla powder and amla pickle. The training was arranged in collaboration with Post harvest Technology Centre of AEC & RI, Coimbatore as a part of extension activities envisaged under NAIP on

A Value Chain on wild Bees recently. Various production techniques of value added amla products were demonstrated to the participants. During the valedictory function, Dr. S. Santhana Bosu, Dean, AEC & RI, Coimbatore emphasized the role of value addition in enhancing the profitability of amla and distributed certificates to the participants. Dr. E.I. Jonathan, Director, (CPPS) explained the need for timely plant protection in

reaping a rich harvest. Dr. Varadharaju, Professor and Head, PHTC requested to avail the 'pay and use' facilities available in PHTC. Earlier, Dr. P. Karuppuchamy, Professor and Head, Dept. of Entomology welcomed the gathering and Dr. M. Muthuraman, CCPI proposed vote of thanks. A pictorial training manual explaining the various value added amla production techniques was freely distributed to participants.

Training for Deputy Collectors



Tiruvallur district Deputy Collector (Trg.) Dr. V. Alin Suneja receives award from our VC

A week long training for Deputy Collectors of 2006-07 and 2007-08 batch was conducted by the Directorate of Extension Education at Coimbatore from 16th May, 2011. While inaugurating the training, our

Vice Chancellor, Dr. P. Murugesha Boopathi opined that the administrators to be always a pro-active party with agricultural development and reiterated the need for a balanced approach with logical thinking, critical

analysis for proper prioritizing, skill in problem solving, an innovative mind and effective communication which are important for delivering needy farm services to the villagers at large.

The deputy collectors were exposed to soil health related technologies, application of nano technology in agriculture, recent achievements in biotechnology, water related issues and technologies, boosters for balanced nutrition, new farm implements and their application, strategies in rice, pulses and oilseeds production, recent development in fruits, vegetables and medicinal plants and automatic weather station and interpretation of weather data for day to day farm operations. Mr. S. Suriya Prakash, deputy collector, Karur district, proposed vote of thanks.

Training on advanced technology for increasing productivity of spices

One day training programme on advanced technology for increasing productivity of spices at lower pulney hills was organized recently at HRS, Thadiyankudisai. The training was inaugurated by. P. Rathinam, Farmer Director, Asian Pacific coconut corporation, Indoneisa. Dr.N.Kumar, Dean (Hort), Coimbatore presided over the function and released a booklet on "Production technology on spices". Dr.V.Ponnusami, Dean (Hort), Periyakulam has felicitated the programme. Dr.M.Ananthan, Associate Professor and Head, welcomed the gathering. The participants were exposed to the advanced technology for the production of spices crop at lower pulney hills. About 200 spices growing farmers participated.

10th Meeting of task force on agricultural biotechnology

The 10th Meeting of task force on agricultural biotechnology was held at DPMB&B, Coimbatore between 23rd & 26th May, 2011. The meeting was inaugurated by Dr. P. Subbian, Registrar. Dr. S. Nagarajan, the Chairman of the task force highlighted the importance of the meeting and its contribution to R&D in Agricultural Biotechnology in India. During this meeting, 100 new and ongoing projects were reviewed.

Field day and extension functionaries training at KVK, Pechiparai

To popularize the Rice variety Co(R) – 50 in Kanyakumari district, an extension functionary training was organized on



15.03.2011 at Nagercoil. Dr. K. Eraivan, Professor and Head, emphasized the advantages of the CO (R) - 50 and SRI techniques. Dr. T. Selvakumar, SMS (Agronomy) briefed the cultivation techniques under SRI and also explained the techniques viz., mat nursery preparation, square planting, weeding with cono weeder and Dr. S. Suresh SMS (SS&AC) explained the nutrient management techniques. A field day was conducted in a beneficiary farmer's field at Theroor on 17.03.2011.

Programmes at VRS, Palur

Training on papaya mealy bug management and PMB parasitoid release

Awareness training on mealy bug management programme was conducted on 28.04.2011 in the farmer's field at Ambalavananpettai of Cuddalore district. Totally, 36 farmers attended the training.



Dr. T. Kalaimani, Professor and Head, demonstrated and released the parasitoids in tapioca field and Dr. S. Jaya Prabhavathi, Assistant Professor (Agricultural Entomology), explained the damage symptoms of papaya mealy bug and its management practices.

Field visit by Scientists

Scientists visited the Pseudostem borer infected banana field on 28.04.2011 at Ambalavananpettai and Sigatoka disease infected G 9 banana field at T. Pettai of Kullanchavadi block of Cuddalore district. Dr. T. Kalaimani, Professor and Head, explained the pest and disease symptoms and management remedies to the farmers. Dr. M. Babu, Associate Professor (SS&AC) delivered a



lecture on problems of different soil types and Dr. A. D. Ashok, Assistant Professor (Hort.) explained the cultivation practices of banana. Totally, 20 farmers were present in this event.

Vice - Chancellor inaugurated B.F. Tech final examination at KVK, Sandhiyur

Our Vice - Chancellor, Dr.P. Murugesu Boopathi, inaugurated the final examination for I year I semester B. F. Tech. course at KVK, Sandhiyur on 7.5.2011. During the occasion, he said that among 81 lakh farm families in Tamil Nadu, 65% of them are small and marginal farmers, 15 % medium farmers and only 5% of them are big farmers. About 60% of the people in villages were school drop outs and they are not aware of new varieties, new farm implements and new technologies. He also said that in order to make the farmers



graduates, the B. F. Tech. degree course was introduced through the Directorate of Open and Distance Learning. He opined that the 743 new varieties and 149 new farm implements introduced from the University taught in this degree programme will be disseminated to the fellow farmers for the benefit of farming community.

Agronomy, Soil Science, Horticulture, Entomology, Marketing of Agricultural products, Agricultural Engineering, Sericulture and food processing courses along with theory, practical and demonstrations will be conducted in B. F. Tech. degree course. This course is being offered at six centres viz., Salem, Coimbatore, Madurai, Killikulam, Aduthurai and Tindivanam.

Employment opportunities for farm graduates

During the month of May 2011, six campus interviews were conducted, wherein three Banking sectors and three Multi National

Agro-based industries participated. Totally 581 students from the constituent colleges of TNAU have attended the campus Interview. The Multi National Agro-based industries selected 32 candidates and 14 candidates were shortlisted by Bank of India.

HRS, Yercaud won prize in summer festival



The HRS, Yercaud took active part in the 36th Summer Festival organised by the Government of Tamil Nadu at Anna Park, Yercaud and won the first prize for the Best Institutional landscape and a special prize for flower arrangement with 61 varieties of flowers.

Kuruvai Planning programme at TRRI, Aduthurai

Farmers - Scientists interactive session on "Kuruvai planning" was held on 31.05.2011. This programme was jointly organized by TRRI and the All India Radio, Trichy. The programme was inaugurated by the Director, TRRI. Thiru V. Srinivasan, Director, AIR, Trichy, delivered special address. More than 50 farmers from the delta districts participated and raised various issues related to rice production technologies. Crop improvement, crop management and plant protection scientists clarified the queries with latest crop production practices.

Papaya mealy bug parasitoid release by ARS, Paramakudi

The Plant Protection Scientists organized a papaya mealy bug parasitoid (*Acerophagus papayae*) release campaign at M. Nedungulam village of Ramanathapuram district

National day workshop on dryland development and maximizing crop productivity



Two day National workshop on "Dry land Development and Maximizing Crop Productivity" was conducted during 12th & 13th May, 2011, by the

Dept. of SWCE, Coimbatore. Dr. B. Venkateswaralu, Director, CRIDA, Hyderabad, delivered the key note address, explaining the strategies for dry land improvement. Our

Vice-Chancellor, Dr. P. Murugesha Boopathi, presided the inaugural function and stressed the importance of dry land agriculture. Dr. S. Subramaniyan, Former Director, Dept. of Land Resources, GOI, New Delhi and Er. V. Sivaparakasam, Superintending Engineer delivered the special address. Dr. S. Santhana Bosu, Dean, AEC & RI welcomed the gathering, Dr. K. Ramasamy, Professor & Principal Investigator presented the project outline and Dr.D.Tamilmani, Profesor & Head, SWCE, proposed the vote of thanks. Nearly 90 scientists participated and 63 scientific papers were presented on five themes. Dr. M. Paramathma, DR, delivered the valedictory address.



on 4th May, 2011. The parasitoid was released in the guava orchard of Th. Jeganathan. The Programme Coordinator and Professor and Head, the Joint Director of Agriculture i/c, the Assistant Director of Agriculture, the Assistant Director of Horticulture of Paramakudi, the scientists of ARS, Paramakudi, KVK, Ramanathapuram and farmers were present.

Awareness camps in Virudhunagar district by ARS, Srivilliputtur

Papaya mealy bug (PMB) parasitoid release and its awareness camps were conducted in farmers' fields at Singamalpura, Melathottiapatti and Kunnur of Srivilliputtur Taluk and Enjar of Sivakasi Taluk in Virudhunagar District

Dr.N.Murugesan, Professor and Head, released the parasitoids (*Acerophagus papayae*) in PMB infested fields of Cotton, Papaya, Tomato, Tapioca, Mulberry, Pomegranate and Hibiscus. Dr.R.Vimala and Dr.G.Gomadhi, Cotton Research Station, Srivilliputtur explained and answered the queries of farmers.

Mr. Muthumuniyandi, ADA, Srivilliputtur; Mr.Selvam, ADH-Sivakasi; Mr.Alwarsamy, HO, Srivilliputtur and Agricultural Officers, Mrs Muthulakshmi, Mr.Rajendran, Mr.Ramachandran and progressive farmers, Mr. N. A. Ramachandra Raja, Mr.Jeganathan (APC Member) of Kunnur participated along with

other farmers in the awareness camp.

D. Agri. Students visits CRS, Veppankulam

Eight students studying second year Diploma in Agriculture at Institute of Agriculture, Horticultural Research Station, Pechipparai, Kanyakumari district visited this station on 26.05.2011. The mandates of the Station, varieties released, nutrient and water management, pest and disease management and uses of byproducts of coconut were explained. The students visited the coconut experimental fields. Root feeding and hybridization techniques, pheromone trapping methods etc., were also explained. The importance of intercropping



and nursery management practices were narrated to the visiting students by the technical staff of this station

College Day celebration at AC & RI, Killikulam

The 26th College Day and Club Day was celebrated on 25.04.2011. Mr. N. Stephen Jesubatham, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Srivaikundam and alumnus of this college, delivered the keynote address and distributed medals and prizes to the students for their excellence in studies and outstanding performance in extra-curricular activities. Dr. G.Kathiresan, Director, Planning and Monitoring, delivered the special address.



Dr.R.Ganesan, Dean, delivered the presidential address. In his spirited speech to the students, he explained the reason for inviting an alumnus of the college as a chief guest and also sensitized the students to rise up to the occasion and serve the society in a better way. C. Karunambigai, Co-Club Secretary proposed the vote of thanks.

TNAU facilitates sale of processed honey of tribal hunters

The tribal honey hunters of Sathyamangalam Reserve Forests who are the stake holders of the NAIP "A Value Chain on Wild Bess" tasted the fruits of the outcome of their association with the scheme. The wild honey they harvested from steep rock cliffs of Sathyamangalam Reserve Forests through Sustainable harvest methods for which they underwent rigorous trainings during the year 2010 at Talamalai and at Coimbatore, underwent scientific procession at the newly installed honey processing unit, at Coimbatore. Our Vice-Chancellor inaugurated the sale of processed wild honey, bottled and branded as SHAKTHI honey recently. The sale proceeds of processed honey were distributed to the stake holders on 18.03.2011 in a specially arranged function. The function was presided over by Dr.P. Subbian, Registrar. The Director (CPPS) and Director, ABD felicitated the stake holders. The stake holders formed into six consortia of honey hunter groups under different names were

Honour for TNAU scientists



Tamil University, Tanjore has honoured Dr. G.Kathiresan, Director, Planning and Monitoring in the National seminar conducted recently. The topic of the seminar was "Protection of diversified species in classical Tamil literature", in which he delivered a lecture on Agriculture in classical Tamil. Dr. S.Parimala, Registrar i/c, Tamil University Tanjore, presided over the seminar. Tamil laurels and Post Graduate students of the Tamil University totaling 250 have attended the seminar



Dr. M. Premsekhar, Professor of Agronomy, Coimbatore has been awarded with "Shiksha Rattan Puraskar Award" Certificate Of Excellence with Shield for his 36 years of meritorious services in Agricultural Education and Research by the India International Friendship Society (IIFS), New Delhi on 26th May, 2011. The award was presented by H.E. General J.J.Singh, Governor of Arunachal Pradesh in the presence of Former Governor of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. Bhisma Narayan Singh.

awarded the first installment of the sale proceeds. The speakers reiterated the value of sustainable honey harvest and value addition methods that enhanced the value of their honey. The tribal honey hunters were overwhelmed with emotions on seeing their risky labour when properly channelized paying rich dividends.

MoU for research on Sugarcane

Two separate memorandam of understanding between Tamil Nadu Agricultural University and Sugar Development Fund, Government of India, have signed recently. Dr.T.Jayaraj, Director, TamilNadu Rice Research Institute, Aduthurai; Dr.T.Kalaimani, Professor and Head, Vegetable

Research Station, Palur; Dr.S.Thirumurugan, Associate Professor (Agrl. Entomology), Sugarcane Research Station, Melalathur and Th.R.P. Bhagria, Chief Director, (Sugar) from Directorate of Sugar, Ministry of Consumer Affairs and Food and public Distribution, Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi were present.

Important visitors

- ▶ Dr. Bhattachrya Vice- President JK Agri Genetics Limited, Hyderabad visited DPMB&B on 11.5.2011 regarding commercials licensing of TNAU Bt gene

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To
Thiru

From
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