



# TNAU NEWS

TAMIL NADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY NEWS LETTER

Patron: **Dr. K. Ramasamy**, Vice Chancellor  
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ஊருக்கெல்லாம் உணவளிக்கும் உத்தமர் உழவர்களுக்கு  
உதவிக்கரம் நீட்டும் பல்கலைக்கழகம்

## System Rice Intensification- National and State Level Award



Tamil Nadu on January 26, 2013 for achieving highest yield of 20, 680 kg/ha in rice variety CR 1009 by adopting technologies of System Rice Intensification.

The recipient of this National and State level awards has

Mr. P. Solamalai, S/o A. Periyasamy of Andaman village Velliyakundram panchayat, Madurai East has been honoured with Krishi Karman Award (Best Performance Farmer Award) by His Excellency President of India on January 15, 2013. The award carries a citation with cash prize of one lakh. Further was also awarded a cash prize of Rs. 5 lakhs along with a citation was awarded by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of

undergone several training programmes organized by KVK, Madurai and the Department of Agriculture and he was also one of the farmers who underwent FFS programme on rice seed production under SRI conducted by KVK during 2010-11 at Andaman Kanjarampettai village. The knowledge acquired by this farmer during these programmes was highly helpful to achieve these National and State awards.

## Science forum Inauguration

At Dryland Agricultural Research Station, Chettinad a Science forum was initiated by the P&H to discuss about recent scientific developments in the field of agriculture and life sciences within India and elsewhere. On the day of inauguration of the Science forum on 21.01.2013 the inaugural lecture was delivered by Dr. C. Swaminathan on Vrکشayurvedic Farming. In this, he narrated the traditional and indigenous ways of agriculture reoriented and redefined with modern scientific methods for quality food production with low cost technologies. All the Scientists and technical personell working at the research station participated and shared their views. The Science forum will meet on third Monday of every month.

## Vocational training to flower growers of Tiruvarur district.

To popularize and to sensitize the farmers on

cultivation of flowers and expose to international standards, vocational training cum exposure visit were conducted at



KVK, Needamangalam on 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2012. The vocational training was inaugurated by Dr. K. Chozhan, Professor & Head and Co-ordinated by Dr. K. Kumanan, Assistant Professor ( Horticulture ) along with Dr. V. Alex Albert, Assistant Professor ( Seed Science & Technology ). One day exposure visit to flower gardens at Sathiyamangalam was arranged these farmers attended a seminar on "Buyers and sellers meet on flower growers" organized by the Department of Floriculture and Land scaping, Horticultural College & Research Institute. Coimbatore. Twenty progressive flower growers from Tiruvarur district participated in the vocational training.

## Ragi field day



Frontline demonstrations on ragi were laid out at Thamarakarai and Uosimalai villages in Bargur hills of Erode district to improve the production as well as the productivity of the ragi crop. High yielding variety of ragi Co 14 was introduced and the production technologies were included in the demonstrations.

To popularize the improved technologies among the farmers, a field day on ragi crop was conducted on 14.12.2012 at Thamarakarai Village. Dr. R. Ravikesavan, P&H, Department of Millets, presided over the gathering. Dr. S. Manoharan, Professor of Agronomy welcomed the farmers and explained the improved technologies for obtaining higher yield in ragi crop. Dr. A. Nirmalakumari, Professor (Small Millets) explained the special features of improved varieties of ragi and other small millets and the need for growing the improved varieties. Dr. A. Subramanian, AP, explained the preparation of different value added products from ragi and other small millets through which the farmers can earn money. Thiru. K. Navaneedham, AAO also spoke on that occasion. Thiru. Sivappa, Supervisor of MYRADA, Gopichettipalayam proposed the vote of thanks. About 50 farmers participated in the field day function and interacted with the scientists.

## National training on Varietal purity testing of specified traits



National training on "Varietal purity testing of specified traits" was organized at the department of Seed Science and Technology. from 7<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> January, 2013. Thirty one participants attended the training.

The training programme was inaugurated on 7<sup>th</sup> January, 2013. In the welcome address by Dr. M. Bhaskaran, P&H, the importance of maintenance

of genetic purity and the role of various purity tests to assess the genetic purity were highlighted.

The participants were exposed to various methods for genetic purity maintenance like conventional methods for cultivar identification, varietal deterioration, DNA finger printing analysis, DNA bar coding, etc.

The valedictory function was conducted on 11<sup>th</sup> January, 2013, in which welcome address and a brief note about the training was given by Dr. M. Bhaskaran, P&H, In the special address, Dr. K. Ramamoorthy, Special Officer (Seeds), explained the usefulness of the training programme to the participants involved in seed production and seed quality testing. The honourable Vice-Chancellor Dr. K. Ramasamy in his presidential address, stressed the importance of traditional methods of seed storage, preservation of land races, importance of seed quality assurance etc. The Vice-Chancellor also motivated the scientists to concentrate more on traditional based research. Dr. P. Selvaraju, Professor (SST) proposed the vote of thanks who coordinated this training programme in association with Dr. R. Jerlin, Professor (SST), Dr. S. Lakshmi and Dr. R. Vijayan.

## 64<sup>th</sup> Independence Day celebration at AC & RI, Madurai

The Independence Day celebration was observed at AC & RI, Madurai. Dr. SP. Sundaram, Dean (in-charge), AC & RI, Madurai hoisted the National Flag in the premises of Main building, saff club and college stadium on 26. 01. 2013 and extended the greetings to the students and staff members.



The Guard of Honour was given by NCC Cadets of Agricultural College & Research Institute, Madurai, lead by NCC officer Lt. Dr. M. Theradimani. During this occasion, different competitions were conducted for the children and students. During this function, Staff Advisor, Dr. C. R. Anandakumar, Warden, Dr. S. M. Ibrahim and other staff were present.

## Review of ICAR – NAIP project by World Bank team



A team from the 12<sup>th</sup> Implementation Support Mission of the World Bank comprising of Dr. Paul Singh Sidhu and Dr. Manivannan

from World Bank, Dr. P. S. Pandey and Dr. R. K. Goyal the National Co-ordinators of NAIP Components I and II respectively visited the Department of Floriculture and Landscaping, from 22 – 24 January, 2013. The World Bank, team interacted with the project beneficiaries from Sathyamangalam, Ooty and Trichy. They also visited M/s. Vanguard Exports, Coimbatore who is one of the consortium Partners in the project. Dr. M. Jawaharlal, P&H of the department, who is the consortium principle investigator of the project, explained the activities, outcome and impact of the project to the team.

## Pongal vizha

Pongal vizha, the Tamil festival, was celebrated with traditional enthusiasm by the students of Coimbatore campus on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2013. The day-long Vizha started with students making early

morning suriya pongal in which Dr. K. Ramasamy, Vice Chancellor, Dr. P. Subbian, Registrar, Dr. A. Raja Rajan, Dean (Agri.), and Dr. Z. John Kennedy, Staff Advisor,



participated. This was followed by competitions in traditional games like nondi, paandi, gilli, kho kho, kabbadi, kannamoochi, uriyadi, kolappotti, thattangal, tug-of-war and saakku race, in which students participated in large numbers and won prizes. There was also a pongal-making competition and the final year boys bagged the best pongal award.

## Pongal celebrations by students of HC&RI, Periyakulam

The Students of HC & RI, Periyakulam celebrated the Pongal Festival on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2013 in a grand manner.



The students wore dhoties and saris following the traditional Tamil costume. Mud pots were used for the preparation of Sweet Pongal along with sugarcane,

## “POZHIL” student magazine released



Dr. V. Irai Anbu, IAS, Principal Secretary (Training), Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms, Government of Tamil Nadu released the new edition of “POZHIL”, the student

magazine in Tamil, brought out by the Tamil Literary Society of TNAU Students' Club on 29<sup>th</sup> December 2012. The Vice Chancellor, Dr. K. Ramasamy, presided over the function. Dr. A. Raja Rajan, Dean (Agri.) and Dr. S. Santhana Bosu, Dean (Ag. Engg.) participated. Ms A. Brundha, Secretary, Tamil Ilakkiya Mandram, welcomed the gathering. Ms. S. Punitha, Club Secretary presented a vaazhthuppa. Dr. Irai Anbu, alumnus of our University, appreciated the efforts of the

students in bringing out the Tamil literary magazine and delivered a motivational speech on career planning. Mr. N. Naveen Kumar, Joint Secretary, Tamil Ilakkiya Mandram proposed the vote of thanks.

turmeric, flowers and banana trees which were offered to worship Sun God with prayer. The Dean, Dr. V. Ponnuswami, staff adviser Dr. L. Jeevajothi and other teaching and Non-teaching staff and farm labourers participated. Cultural programmes and sports competitions were conducted for students and staff members.

### Pongal vizha by farm department



Pongal Vizha was celebrated at the department of farm management, Coimbatore in a grand manner on 14<sup>th</sup> January, 2013.

Dr. K. Ramasamy, Vice Chancellor, University Officers, Professors, Staff and farm laborers of main campus and persons from media participated in the celebrations. During the Vizha, cattle from different farm units were decorated with garlands, colored ribbons and balloons. Subsequently, these cattle were honoured with turmeric powder and kum-kum by the farm women. The Vice Chancellor initiated the cattle procession to the temple and presented new clothes and mementoes to farm supervisors and drivers of department of farm management and cattle maintainers of different farms. Later, Pooja was performed to the cattle with a Patti (theppam) and sweet pongal and fruits were offered to the cattle. Events like Tug of war, Shot put, Slow cycle race, Pot breaking, Balloon busting, Eating banana, Bucketing the ball, Lemon and spoon race, Lucky corner, Water filling, Thread and needle, Rangoli, Water pot race, Who is ball, Gunny bag race, running race, Kangaroo relay and Frog race were conducted for men and women labourers and wards of labourers.

Dr. M. Prem Sekar, Director (i/c), DCM, welcomed the gathering during the pongal vizha sports events prize distribution function. Dr. N. Kumar, Dean (Hort), HC&RI and Dr. M. Maheswaran, Director (i/c), CPBG offered their felicitation. Dr. K. Ramasamy, Vice Chancellor distributed the prizes to the farm labourers and delivered the special address. He cherished the untired efforts and involvement of farm labourers of TNAU in developing new varieties, technologies and related activities. He indicated the University's efforts towards providing better service conditions and welfare

measures for the benefit of farm labourers. Dr. K. Velayudham, P&H, department of farm management, proposed the vote of thanks.

### Workshop at FC&RI, Mettupalayam

The department of Forest Ecology and Environment and FC&RI, Mettupalayam organized one day



workshop on "Management of Plastics for Environmental Conservation" on 28.01.2013. The workshop was inaugurated by Dr. H. Malleshappa, I. F. S, Director, Department of Environment, Government of Tamil Nadu, Chennai and Dr. P. Durairasu, I. F. S, Dean, delivered the presidential address, Dr. S. V. Kottiswaran, P&H, welcomed the gathering and the program was organized by Dr. A. Balasubramanian, Associate Professor (Forestry). The workshop highlighted the various issues of plastic related pollution and explained the scientific technologies to utilize plastic waste by inviting environment scientist, policy makers, and forest managers. More than 120 participants from universities, research institutions, colleges, NGO, KVKs, forest department, farmers, plastic industries and traders participated in the workshop.

### Training on Integrated groundnut cultivation technologies

One day training on Improved groundnut cultivation technologies under the scheme viz., Improving farmers livelihoods and food security through enhanced legume productivity in India and Myanmar funded by IFAD- ICRISAT was conducted at Sumangali Village, Venbakkam village of Tiruvannamalai district on 1. 2.13. Totally 50 farmers participated.

Dr. M. Vaithiyalingan, AP (PB&G), ORS, Tindivanam welcomed the gathering and delivered the lecture on high yielding varieties of groundnut, improved cultivation and production technologies in groundnut, latest machineries for sowing and harvest and its importance. Mr. G. Pandiyan, Assistant Director of Agriculture, Venbakkam

delivered the lecture on groundnut seed production technology” and Mr. K. Thangarasu, AAO and Mr. K. Subramani, President of Sumangali village also participated.

### Project Co-ordinator (Farm implements) visited AMRC



Dr. C. R. Mehta, Project Co-ordinator, AICRP on Farm Implements and Machinery Scheme, Central Institute of Agricultural Engineering, Bhopal

visited AMRC, AEC&RI, TNAU Coimbatore during 17-18, January, 2013. During his visit he reviewed the various activities of AMRC. Vibratory seeder for SRI nursery, self propelled groundnut combine, tractor operated fertilizer dibbler for ratoon sugarcane and power weeder for ridges and furrows which were developed by this centre were demonstrated. He also reviewed the progress of Proto type feasibility testing, front line demonstration components of the AICRP on FIM scheme. He was taken to the farmers field near Boolvampatti village, department of rice and ARS, Bhavanisagar to demonstrate the vegetable tray seeder, SRI transplanting technique, SRI power weeder and tractor operated turmeric harvester.

### Dean, HC&RI, Periyakulam received award

During the Seventh Noni Search 2012 – 'Noni - the tool for wellness' held between 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> October 2012, Chennai conducted by International Society for Noni science and World Noni Research Foundation. Dr. V. Ponnuswami, Dean HC&RI, Periyakulam was awarded for the best paper presentation for the research paper on Physiochemical changes in Noni fruit at various growth and developmental stages.

### Muthamizh vizha celebrations at HC&RI, Periyakulam.

Muthamizh vizha was celebrated for two days on 13 and 14. 12. 2012 at HC&RI, Periyakulam. In the inaugural function Dr. Jeevajothi, Staff Advisor, welcomed the gathering. Dr. V. Ponnuswami, Dean,

presided and addressed the gathering. Tmt. K. Sumathi, Advocate, Madras High Court delivered special address on the first event of first day of muthamizh vizha Mr. T. Srikanth, Club Secretary, Students club delivered the vote of thanks.



### Staff training programme on Biogas technology

Biogas Development and Training Centre (BDTC) established at Department of Bio Energy, AEC & RI, TNAU organized



a staff training programme for four days from 02. 01. 13 to 05. 01. 13 for State Government officials of various districts of Tamil Nadu on Biogas Technology. In the inaugural function Dr. S. Santhana Bosu, Dean, AEC & RI presided and delivered the welcome address. Dr. S. Kamaraj, P&H cum Programme Co-ordinator Biogas Development & Training Centre rendered the introductory remarks and mentioned various training programmes by the department. Thiru. N. Venkatesh, I.A.S., Additional Collector (Development), Coimbatore, inaugurated and urged the people to make use of biogas which is renewable in nature. He mentioned that it is the right time to adopt renewable sources of energy like biogas, solar and wind energy, since the conventional energy sources are fastly depleting. Dr. D. Rajkumar, RA (BDTC), Department of Bio Energy proposed the vote of thanks.

### Flower growers' and sellers' meet at TNAU

One day meet of flower growers and sellers was conducted on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2012. Dr. M. Jawaharlal, P&H welcomed the gathering. He indicated the significance of flower cultivation and the opportunities in the sector and the purpose of the growers' and sellers' meet. The event was presided by Dr. K. Ramasamy, Vice Chancellor and reiterated the opportunities



in the floriculture sector in the domestic market. Dr. N. Kumar, Dean (Hort.) emphasized the community approach on flower farming and

appreciated the team activity of Sathyamangalam jasmine growers. Mr. G. Mohan, Joint Director (Horticulture) and Mr. R. Palanisamy, Deputy Director (Agribusiness) detailed the assistance provided by the State Horticulture Department and State Department of Agricultural Marketing to flower growers and entrepreneurs. An exclusive flower exhibition was also arranged to focus the significance of commercial floriculture. Four hundred and fifty participants from different parts of Tamil Nadu attended the meeting.

### Interactive meeting on “Production and distribution of TNAU Labelled seeds



An interactive meeting on Production and distribution of TNAU labelled seeds was organized on, 21. 01.

2013 by the Seed Centre, Coimbatore. The meeting was represented by 48 scientists and seven seed growers. The Professor & Head, Department of Seed Science & Technology welcomed the gathering. The meeting was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor. The importance of use of quality seeds and the need for early spread of the newly released varieties of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, was stressed by the Vice-Chancellor with a view to increase the present seed replacement rate (SRR). The Heads of Departments / Research Stations, Scientists involved in seed production highlighted the details on production and distribution of seeds in their centres. The Special Officer (Seeds) highlighted the achievements made so far in the production and distribution of breeder, foundation and TFL seeds and the facilities created to increase the production and distribution of quality seeds. The Director of Research indicated the necessity to accommodate varieties released during the last 5-7 years, in the seed chain.

### Training at CRS, Aliyarnagar

One day training programme on “Coconut based cropping system management and its benefits” was conducted at CRS,



Aliyarnagar on 01. 02. 2013. This programme was organised as per the recommendations made in 20<sup>th</sup> Biennial group meeting of AICRP (Palms) held at CPCRI, Kasaragod so as to create awareness among the coconut growers about utilizing the coconut ecosystem in a better way to generate additional farm income apart from coconut. A total of 50 farmers from Pollachi participated in the training programme. Dr. K. Rajamanickam, Professor (Entomology), welcomed the gathering. The function was presided over by Dr. N. Shoba, P&H. In her inaugural address, the need to integrate several components of crop management technologies was emphasised to make coconut cultivation, a highly remunerative enterprise.

An introduction of cocoa cultivation as an intercrop, covering its origin and distribution, cultivation aspects, market potential and benefits was elaborated by Dr. N. Shoba. Dr. K. Rajamanickam, Professor (Entomology) explained the integrated pests and diseases management strategy. Dr. D. Rajakumar, AP (Agronomy), discussed the coconut based cropping system and management in improving the productivity and farm profitability.

### DBT - Expert committee visited project site

P. M. Murugesan, a progressive banana farmer from Melakkal village of Madurai district has been identified and promoted as



an entrepreneur by the KVK, Madurai in Banana fiber rope production. To promote his business, a project on 'Value addition and waste utilization of Banana Pseudostem' was submitted to DBT under Small Business Innovative and Research Initiative Scheme (SBIRI) in which KVK, is one of the

collaborator. The project was shortlisted and team of scientists from Department of Biotechnology and Biotech Consortium India Limited (BCIL), New Delhi and Anna University, Chennai and Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai visited The Banana Rope Production Centre at Melakkal Village on 22.12.2012. The team thoroughly examined about value addition of Banana Pseudostem and value added products. The Principal Investigator of this project Dr. C. Ravindran, Assistant Professor (Horticulture) and Co-PI Dr. S. Kumar, Professor (Horticulture) and Dr. K. Prabhakaran, Assistant Professor (Agrl. Statistics) explained the role of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University in this project.

### **Integrated training programme at KVK, Madurai**



A two day on campus training programme on 'Seed production in vegetable crops' was organized at KVK, Madurai

from 07.02.2013 to 08.02.2013 involving Horticulture, Home science, Agricultural Engineering and Entomology disciplines. Dr N. S. Venkataraman, Professor & Head, welcomed the delegates and emphasised the importance of seed industry in vegetables and stated that farmers should focus their view in this direction to become a successful entrepreneur. Mr. M. Saravana (Technical Officer) and Mrs C. Devi (Senior Technical Officer) from National Horticultural Research and Development Foundation (NHRDF), Coimbatore participated as resource person and delivered lectures on seed production in tomato, chillies, onion, beans and moringa. They also focused on buy back policy through MoU between the farmers and NHRDF opted for seed production. Dr. P. K. Padamanathan (Agrl. Engineering) explained the machinery used for seed production and Dr. S. Kamalasundari (Food Science and Nutrition) explained the value addition from the seed extracted pulps from vegetable crops. About 50 progressive vegetable growers from different blocks of Madurai district participated, Dr. C. Ravindran, Assistant Professor (Horticulture) co-ordinated the programme.

### **Training on farm journalism skills for extension functionaries**

A collaborative training programme on Farm Journalism Skills for Extension Functionaries jointly organized by TNAU and MANAGE,



Hyderabad was held between January 22-24, 2013 at e-Extension Center, TNAU, Coimbatore. Thirty one agricultural extension professionals from KVKs and research stations of Tamil Nadu participated in this programme. The programme helped the participants to enhance their knowledge on need of farm journalism and its relevance in agricultural development, writing skills for media and newspapers, internet based communication for farm journalism, advanced video production techniques, media linkage and professionalism, communication process, problems and their importance in transfer of technology, communication through fidelity, new media tools and its usage in farm journalism. As the part of the programme, the trainees visited radio Mirchi, Coimbatore to gain first-hand knowledge on process and development of Radio programmes. The training programme was inaugurated by Dr. P. Kalaiselvan, DEE and emphasized the precise and timely information to the farmers by learning both conventional and new media journalistic techniques. Dr. H. Philip, P&H, Training division Dr. P. L. Manohari, Faculty, MANAGE and Dr. N. Anandaraja, AP (Agrl. Extn) Co-ordinated the training programme.

### **Uganda trainees visited Department of Farm management, TNAU**

Dr. Beatrice Akello, DR, National Semi-Arid Resource Research Institute, Uganda along with five trainees accompanied by Dr. K. Sankaranarayanan



Principle Scientist, CICR., Coimbatore visited the vermicompost yard on 22. 01. 2013. The technology to convert farm waste into useful vermicompost was explained by Dr. V. Manivannan, AP (Agronomy), Department of Farm management.

## New schemes

Name of the scheme	Principal Investigator	Amount (Lakh ₹.)	Funding Agency
Design and development of tractor operated precision planter for pulses	Dr. P. K. Padmanathan Assistant Professor (Farm Machinery) Krishi Vigyan Kendra, AC & RI, Madurai	5. 45	Fast Track Young Scientist-SERB- Department of Science and Technology, New Delhi
Development of farm level ripening chamber for fruit ripening	Dr. C. Indu Rani Assistant Professor (Horticulture)	7. 55	UGC, New Delhi
Development and evaluation of a tamarind fruit dehuller and deseeder	Dr. P. Rajkumar Associate Professor (FPE)	10. 44	MFPI, New Delhi
Design and development of ohmic heating system for pasteurization of liquid egg white and to enhance the functional properties of egg white albumen	Dr. K. Thangavel Professor (FPE)	20. 28	MFPI, New Delhi
Ecotourism and its impact on Natural Resources, Agriculture, Socio-Economics and the Environment	Dr. C. Sekar Professor of Agrl. Economics, PHTC, Coimbatore	6. 52	UGC, New Delhi

## Important visitors

- Dr. Palminder Vikram Singh, Harvest Plus visited Department of Plant Biotechnology and deliver a lecture on 8. 01. 2013.
- Bill and Milando Gates Foundation Scientists, visited Department of Plant Biotechnology on 22. 01. 2013.
- Hon'ble Dato. S. K. Devamany, Deputy Minister in PM office, Economic Planning, Malaysia, visited Department of Floriculture on 6. 01. 2013.
- Dr. S. Devadass, University of Idaha, USA, visited Trade and Intellectual Property on 6-1-2013 to 7-1-2013 and 15-1-2013 to 20-1-2013.
- Mr. Akihiko Kamashita, Professor, Asian Natural & Environmental Sciences Centre, University of Tokyo, Japan visited Department of Plant Molecular Biology and Biotechnogy on 19-1-2013 to 22-1-2013.
- Dr. S. D. Sikhamany, Former Vice-Chancellor, APHU, Hyderabad visited O/o Dean Horticulture, TNAU, Coimbatore on 21. 01. 2013.
- Mr. Jiji Thomson, M. D, TRIFED, NewDelhi, Mrs. Lorita Mary vas, Secretary Tribal affairs, New Delhi visited Dean Agriculture during 22-1-2013 to 24-1-2013.
- Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture Mr. S. Damodaran, Mr. S. M. Velusamy, Mayor Mr. T. Malaravan, and Mr. S. P. Velusamy, MLA visited University Farms on 27. 01. 2013.

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