



TNAU NEWS

Patron; **Dr. P. Murugesha Boopathi**, Vice Chancellor
Editor: **Dr. G. Kathiresan**, Director Planning & Monitoring

TAMIL NADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY NEWS LETTER

State level seminar on Attracting youth towards agriculture



in agriculture have to reach all the farmers extensively. The Vice-Chancellor, advised the youth to make full use of available latest technologies in farming activities so as to get more income from agriculture.

Dr. V. Ponraj, Scientific Advisor to the former President of India, in his special address, encouraged the youth to take active role in the

One day State level seminar on Attracting youth towards agriculture was organised by the Directorate of Extension Education on 29.12.2011 at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University main campus, Coimbatore. Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture, Govt. of Tamil Nadu and Pro-Chancellor of TNAU Thiru.S.Damodaran inaugurated the seminar and released the Souvenir. Addressing a huge gathering of youth, Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture pointed out that the area under cultivation in Tamil Nadu reduced from 63 lakh hectares to 48 lakh hectares. To continue to be self-sufficient in food production, youth should come forward to take part in agricultural production and help the state to become number one in food production in the country. Dr. P. Murugesha Boopathi, Vice-Chancellor, TNAU in his presidential address informed that the new technologies

second green revolution which is a brainchild of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. Thiru. Ajay Vir Jakhar, Chairman, Bharat Krishi Samaj, New Delhi in his special address indicated that there was misconception that agriculture income was less and he called upon the youth to come forward to contribute to the growth of our Nation. Dr.M.Parusuraman, Scientist, M.S.Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai stated that out of the total population, 54 percent accounted for youth in the age group of 15-35. Th.M.Karunakaran, District Collector, Coimbatore offered felicitation. Dr.P.Kalaiselvan, Director of Extension Education welcomed the gathering and Dr.M.Paramathma, Director of Research proposed vote of thanks. More than 1000 youth from all over Tamil Nadu participated in the seminar and benefitted.

First International Symposium on Cashewnut at AC & RI, Madurai

This first International Symposium on Cashew Nut was held at Agricultural Collage & Research Institute, Madurai, from 9th to 12th of December, 2011. The meeting

was organized by the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University under the collaboration with International Society for Horticultural Science. The conveners and Dean Dr. K. Vairavan, welcomed the delegates under the chairmanship of Dr. P. Murugesha Boopathi, Vice-Chancellor, TNAU.



The symposium was attended by 150 participants from different countries (Europe, Asia, United States of

America and Africa). The theme of the symposium was sustainable production, post harvest and export promotion of cashew nut. Horticulture expert Dr. S.Sambandamurthy stressed on the need to bring all cashew workers under one umbrella and give a thrust to research activities. He also called for studying the physiology of cashew as the leaf fall is different from other fruit crops such as mango. Shri Venkatesh N. Hubballi, Director, DCCD, pointed out that cashew is an important horticulture crop, provided employment to 1.5 millions directly and indirectly and state level cashew corporation had been taking steps to get better yield from cashew with financial assistance from NHM.

Dr. N. Kumar, Dean, Horticultural Collage & Research Institute, Coimbatore, Dr.V. Ponnuswami, Dean, HC & RI, Periyakulam, Dr.P.Banumathi, Dean, Home Science Collage & Research Institute, Madurai, Dr.I.Irulappan, former Dean, HC & RI, Coimbatore, Dr. Pino Calcagni, representative from International Nut Council, Italy offered felicitation. Dr.Gale McGranahan, Emerita, ISHS Representative, University of California, Davis, California released the souvenir and the first copy was received by Dr. S. Sambandamurthy.

“Orientation workshop on Modern Farm Technologies to NABARD farmers clubs”

The NABARD is promoting formation of Farmers Clubs all over the State. These clubs are established through various banks lending farm loans to farmers. Around 70 members of 10 such Farmers Clubs promoted by the, Syndicate Bank, Coimbatore through NABARD attended an one day orientation workshop on “ Modern Farm Technologies” organized by the Department of Market Extension, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore on 23.12.2011. The Farmers club members belonging to Udumalpet,

Pollachi, Kinathukkadavu, Annur, Karamadai & Periyanaickenpalayam blocks of Coimbatore District were exposed to the



modern farming techniques such as IFS, SRI, Strategies for increasing sugarcane productivity, Seed production techniques, soil fertility management, marketing techniques and Bio control methods of plant protection. Apart from experts' sessions, the farmers were taken to Agricultural Machinery Research Centre of TNAU wherein practical exposure on various agricultural implements and gadgets was given. The Precision Farming approaches, TNAU Agri Portal for knowledge sharing, Post Harvest Technology Centre for knowing various value added products and TNAU Community Radio Station were the other units visited by the Farmers Club members.

The workshop was inaugurated by Dr.P. Subbian, Registrar of TNAU who highlighted various research findings which had given worthy results in farmers' holding and he stressed the need for the Farmers Clubs to come forward to take up new initiatives such as seed production, custom hiring etc., to tide over the present scenario in farming.

Thiru. D. Raveendranath, Deputy General Manager, Syndicate Bank, Coimbatore, Thiru. Inigo Arulselvan, Asst. General Manager, NABARD, Coimbatore also spoke on the occasion.

Earlier, Dr.SP. Ramanathan, Professor & Head Department of Market Extension, TNAU welcomed the gathering. Dr.T.Alagumani, Professor proposed vote of thanks.

Field day on Barnyard millet

As part of the Front Line Demonstrations, a field day was organized in Singharayapuram village of Paramakudi block of Ramanathapuram district on 23.12.2011. The meeting was presided by Dr.P.Veerabhadhiran, Professor & Head, Department of Millets, and attended by, Dr.A.Nirmalakumari,



Professor (PBG), Dr. S. Manoharan, Professor (Agronomy), Dr.A.Subramanian, AP (PBG) and Dr.C.Vanniyarajan,

Associate Professor (PBG) from AC & RI Madurai. A totally 45 farmers participated in the meeting. Welcome address was given by, Dr.S. Manoharan, Dr.P. Veerabathiran Professor & Head, stressed on nutritional superiority of barnyard millet than other cereals and millets with regard to fibre, mineral, and aminoacid content. He also insisted that farmers should consume more of barnyard millet as rice and value added products for general health improvement. Farmers gave their feed back about the demonstrations. Dr.A.Subramanian, delived the vote of thanks

Application of Nano science and technology in agriculture

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University is conducting an ICAR sponsored National Training on “Application of Nano science and technology in agriculture” for 14 days during December 15-28, 2011. Sixteen Scientists from various ICAR institutes across the country were under went training. During the inaugural address, Dr. P. Murugesu Boopathi, Vice-Chancellor, TNAU has elucidated the potentials of nanotechnology that are being widely exploited primarily in the fields of electronics, energy and health sectors but begin to scratch the surface in the sphere of agricultural sciences. TNAU is one of the early bird in this endeavour in the country by establishing an exclusive Department of Nano Science & Technology (NST) in the University in 2010. The Department has state-of-the-art facility equipped with sophisticated instruments worth over 8 crores. In order to build the human resource in the fascinating field of nanoscience, strenuous efforts had been taken to introduce a fundamental course for all undergraduate degree programmes besides a new degree program on M.Tech. (Agriculture) in Nanotechnology during 2011 academic year.

The Vice-Chancellor narrated that the TNAU is currently engaged in undertaking research on nano

fertilizers, nano herbicides, nano insecticides, customized seeds, nano-film for packaging, and nano-remediation of soil and aquatic pollutants etc. Recently, the University has received a massive project with a budget of Rs.4.20 crores to be funded by International Development Research Council (IDRC), Canada for developing nano film to extend shelf-life of mango, which will be implemented in collaboration with University of Guelph, Canada and International Technology Institute, Colombo, Sri Lanka. This project is aimed to prevent post harvest losses in perishables particularly fruits and vegetables in India which is estimated as Rs.40,000 crores per annum. Further, the DST (Department of Science & Technology), New Delhi, has sanctioned a project to TNAU under Nano Mission to design and fabricate nano-agricultural inputs for rainfed groundnut crop. The Vice-Chancellor urged the nano Scientists of TNAU to initiate research on nano remediation to solve soil and aquatic pollutants and residual toxicity of nano-inputs on environment and human health.

Dr. K.S. Subramanian, P&H, Dept. of Nano Science & Technology, explained the skeleton of the training program, Dr. V. Velu, Special Officer, Directorate of NRM and Dr. N. Natarajan, Professor (NST), also spoke during the occasion.



Second national dialogue on Nanotechnology in agriculture

Nanotechnology is an emerging field of science spreading out its dendrites in agricultural sciences beyond electronics, energy, environment and health sectors. The ICAR, New Delhi has opened up Nanotechnology in Agriculture as one of the 22 platforms identified for pursuing research during 12th Five Year Plan. The ICAR sponsored Second National Dialogue on “Applications of Nanotechnology in Agriculture” was organized in TNAU for two days during November 11-12, 2011

Dr. B.P. Singh, Director, Central Potato Research Institute (CPRI), Simla, chaired the workshop



and Dr. M. Anandraj, Director, Indian Institute of Spice Research, Calicut, Dr. George V. Thomas, Director,

Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Kasaragode, Dr. Parthasarathy, Emeritus Scientist and Dr. V. Velu, Special Officer (DNRM) and Dr. K.S. Subramanian, P&H, Department of Nano Science & Technology served as the panelists. The identified research themes include development of diagnostic kits for the early detection of plant diseases and nutrient deficiencies, nano-pheromones and formulations for pest control, nano-agri inputs for enhanced use efficiency and smart delivery, nano-food systems and nanotoxicity and Biosafety. About 120 scientists from the ICAR Institutes and SAU participated in the event.

TNAU Ph.D Scholar received National distinction

The FAI New Delhi has presented the prestigious FAI Golden Jubilee Award for Doctoral Research in Fertilizer Usage to Dr. C. Sharmila Rahale, RA, Department of SS & AC for her Ph.D thesis in recognition of her contributions in education, research and training in the field of plant pathology for the year 2011. The award carries a medal, a citation and Rs. 20,000 cash award. The award was presented by Th. Srikant Kumar Jena, Hon'ble Union Minister of State (Independent Charge), Statistics and Programme Implementation; Chemicals and Fertilizers, in the presence of Th. Ajay Bhattacharya, IAS., Secretary, Fertilizers, Govt. of India, Th. A. Vellayan, Chairman, FAI and Th. R.G. Rajan, Co-Chairman, FAI during the award ceremony held at New Delhi on December 7, 2011.



National Award for TNAU Scientist

Dr. V. Prakasam, Professor, Department of Plant Pathology, TNAU has been awarded the "Dr. B.B.



Mundkur Memorial Lecture Award" by the Indian Phytopathological Society, New Delhi. in recognition of his contributions in education, research and training in the field of plant pathology. The award was presented by Dr. Ravi Khaterpal, President-Elect of the Indian Phytopathological Society, in the presence of Dr. T. S. Thind, President of the Society, on Dec. 3, 2011, during the 64th Annual Meeting of the Indian Phytopathological Society, and on the occasion of the "National Symposium on Biology of Infection, Immunity and Disease control in Pathogen-Plant interactions", held at the University of Hyderabad.

Training cum Field Day – NADP (Farmers Participatory seed production demo on pulses and oilseeds)

One day training cum field day program on Farmers Participatory seed production demo on pulses and oilseeds funded by NADP was conducted at Thaiyurl and Sorathur village of Villupuram District on 22.12.11 by Oilseeds Research Station, Tindivanam. Dr. M.Vaithiyalingan, AP (Plant Breeding and Genetics), ORS, Tindivanam welcomed the gathering and delivered the lecture on High yielding varieties of Groundnut and sesame. Totally 50 farmers participated. Dr. V. Radhakrishnan, AP (Entomology), Dr.J.Balamurugan, AP (Seed Science & Technology), delivered lectures.

Rwandan scientist visits MRS, Vagarai

Professor Rukazambuga Ntirushwa. T.Daniel, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, National University of Rwanda and Dr. T. Senthilvel, Dean (Faculty of Agriculture), Gandhigram Rural Institute, Dindigul .



visited Maize Research Station, Vagarai on 15.12.11. Professor T. Daniel interacted with the scientists working

at MRSVagarai and discussed how technologies are being transferred to the farmers and the problems faced by the scientists in making the farmers to adopt the technologies, ongoing research activities at MRS, Vagarai and the procedures of organizing FLD.

Officers training programme



A training programme on Maize Production Technologies was conducted for the officers of the Department of Agriculture, Govt.

of Tamil Nadu at MRS Vagarai for two days from 13th Dec., 2011. The training programme was jointly organized by Maize Research Station, Vagarai and Directorate of Maize Research (ICAR), New Delhi. Totally 60 numbers of Agriculture Officers attended this training. Thiru. M. Deivendran, DDA Dindigul inaugurated training programme and released the training manual. Dr. R. Ravikesavan, Associate Professor and Head, welcomed the gathering. Thiru. M. Deivendran, Thiru. N. V. Krishnamoorthy, and Thiru. S. Krishnamoorthy, delivered special address. Scientists from various faculties working at MRS, Vagarai delivered lectures. Vote of Thanks was proposed by Dr.K.Sethuraman, Associate Professor (Plant Pathology).

Training on “Crop boosters” to NABARD farmers club of Pudukkottai district

A three day training programme on “Boosters and Tonics Utilization in Different Crops for Yield

Maximization” sponsored by NABARD under Capacity building and Adoption of Technology (CAT) was conducted from 19th to 21st Dec., 2011 at NPRC, Vamban. Thirty progressive farmers from the NABARD farmers' club of, Pudukkottai district have participated and interacted with the scientists. The Programme was inaugurated by the P&H, NPRC, Vamban. Dr.D.Packiaraj, Professor of Plant Breeding & Genetics welcomed the gathering. The meeting was felicitated by the Assistant Regional Manager,, Pudukkottai and the scientists of various faculties. The field demo and technical part of the crop boosters was explained by Dr.H.Vijayaraghavan, Professor of Crop Physiology who is the course Director and Inventor of the products. Dr.M.Sundar, Associate Professor of Agril. Microbiology demonstrated the use of pulse line marker for taking up line sowing with required spacing which helps in the population maintenance and also reduces labour cost on sowing. He also proposed vote of thanks. The group of farmers was taken to AEC and RI, Kumulur for exposure visit and the latest technologies on drip fertigation techniques were explained by Dr. S. Somasundaram, Associate Professor of Agronomy.

Inauguration of student's club 2011- 12 of Horticultural College and Research Institute, Periyakulam

The 22nd student's club was inaugurated at Horticultural Collage & Research Institute, Periyakulam on 02.12.2011. The college had Dr. R. Ganesan, Dean (Agri.) Agricultural Collage & Research Institute, Killikulam and Dr. G. Kathiresan, Director (Planning and Monitoring), TNAU, Coimbatore as Guests of Honour. The Dean, HC & RI, Periyakulam, Dr. V. Ponnuswami, presided over the function and Dr. L. Jeeva Jothe, Staff Advisor and Professor and Head, Dept. of Spices and Plantation Crops, announced the various clubs, its staff association and student secretaries.



Launching of TNAU-Examination Management System and E-Governance Software at CoE



New Examination Management System and E-Governance software were launched during the Workshop on “Examination

Management Software” organized by CoE on 21.11.2011. Our Vice-chancellor Dr. P. Murugesha Boopathi, inaugurated the software and delivered the presidential address. Dr. A. Chandrasekaran, CoE welcomed the gathering and Dr. I. Muthuchamy, Deputy Registrar (Exams) proposed vote of thanks. On that day the training has been organized to the Academic Coordinators of all the constituent and affiliated colleges as well as the diploma institutes to get exposed in the new softwares.

Dean, HC & RI, Periyakulam and Director (DPM) honoured.



New Delhi based India International Friendship Society has awarded Dr. V. Ponnuswami, Dean, Horticultural

College & Research Institute, Periyakulam and Dr. G. Kathiresan, Director (Directorate of Planning Monitoring) with Rashtriya Gaurav Award, 2011 for their meritorious service and outstanding performance. The citation and the shield of award were presented in a seminar on Economic Growth and National Integration at New Delhi on 11th November, 2011. In December, the society further awarded to Dr. V. Ponnuswami with the Rashtriya Jyothi Award, 2011. The International Publishing House New Delhi has bestowed the Best Citizen of India, 2011 award during January 2012.

DST- INSPIRE PROGRAMME

The Department of Science and Technology sponsored INSPIRE (Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired



Research) programme was organized by the Department of Soil and Environment, AC & RI, Madurai during Dec. 1-5, 2011. Dr.P.Murugesha Boopathi, Vice Chancellor, inaugurated Mr.U.Sagayam, District Collector, Madurai delivered special address and Mr.M.Krishnaswamy, Project Director, ISRO, Bangalore delivered keynote address. Dr.K.Vairavan, Dean, AC & RI, Madurai gave outline of the programme. Dr.P.Banumathi, Dean, HSC & RI, Madurai offered felicitation. Dr.A.R.Mohamed Haroon, P & H, Department of Soil and Environment and Co-ordinator of the programme welcomed the gathering and Dr.C.Sudhalakshmi, Assistant Professor (Soil Science) and scientist in charge of the scheme proposed vote of thanks. About 202 students studying +1 from 20 schools of Madurai district participated in the programme. Dr. K.Ramasamy, Vice Chancellor, Karapagam University delivered the valedictory address on 5th Dec., 2011

Programme at TRRI, Aduthurai

a. Clima Rice Training

An awareness cum training programme on the impact of climate change in rice production was held at TRRI, Aduthurai



under ClimaRice project. Sixty farmers from Thirubuvanam and Manalur villages attended. Dr.T. Jayaraj, Director, TRRI inaugurated the training programme and high lighted the important issues that affects the agriculture particularly that rice. He also said the farmers have to adopt the mitigation strategies to

reduce the green house gases emission from the paddy fields. Different agrotechniques that mitigate the green house gases emission from paddy fields. were delevered by the different scientists. Mr.Udayakumar and Mr.Muthukoori, ADA of Thiruvudaimaruthur and Thirupanandal blocks respectively participated in this programme and they expressed the benefits of ClimaRice project to the rice growers of the blocks.

b. Farmers training on Rice technologies



Impart training on “Rice cultivation, SRI, Water saving technique through aerobic rice, IPM, IDM and INM practices on rice were given

to 15 women farmers and field officials from Chitur district of Andhra Pradesh on 15-12-2011. Assistant Director, FTC, Chitur district has arranged the Farmers' exposure visit. The women famers were under the ATMA training. Women Farmers were exposed to current research in rice, besides explaining the latest technology on rice and rice based cropping system , the sustainable use of land and water resource in rice eco system were explained by the concerned scientists.

c. Training on vermi composting



One day training on “Vermi composting techniques” sponsored by DHAN foundation Thanjavur was conducted

on 29.12. 2011. for thirty numbers of Self Help Group (SHGs) members from Aduthurai, Narasingapettai and Thrividaimarudhur Villages.

Programme at TCRS, Yethapur

NADP training at Farmers field of Namakkal District

Training under NADP scheme on Farmer Participatory Approach for hybrid castor production through drip fertigation with onion intercropping was

conducted at Elaichipalayam village of Namakkal district. Dr.K. Thirukumaran welcomed the gathering. Dr.V. Rajendran, P & H, Tapioca and Castor Research Station explained about the importance of Hybrid castor and its cultivation under drip fertigation. The farmers were advised to



raise Co (On) 5 Onion intercropping in the castor field. Thiru. P. Govindaraj, progressive farmer in castor cultivation shared his experience in Hybrid castor cultivation with other farmers in this village and said that hybrid castor is a profitable crop with less demand for inputs, labor and water.

Precision Farming Training

Precision farming training was jointly organized by the Department of Soil and Water Conservation, AEC, TNAU, Coimbatore and TCRS, Yethapur on 22.12.2011 for Namakkal and Salem districts farmers. Dr.K. Thirukumaran, Assistant Professor (Agronomy) welcomed the trainees. Dr.V. Rajendran, P & H, TCRS, Yethapur explained that precision farming project was introduced in Krishnagiri and Dharmapuri Districts and now being implemented in all over Tamil Nadu. He also explained about the advantages of precision farming technology. Dr.D. Thamilmani, P & H, Department of Soil and Water Conservation, TNAU, Coimbatore delivered a lecture on Horticulture crops cultivation under precision farming and under green house condition. He also explained about the constraints of drip fertigation technology and correction measures. About 50 farmers attended the training and benefited.

Similar training on hybrid castor production through drip fertigation with onion intercropping was conducted on 27.12.2011 for Vazhapadi block castor growers



New schemes

Name of the scheme	Principal Investigator	Amount (Lakh ₹.)	Funding Agency
Fabrication of Nano-agricultural Inputs Promoting Groundnut Productivity and Environmental Safety	Dr. K.S. Subramanian Professor & Head Dept. of Nano Science & Technology TNAU, Coimbatore	64.26	DST Nano Mission
Tropical Legume II- Phase II Enhancing legume productivity.	Dr.K.R. Karunakaran	To be finalized 2012-2015	ICRISAT Hyderabad
Evaluation of broad spectrum weed management by Direct seeded rice	Dr.E.Subramaniyan	5.04	FMC,Bengaluru
Demonstration of laser leveler under farmer participatory mode in System of Rice Intensification.	Dr. G. Kathiresan, Director (P&M)	5.34	Govt. of Tamil Nadu
Standardization of biochar derived from different sources of plant communities.	(Dr. K.M. Sellamuthu, Asst. Professor (SS&AC), TNAU, Coimbatore	4.92	Govt. of Tamil Nadu
Research delivery model on sustainable land management and diversified crop production technologies in coastal agro-ecosystem of Thoothukudi district	(Dr. V. Subramanian, Professor (SS&AC), AC&RI, Killikulam)	3.50	Govt. of Tamil Nadu
Standardization of Vermicompost production under plantations of Tamil Nadu	Dr. M. Maheswari, Assoc. Professor (ENS), FC&RI, Mettupalayam	4.92	Govt. of Tamil Nadu

Important visitors

- Dr. Yuvan G ariepy, McGill University, Canada visited Professor and Head, Dept. of PHTC from 02.01.2012 to 05.01.2012.
- Dr. Okuzumi, NIHS, Japan visited Professor and Head, Dept. of Millets from 04.01.2012 to 06.01.2012.
- Gur BIR Bnuclar Nanreet Bnullar ETM Zurich, Switzerland visited Professor and Head, Dept. of Rice from 08.01.2012 to 13.01.2012.
- L.J. Chen Yaurrz, China visited Professor and Head, Dept. of Rice from 09.01.2012 to 13.01.2012.

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From
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