



TNAU NEWS

TAMIL NADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY NEWS LETTER

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

ஊருக்கெல்லாம் உணவளிக்கும் உத்தமர் உழவர்களுக்கு
உதவிக்கரம் நீட்டும் பல்கலைக்கழகம்

Sixth project management and progress meeting of European Union Project - JATROPT



The inaugural function of the meeting was held in the Directorate of Research on 9th October. Scientists from Plant Research International, The Netherlands, Centre for Novel Agricultural Products, University of York, The United Kingdom, EMBRAPA, Brazil, CIRAD, France, FOFIFA, Madagascar, Universidad Autonoma Chapingo, Mexico, Quinvita, Cape Verde islands, Key Gene, The Netherlands, Universidad San Carlos, Guatemala and

Bicombustibles de Guatemala, Guatemala participated in the meeting. Dr. A. Chandrasekaran, DR welcomed the delegates. Dr. K. Ramasamy, Vice Chancellor presided over the meeting. Dr. Robert Van Loo and Dr. Raymond Jongschaap, Plant Research International, The Netherlands, co-ordinators of the scheme delivered the special address, about the scheme – JATROPT. The progress made by the participating institutes was discussed followed by a field visit to JATROPT trials.

Centre of Excellence in Biofuels is implementing a European Union project – JATROPT – *Jatropha curcas* – Applied and Technological Research in Plant Traits from 2010. The project is being implemented in 9 countries across the globe and Tamil Nadu Agricultural University represents the Asian continent. Sixth project Management Team (PMT) meeting and progress meeting of the project was conducted from 9th to 11th October.

Visit of Director, Directorate of Floricultural Research, IARI, New Delhi



Dr. Ramesh Kumar, Director, Directorate of Floricultural Research, New Delhi visited the Department of Floriculture and Landscaping, HC &

RI, Coimbatore, HRS, Yercaud and HC&RI, Periyakulam from 10th to 12th October 2012, to

review the AICRP on Floriculture. On 10th October 2012, after discussion with the Vice Chancellor and the Dean (Hort.), visited the AICRP trials. Dr. M. Jawaharlal, Professor & Head (Floriculture) and Dr. M. Kannan, Professor (Horticulture) & Scheme Officer explained the various research activities and outcome of the projects. On 11th October, 2012, Dr. R. Arulmozhiyan, Professor & Head, and other Scientists of AICRP - Floriculture briefed the research activities. The Director suggested them to undertake trails on crop improvement of speciality flowers. Dr. V. Ponnuswami, Dean (Horticulture), Periyakulam and other scientists accompanied the Director for field visits. The centre was asked to concentrate on research trials

pertaining to marigold, tuberose, nerium and waste management in flower crops.

One day training at HRS, Kodaikanal



One day seminar on “Advances in production technologies for cool season vegetables” was organized on 01.11.2012. The

training was presided over by Th. Raja Mohammed, DDH, Kodaikanal. Dr. J. Rajangam, Assoc. Professor and Head, inaugurated the training programme and delivered a lecture on Improved production technologies for potato. Ms. Bindhu Chandran, Convener and Assistant Manager, VFPCCK explained the activities of VFPCCK. Dr. B. Senthamizh Selvi, AP (Hort.) welcomed the gathering. The special lectures on advances in production technologies and crop protection aspects were given by Dr. G. Sathish AP (Hort.), Dr. D. Janaki, AP (SS&AC), Dr. T.K.S. Latha, AP, Dr. K. Premalatha, AP (Ento.) and Dr. P. Vetrivelkai. Th. Arun Rajkumar, Asst. Manager, VFPCCK delivered vote of thanks.

Visit of Dr. Matthew N. Nelson, Australian Scientist



Dr. Matthew N. Nelson, Associate Professor (Crop Molecular Genetics), School of Plant Biology,

the University of Western Australia visited Maize Research Station, Vagarai on 29.09.12. Dr. R. Ravikesavan, Assoc. Prof. and Head, Maize Research Station, Vagarai welcomed the gathering. He discussed with the scientists and delivered a lecture on “Molecular Markers in Crop Improvement”. All the scientists of MRS, Vagarai and students from G.V.G College, Udumalpet attended the lecture. He also delivered a lecture on “Flowering time QTL analysis in Brassica napus” on 1.10.12. He discussed with the Director (CPBG), scientists of CPMB and visited various laboratories of CPMB.

NABS best woman Scientist award

Dr. B. Meena, AP (Plant Pathology) working in the Department of Medicinal and Aromatic Crops, has been awarded the NABS Best Woman Scientist Award for the year 2011 in recognition of her outstanding contribution in the field of Biological Control of Plant Diseases by National Academy of Biological Sciences, Chennai.

Dr. B. V. Mehta memorial lecture -2012

The 16th Dr. B. V. Mehta Memorial Lecture - 2012 was organized by Coimbatore Chapter of Indian Society of Soil



Science on 06.11.2012. The renowned soil scientist Dr. V. Murugappan, Former Director, SCMS, Coimbatore delivered the memorial lecture entitled “Fertilizer Management: Understanding Options for Optimizing Crop Nutrition” which is highly warranted for the emerging second green revolution in the country. He reiterated that any soil fertility evaluation, research must provide highly valuable information which can be used to eliminate the major constraints contributing to food insecurity, malnutrition and eco-system degradation and can lead to sustained food security and well-being of human society without harming the environment. Dr. V. P. Duraisami, President, ISSS, Coimbatore Chapter, welcomed the gathering. Dr. S. Chellamuthu, Vice - President, ISSS - gave an introductory remarks about the lecture. Dr. A. Rajarajan, Dean (Agriculture), delivered the presidential address. The members of ISSS-Coimbatore Chapter, staff and students of various departments attended the lecture. Dr. S. Maragatham, Treasurer, ISSS- Coimbatore Chapter, proposed vote of thanks.

Training programme at HRS, Kodaikanal

One day training on “Mushroom production technology” was organized with ATMA on 06.12.2012. Mr. T. Chinnraj, ADH (ATMA) welcomed the gathering. Dr. J. Rajangam, P&H has presided. The training was Inaugurated by Th. S. Raja Mohamed, DDH (Central schemes). The lecture on mushroom spawn production, compost making and cultivation



technology was delivered by Dr. T.K.S. Latha, AP (PI. Path.). The progressive farmers, entrepreneurs, Self Help Group

members and farm women of upper and lower Pulney hill regions participated in the training and benefitted. Dr. B. Senthamizh Selvi, AP (Hort.) proposed the vote of thanks.

Best centre award to AICRP on agrometeorology, ARS, Kovilpatti



XII Biennial workshop of AICRP on Agrometeorology and Annual Review Meeting of AICRPAM (NICRA) project

held during October 9-12, 2012 at Maharana Pratap University of Agriculture and Technology (MPUAT), Udaipur, Rajasthan. Dr.A.Solaimalai, Agrometeorology and Dr.S.Subbulakshmi, Junior Agronomist, ARS, Kovilpatti attended and presented annual report. Out of 25 centres, AICRP on Agrometeorology, ARS, Kovilpatti has been adjudged the Best Centre Award for the year 2011-12 based on overall performance rating given by the Project Coordinator (Ag. Met.), AICRP on Agrometeorology, Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture, Hyderabad on 11.10.2012 during plenary session of the workshop.

NSS day celebration at TNAU

National Service Scheme (NSS), a youth programme under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, GOI, was launched on 24th September 1969, the birth Centenary year of the Father of Nation and this day is celebrated every year as NSS day. The NSS day 2012 was celebrated by all the five units of Coimbatore campus on 24.09.2012. Dr. P. Renukadevi, NSS Programme Officer, welcomed the gathering. Dr. A. Raja Rajan, Dean (Agri) presided over the function. Dr. M.R. Srinivasan, NSS Programme Officer presented the achievements of the five NSS units during the year 2011-12. Dr. A.S. Krishnamoorthy, NSS Co-ordinator felicitated the students. Dr. N. Kumar, Dean

(Hort) and Dr. S. Santhana Bosu presented certificates to dynamic NSS volunteers and blood donors and prizes to winners of NSS Day competitions. The programme ended with a grand cultural show by the NSS volunteers. Dr.P. Rajkumar, NSS Programme Officer proposed the vote of thanks.

AIR interviewed the beneficiary farmers

The officials of Farm Radio Service, Madurai interviewed the rainfed rice growing farmers of Ramanathapuram district and beneficiary



farmers of IAMWARM Scheme –Paralaiyaru sub basin, Manamadurai block, Sivagangai district on 21-11-2012. The rainfed rice farmers described the benefits they gained through higher grain yield from Anna (R) 4 paddy than the primitive varieties and ADT varieties they cultivated previously. All the farmers unanimously appreciated the drought tolerance, pest and disease tolerance and non lodging characters of the Anna (R) 4 paddy variety.

Another farmer got the grain yield of 12.5 tonnes/ha through SRI method of paddy cultivation explained the benefits he obtained through IAMWARM project. Dr. S. Senthivel, P&H explained the activities of the Agricultural Research Station, Paramakudi.

Programmes at Tindivanam

Capacity building programme for sugarcane farmers

The NABARD, Chennai has funded the Sustainable Sugarcane Initiative(SSi) project which is being implemented by ORS, Tindivanam with the active support of private sugar factories in Villuppuram, Cuddalore, Thiruvarur and Thanjavur Districts. One day training for farmers on SSI was organized at Thiru Aruran Sugar Mills Ltd., Kumbakonam on 10.11.12. Farmers numbering 60 participated. The programme was conducted by Dr. N. Sathiah, Professor & Head, Oil Seed Research Station, Tindivanam and Dr. S. Anbumani AP, in-charge of the project. Th.GN. Ranganathan, Deputy General Manager (Cane) welcomed the gathering. Mr.S.T.Ravikumar, District Development Manager, NABARD, Thanjavur inaugurated the programme and Presidential



address was delivered by Th. K. Duraisamy, Senior General Manager, TAS Ltd. Special address was delivered by Th.N.Ravishankar

DDM(NABARD), Thiruvarur. Dr.T. Sengutuvan, P&H, KVK, Needamangalam spoke about the relevance of SSI when the water availability is dwindling day by day in his special address. Mr. C Thavarajan, Agronomist, M/s. Jain Irrigation system Ltd., explained the maintenance of drip irrigation systems. Mr.Elango, Cane Officer of the factory shared the experience of TAS in SSI technology. The farmers were acquainted with skill oriented activities by the demonstration of chip bud seedlings production, planting methods, operation and maintenance of drip system. There was an exhibition displaying the SSI technologies and farmers interaction in the programme. Dr.S.Anbumani proposed vote of thanks.

on breeding programmes in castor. Dr. V. Jayalakshmi and Dr. K. Thirukumaran explained the castor research activities.

Programme Co-ordinator visits

Dr. James George, Programme Co-ordinator, AICRP-Tuber crops, Central Tuber Crops Research Institute,



Thiruvananthapuram visited on 15.11.2012. Dr. V. Rajendran, Professor & Head, explained the research activities and the production of mealy bug parasitoid in the laboratory as well as under the shade net nursery. The programme co-ordinator inspected the Tapioca field trials and Me 833 trials of farmers' field at Kundumaniankaradu village. Dr. K. Nageswari, Associate Professor (Horticulture) explained the special characters of the tapioca Me 833 and also the germplasm collections of tapioca.

National Environment Awareness campaign

One day National Awareness Campaign jointly organized by C.P. Ramasamy Iyer Foundation, Chennai was



conducted on 23.11.12. One day training and Method Demonstration on vermicompost production with Silpaulin sheet was given to the farm women of Yethapur village. Dr.V. Rajendran, Professor & Head, inaugurated the programme and explained the importance of awareness on the environment and peoples participation in conserving the clean environment. Dr.P. Kalaiselvi, AP (Environmental Science) demonstrated the production of vermicompost with silpaulin sheet. Dr. M. K. Kalarani, Associate Professor (Crop Physiology) explained the role of women in environmental conservation. Dr.K. Nageswari, Associate Professor (Horticulture) explained the importance of vermiculture in agricultural and horticultural crop production. Dr.G. Selvarani, AP (Agrl.Extension) explained the entrepreneurship development of farm women through production of vermi compost. About 50 farm women participated in the programme and benefited.

Programmes at TCRS, Yethapur

AICRP- Castor monitoring team visit



AICRP- Castor Monitoring team consisting Dr. A.J. Prabhakaran, Principal Investigator (Castor), Dr. G. Suresh, Senior Scientist

(Agronomy), Dr.Santhalakshmi Prasad, Senior Scientist (Plant Pathology) and Co- Project Investigator (Castor), Directorate of Oilseed Research, Hyderabad visited Tapioca and Castor Research Station, Yethapur on 08. 11. 2012. The team inspected the castor trials carried in the station and also visited castor hybrid seed production plot at Setthukuttai village, Mettupatty. and FLD field of YRCH 1 at Puthiragoundampalayam village.

Dr.V. Rajendran, Professor & Head, explained the seed production and area expansion activities carried out in the station. Dr.S. R. Venkatachalam explained the castor germplasm collection and the trials

T
N
A
U

N
E
W
S

Hybrid castor production training to women self help groups



One day training on hybrid castor cultivation was conducted at Karumagoundam palayam village, Elaichipalayam block of Namakkal district on 29.11.12 under the DSIR scheme for farm women. Dr. G. Selvarani, AP (Agrl. Extension) welcomed the gathering and explained about the importance of castor crop in Indian economy and its industrial uses. Dr. S.R. Venkatachalam, AP (Plant Breeding and Genetics) explained the salient features of hybrid castor and production technologies. Dr. K. Thirukumaran, AP (Agronomy) explained the spacing and intercropping in hybrid castor. About 30 farm women participated in the programme and benefited.

Programmes by KVK, Tindivanam

Entrepreneur training on mushroom cultivation



K V K , Tindivanam for Villupuram District conducted four days vocational training on Mushroom Cultivation as part of the ICAR – KVK mandate from 06.11.2012 to 09.11.2012. Dr.N. Sathiah, P&H inaugurated and outlined the importance of mushroom in human diet and explained the recent trend and future opportunities in mushroom enterprise. A total of 35 trainees including 5 women and 25 youth and 5 farmers participated. Dr. V. Sendhilvel, AP co-ordinated the programme. Feed back sessions and expertise sharing were the highlights of the vocational training.

Training Programme on new technologies in sericulture

An on - campus training programme was conducted on new technologies in sericulture in collaboration with Regional Sericulture Research Station, Central Sericulture Board, Salem on 21.11.2012. A total of 79 farmers participated in the programme. Technical lectures, demonstration and exhibition were

arranged. Dr. V. Sendhilvel, AP and Dr. M. Renuga co-ordinated the programme. The programme was inaugurated by



Dr. R. Balakrishna, Regional Sericulture Research Station, Salem. Dr.N. Dhahira Beevi, Dr. S. Rajashkumar, Scientists of Central Sericulture Board, Th. P.D. Mohan, AD (Sericulture), Villupuram delivered special lecture. Dr. V. Radhakrishnan, AP (Entomology), interacted with the participants.

National training on “Seed Testing”

A National training on seed testing sponsored by GOI under Central Sector scheme on



“Quality control arrangement of seeds” was organized at Seed Centre on 04.12.2012. About 31 participants comprising of AOs of seed testing laboratory, seed inspection and seed certification, seed producers and farmers participated. Dr.M.Bhaskaran, SO (Seeds) welcomed the gathering. Dr.P.Subbian, Registrar inaugurated the programme and released the training manual. In his presidential address, he emphasized in value of seed testing for the growth of seed industry and agriculture. Thiru.S.Balakrishnan, Director of Seed Certification delivered the special address and insisted the adoption of modern and novel technologies in seed testing in line with global scenario. The vote of thanks was proposed by Dr.P.Srimathi, Professor (SST), Seed Centre.

Training to extension functionaries

Training programme on “Usage of growth regulators in crop production” was organised to Extension functionaries



of Vellore district on 06.11.2012 at KVK, Virinjipuram. Mode of action of growth regulators, usage of growth promoters and retardants in various agricultural and

horticultural crops were explained. The Joint Director of Agriculture, Deputy Director of Agriculture, Assist. Director of Agriculture of Dept. of Agriculture and ADA of Dept. of Seed Certification were participated in the meeting.

Training on bio-priming technology



One day training programme on the management of Bunchy top virus disease in Hill Banana

through bio-priming technology with Super *Pseudomonas* to SHG women farmers from lower Pulney hills was organized on 28.09.2012 at Horticultural Research Station, Thadiyankudisai. The training was inaugurated by Dr. N. Kumar, Dean (Horticulture), Coimbatore. The other trainers viz., Dr. A. Sadasakthi, , Dr. M. Ananthan, Dr. K. Rajangam, Dr. P. Arul Arasu, AP, Dr. M. Kannan, AP participated and discussed various issues on hill banana cultivation and management. About 40 women farmers participated and benefited. The Super *Pseudomonas* culture was also distributed to the women farmers.

Indian Society of Agronomy Fellow for TNAU Scientist

Dr. C.Jayanthi, Professor (Agronomy), Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore was conferred with the Indian Society of Agronomy (ISA) Fellow for the year 2009 by Indian Society of Agronomy, New Delhi. The ISA Fellow Award was presented on November 26th, 2012 by Dr. M.C. Saxena, Senior Advisor to Director



General, International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), Syria, during Third International

Agronomy Congress on “Agriculture Diversification, Climate Change Management and Livelihoods” held at Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi. She is the first woman agronomist to receive this award at

national level. It is for her outstanding contribution in the field of Integrated Farming System research in designing and developing the methodology, which is widely followed.

World Food day 2012 celebrations

The World Food day 2012 was celebrated at HSC&RI, Madurai on 16.10.2012 with focus on the theme Agricultural Co-operatives – The key to feeding the World”.



In this connection, Poster, Quiz, and Elocution competitions on the World food day theme was conducted for school children of Madurai District to sensitize the youth on the pressing issues of food production and nutrition security. Dr. M.R. Premalatha, P&H, Department of Food Science and Nutrition welcomed the gathering comprising of more than 200 participants including academicians, scientists, school children, their parents and the staff and students of this Institute. Dr. SP.Sundaram, Dean (in-charge), AC&RI, Madurai was the Chief Guest and delivered the special address highlighting the need to take advantage of food processing and preservation for achieving nutrition security. Dr. P. Banumathi, Dean, HC&RI, Madurai delivered the presidential address and stressed on the need to prevent food wastage and also take advantage of seasonal gluts through food processing and preservation which will also add on as income generation activities leading to empowerment of the farming community.

Prizes were distributed to the winners of the different competitions and the dignitaries congratulated the youth and stressed on their responsibilities in carrying the message forward. Dr. S. Kanchana, Associate Professor proposed the vote of thanks.

Farmers' field exposure meet on small millets

Small millets growing farmers from Krishnagiri, Madurai and Thiruvannamalai districts were



organized in collaboration with the DHAN Foundation, Madurai at Department of Millets, Coimbatore on 12.10.2012 for participatory varietal evaluation programme under the scheme entitled, "Revolutionizing small millets: Enhancing the food and nutritional security of women and children in rainfed regions of South Asia using underutilized species" operated at Post Harvest Technology Centre, Coimbatore with the funding of IDRC, Canada. A total of 49 Small Millets growing farmers participated.

Dr.N.Varatharaju, Professor & Head, (Post Harvesting Technology Centre) welcomed the gathering and gave detailed information on the importance of small millet crops. Need of the farmers' participatory evaluation of Small Millet varieties and the scoring procedures were explained by Dr.A.Nirmalakumari, Professor(Small millets). The present scenario and the prevailing marketing opportunities of the Small Millets were highlighted by Dr.K.Thiyagarajan, Director, Centre for Plant Breeding and Genetics. Dr.Patil, Consultant at DHAN Foundation, discussed with the farmers and brought out their desires and problems. The nutritional benefits and advantages of the small millets were given by Dr.D.Malathi, Professor (FSN). The success of the programme was realized by the overwhelming queries and response of the farmers. Exhibition depicting the high yielding varieties, improved technologies, and value added products were also arranged. The participants relished and enjoyed the products made of small millet grains. The vote of thanks was given by Dr.P. Veerabhadhiran, Professor & Head.

Best paper award

Dr.C.Muralidharan Assistant Professor, Department of Agricultural and Rural Management, bagged the "Best paper award" in Human Resource Management in the Seventh National Conference on Business research - 2012 emerging trends in business research for sustainable development held at PSG Institute of Management, Coimbatore on 23 & 24-11-2012.



Also, the paper entitled "An analysis of Antecedents of Organizational Citizenship Behaviour (OCB) towards Performance - A study on Self Help Groups' (SHG) in Coimbatore city won overall best paper in the national conference.

Horticultural Society of India honours Dr. N. Kumar, Dean (Hort.)

Dr. N. Kumar, Dean (Horticulture), Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore has been conferred with the "Fellow of the Horticultural Society of India" on Nov. 8, 2012 during the 5th Indian Horticulture Congress held at Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana by the Horticultural Society of India. This Society confers the Fellow of the Horticultural Society of India on distinguished Scientists who have made significant contributions and displayed leadership in the field of horticulture as evidenced by their publications, technology development, patents and other recognitions. Dr. Kumar is the first Horticultural Scientist from Tamil Nadu Agricultural University to receive this honour.



Nutrient Manager for Rice demonstrated at KVK Sikkal

TNAU – IRRI – IPI – Collaborative project on "Evaluation and dissemination of improved nutrient management practices through web and mobile



phone applications of nutrient manager for rice in the Cauvery delta, Tamil Nadu" funded by International Potash Institute, Israel is now operated by KVK, Sikkal in three Cauvery Delta districts. Dr.Eldad Sokolowski, IPI, Israel visited rice fields of Nutrient manager rice in Nagapattinam, Thanjavur and Thiruvarur Districts.

Thanks to Contributors & Readers and Best Wishes for 2013



New schemes

Name of the scheme	Principal Investigator	Amount (Lakh ₹.)	Funding Agency
Demonstration and Popularization of perennial horticultural crops under rainfed cultivation for nutritional security to mitigate malnutrition, better livelihood and upliftment of tribal farmers in western ghats of Tamil nadu	Dr. S.Praneetha. Dr. L.Pugalendhi Dr. V. Rajashree Department of Vegetable crops, TNAU, Coimbatore	23.51	DBT
Farmers participatory approach for maximising the profit of hybrid cucurbit vegetable crops with coriander intercropping.	Dr. V. Rajashree Dr. L.Pugalendhi Dr.S.Praneetha. Dr. K Venkatesan Department of vegetable crops, TNAU, Coimbatore.	15.04	NADP
Standardization of grafting techniques in cucumber (<i>Cucumis sativus L.</i>) to mitigate root knot nematode and soil borne diseases	Dr. C. Thangamani Dr. L. Pugalendhi Department of Vegetable crops, TNAU, Coimbatore	20.10	DST
“DIT Training on Preparation of value added products using composite flours” during 2012-2013	Mrs. S. Jesupriya Poornakala Assistant Professor (HDT) & Dr. S. Amutha Professor and Head (HDT)	18,60	TNSCST
Identification of effective insecticidal crystal proteins from <i>Bacillus thuringiensis</i> (Berliner) to spotted pod borer, <i>Maruca testulatis</i> (Geyer) in Dolichos bean (Avarai)	Dr. M. Kannan, Assistant Professor; HRS, Thadiyankudisai, Perumparai - 12	6.93	UGC, New Delhi
Sustained availability of N,P and S nutrition to groundnut through soil bacteria consortia with special reference to <i>Burkholderia sp.</i> , <i>Bacillus sp.</i> and <i>Thiobacillus sp.</i>	Dr. R. Sridhar, Professor, CPMB&B, TNAU, Coimbatore Co-Principle investigators Dr. R. Anandham, Asst. Professor, AC&RI, Madurai	27.00	DBT

Important visitors

- Dr. K. Srinivasan, Scientist, University of Houston, Texas, USA visited Directorate of Research on 5th and 6th November, 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