



# TNAU NEWS

Patron: **Dr. K. Ramasamy**, Vice Chancellor  
Editor: **Dr. G. Kathiresan**, Director, Planning & Monitoring

TAMIL NADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY NEWS LETTER

## Dr. K. Ramasamy assumed charge as 10<sup>th</sup> Vice Chancellor



On Aug. 27, 2012 Dr. K. Ramasamy, Member, Tamil Nadu State Planning Commission took over as the Tenth Vice-Chancellor of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU).

Born on May 1, 1948 and hailing from a farming community, at Nilaiyoor, Aranthangi, Pudukottai district. he served in various capacities for 36 years since 1970 in TNAU.

He was responsible for establishing several new academic programmes *viz.*, Bioenergy, Environmental Science, Environmental Biotechnology, Microbial Technology, Biochemical Technology, etc., in Universities of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Goa and Maharashtra. He served as National Syllabus Setter and Examiner for University Grants Commission

(UGC), Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), and Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). He served as a Member in National Policy Planning of Agricultural Bio-technology, Ferti-irrigation and Biogas Development. He is presently holding position as Member in Tamil Nadu State Planning Commission (Agriculture and Irrigation) advising Tamil Nadu Government on various welfare schemes. He has worked as Dean, School of Biosciences and Bioengineering at SRM University, Chennai and Vice-Chancellor of Karpagam University, Coimbatore.

His research activity is continuously supported from 1982 by different funding agencies like Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Department of Science and Technology, Department of Biotechnology, Council

for Scientific and Industrial Research, BRNS-Atomic Energy Centre, Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources (MNES); and International agencies like Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), Food and Agricultural Organisation, Rome, United States Department of Agriculture and European Union through more than 30 externally funded projects.

He has developed need-based solutions for waste recycling and disposal and worked with industries like SPIC, TNPL, Seshasayee, SIV, Sakthi and Bannari to solve the environmental difficulties. He has published more than 120 research publications, including 7 books, 23 bulletins and organized 18 trainings and international workshops. He has obtained several recognitions in his academic and professional career, which include 18 awards, two medals, four national and two international fellowships.

He has visited countries like Belgium, England, Germany, Sweeden, France, Netherlands, United States of America, Japan, New Zealand, Australia, Brazil, etc., on varies academic assignments. He has acted as Visiting Professor for many leading Universities in America, Australia, New Zealand and Japan.

He has a broad vision for achieving targeted agricultural growth in Tamil Nadu by means of introducing changes in Agricultural education to cater to the globalising agricultural needs; Research for innovative solutions; putting innovative solutions into practice; and promoting agribusiness in TNAU.

### XXI Annual Group Meeting



XXI Annual Group Meeting of AICRP on Palm was inaugurated on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2012 at AC&RI, Madurai. The Group Meeting was inaugurated by Dr. H.P. Singh, Deputy Director General (Hort.), ICAR and presided over by Dr. P. Subbian, Registrar, and Dr. P. Rethinam, Plantation crops Management Expert. During the inaugural

function, the best AICRP centre was given to Horticultural Research Station, Ambajipeta centre for their performance during the year 2011-12. The gathering was welcomed by Dr. N. Kumar, Dean (Hort), HC & RI, Coimbatore and Dr.K.Vairavan, Dean, Agricultural College & Research Institute, Madurai delivered vote of thanks.

### Programmes conducted by TCRS, Yethapur

#### Field day In Mecheri Block, Salem district

Field day on hybrid castor was conducted under NADP scheme in Kuppamuthu's field in Pokkampatty village of Mecheri



block on 25.07.12. Dr.V. Rajendran, P&H, explained the advantages of growing hybrid castor and its yield potential under drip fertigation.

Dr.S. R.Venkatachalam, Associate Professor (PB&G) elaborated about the hybrid castor cultivation technologies. Dr. K. Thirukumaran, AP (Agron.) Dr.P. Arutchenthil, AP (PB&G) and Dr.G. Senthilkumar, AP (Agron.) delivered lectures. About 30 farmers participated in the field day and farmer Kuppamuthu shared his experience on hybrid castor cultivation.

#### Students Programmes

Under The Guidance of Scientists at TCRS-Yethapur, final year B.Sc (Ag) Students TNAU, Coimbatore under RAWE



programme actively involved in many activities: demonstration for biocontrol agents (*Pseudomonas* and *Trichoderma*) application with FYM to enrich the soil fertility and to control the soil borne diseases of various field crops. They demonstrated Tapioca sett treatment under IAMWARM project accompanied with eight line departments in Konanchettiyur. In veterinary camp at Vellalakundampirivu, they issued pamphlets on azolla

production in which the advantages of azolla as feed to increase the milk production in lactating animals and to enrich the nutrient content in cultivated field.

### Awareness Programme

The students conducted various awareness programmes in schools and villages in Valapady block. They conducted an awareness programme on 24. 07 . 2012 in Chinnamanaickan palayam in the presence of panchayat president, ADA and other Agriculture Officers on eradication of parthenium, a noxious weed.



The students imparted training on E-Velanmai to farmers at Thumbal and demonstrated STI, SSI methods from nursery to mainfield to farmers of Karumandhurai and conducted Agriculture trade & marketing awareness campaign to tribal people at Neiyamalai on 10<sup>th</sup> July. Around 50 farmers participated.

The students planted mahogani, neem, pungam, jack, jamun tree saplings at Thumbal on 27<sup>th</sup> July. They conducted essay & slogan writing competition on soil water conservation for school students and distributed prizes for the best students.

### Italian Scientists visit to TNAU

Four Scientists from University of Florence, Italy Enrico Palchetti, Vincenzo Vecchio, Didier Van Bignoot, Claudia Gabriel Zubieta visited TNAU during 8<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> July, 2012 to identify researchable issues on biofuel and bioenergy sector in order to prepare collaborative research programme between FC&RI of TNAU and University of Florence, Italy. An interactive meeting was organized with Italian Scientists, faculties and students of Forest College and identified core areas for research and educational activities in order to benefit both the



### National Award



Teachers instituted by the ICAR, New Delhi. The award was presented by Shri. Sharad Pawar, Hon'ble Union Minister for Agriculture and Food Processing Industries, in the presence of Shri. Harish Rawat, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Agriculture, Food Processing Industries and Parliamentary Affairs, and Dr. Charan Das Mahat, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Food Processing Industries during

Dr. K. Samiayyan, Professor (Agrl. Entomology), was awarded the Bharat Ratna Dr. C. Subramaniam Award for Outstanding

the 84<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day and Annual Ceremony of ICAR held on July 16, 2012 at New Delhi. This award includes a certificate, citation and rupees one lakh cash prize.

organizations. The Indian team lead by Dr.K.T.Parthiban, Associate Professor organized field visits, biofuel and bioenergy industrial visits and interaction with farmers for the Italian scientists. The TNAU and Italian team prepared a joint Memorandum of Agreement which has been sent to DARE for approval.

## Awareness Programme on IPM in Vegetables

An awareness programme on “Integrated Pest Management in Vegetables” to Agro input dealers under IPM-CRSP scheme



was organized on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2012. The programme was organized to create awareness on the importance of IPM among Agro input dealers owing to ill effects of pesticides particularly in vegetables. Dr.E.I. Jonathan, Director, (CPPS) offered the welcome address and explained the activities of IPM – CRSP for the past eight years in developing and validating the IPM module in different vegetables. Dr.P. Kalaiselvan, DEE presided over the function and delivered the special address. About 35 Agro input dealers from Coimbatore, Tirupur and Erode districts participated in the programme. An exhibition was organized and the IPM modules developed for various vegetables were explained to the Agro-input dealers. The Heads of Entomology, Pathology and Nematology Departments and IPM-CRSP scientists explained the IPM package for vegetables and clarified the queries raised by the Agro input dealers.

Dr. P. Sivasubramanian, Director of Agri Business Development and Centre for Plant Molecular Biology and Biotechnology (i/c.) delivered the Valedictory address and distributed the certificates to the participants and Dr. S. Mohankumar, Professor (Biotechnology) proposed the vote of thanks.

## Motivation programme for B.Tech. (Agrl. Engg.) students

Er.S.R.Paulraj, Vice President Escorts Limited, Faridabad participated in an interactive programme with the students and staff of Agricultural Engineering College & Research Institute, Kumulur on 07.08.2012. Er.Paulraj is an alumini of AEC&RI, Coimbatore. Prof.A.Tajuddin, Dean presided over the programme.

## Summer Internship program to the students from USA

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University and Savannah State University, Georgia, USA, signed an MoU and as a follow-up of the partnership, four Under Graduate Biology Students of Savannah State University participated in the 2012 Summer Internship program at TNAU, Coimbatore from 24<sup>th</sup> June to 27<sup>th</sup> July 2012. These students, under the guidanceship of Dr.K.Soorianathasundaram, Dr. T. Raguchandar, Dr. M. Raveendran and Dr. S. Mahimaraja took up short term research program so as to have an exposure on the research activities. They were also taken to Horticultural Research Stations at Yercaud and Ooty.

## Awards to TNAU Scientist



Dr. Balaji Kannan, A P ( S W C E ) , Department of Remote Sensing and Geographic Information System, has been awarded

gold medal by Indian Institute of Remote Sensing (IIRS), Dehradun for having secured first rank in the “Post Graduate Diploma in Geoinformation Science and Earth Observation with specialization in Geoinformatics” which he underwent from 26.09.2011 to 20.07.2012 for a period of ten months. Dr. Balaji Kannan was the first recipient of the award instituted by IIRS, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). The award was presented by the Director, IIRS in the convocation held on 20.07.2012 at Dehradun.

Er.Paulraj highlighted the latest applications of Indian tractors in agricultural and allied works. He emphasized on the expectations of tractor industries from the students. Through this interactive programme, the students of B.Tech. (Agrl. Engg.) got motivated.

### Training on papaya mealybug management



One day training cum awareness programme on papaya mealybug management was conducted on 19.7.12 at

Sugarcane Research Station, Melalathur. Totally 28 farmers attended the programme. Dr.B.Rajendran, Professor & Head and Dr. A.Thirumurugan, Associate Prof. (AEN), demonstrated and released the parasitoids in papaya field. Dr. R. Sheeba Jasmine AP. (AEN), explained the damage symptoms of papaya mealybug and its management practices through bio control technique involving *Acerophagus papayae*. The mass production techniques of this parasitoid were also dealt with.

### Participation in the Dinamalar Agri Expo 2012



An Agri Expo was organized from 27.7.2012 to 30.7.2012 by Dinamalar, Tamil Daily Newspaper to sensitize the farmers of Vellore,

Thiruvannamalai, Thiruvallur, Cuddalore and Villupuram districts. As a part of the programme, symposium on various fields viz, Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Husbandry was organized to improve the knowledge of the farmers. Symposium on

'Agriculture and Horticulture' was conducted on 28.7.2012 and 29.7.2012. The Agriculture and Horticulture sessions were headed by Dr. S. Ramasamy, Dean, Adiparasakthi College, Kalavai and Dr. S.Nandakumar, Professor & Head, Agricultural Research Station, Virinjipuram. Dr. R. Sheeba Jasmine, AP, Sugarcane Research Station, Melalathur participated and answered the queries raised by farmers. Nearly one lakh people apart from the VVIP's visited the exhibition stalls.

### SRS-NSS-Phanchayat Co-ordination Programme

The NSS special camp for volunteers was organized at Ananganallur Middle School on Organic Agriculture Awareness Programme by the Municipal Hr.Sec.School, Gudiatham to NSS Volunteers at Ananganallur. Mr. T. Velan welcomed the gathering. Dr. B.Rajendran Professor & Head, Sugarcane Research Station, Melalathur delivered lecture on Agriculture and Environmental Protection. Dr.R.Sheeba Jasmine, AP (Agrl.Entomology) delivered a lecture on Bio fertilizers and Bio pesticides. Mr. P.Saminathan, Panchayat Union President, Moongapattu Village delivered special address.

### Evaluation of New tool at Sugarcane Research Station, Sirugamani

A field evaluation was carried out with sugarcane seedlings pruner under Sustainable Sugarcane Initiative method of cane



cultivation at Sugarcane Research Station, Sirugamani on 30.07.2012. The results were encouraging with labour saving upto 40 percent when compared to conventional method of pruning. The tool designed by Director, Planning and Monitoring was handy and easy to operate.

### New schemes

Name of the scheme	Principal Investigator	Amount (Lakh ₹.)	Funding Agency
Isolation and screening of novel rhizosphere and endophytic bacterial isolates using molecular markers and exploitation against sheath blight of rice.	Dr. S. Harish, Assistant Professor (Plant Pathology) Rice Research Station TNAU Ambasamudram – 627 401	19.90	Government of India – Science & Engineering Research Board – Department of Science & Technology, New Delhi(GOI- SERB- DST)

### Important visitors

- Mr. Neil Moris Powar, Former Asst. Director, N Park, Singapore visited Professor and Head Department of Floriculture and Landscaping on 2-7-2012 and 3-7-2012
- Dr. A. Jayathilak, Chairman, Spices Board visited Professor and Head, Department of Spices & Plantation Crops on 11-7-2012
- Dr.V.S. Shinde, Director of Instruction & Dean, Faculty of Agriculture and Dr. D.P. Waskar, Dean (Agri.), Marathwada Krishi Vidyapeeth, Parbhani, Maharashtra State visited O/o. Registrar, Controller of Examinations, Dean (Agri.), Director of Students Welfare, Director (ODL) and Library on 24-7-2012 to 27-7-2012
- Dr. Matthias Pilz, Director, University of Cologne, Germany visited Professor and Head, Department of Agricultural Rural Management on 29-7-2012 to 3-8-2012
- Dr. Venkatesh Balan, Biomass Conversion Research Laboratory, Michigan State University, and Dr. P. Sellamuthu, Director, IEM, Chennai visited Professor and Head, Department of Bio - Energy on 29-7-2012 to 1-8-2012

Published by  
**Directorate of Planning and Monitoring,**  
TNAU, Coimbatore-641 003.

Printed at :  
TNAU Offset Printing Press,  
Directorate of Extension Education,  
TNAU, Coimbatore - 641 003.

To  
Thiru

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