



Tamil Nadu Agricultural University
Coimbatore – 641 003

Dr. M. Rajavel, Ph.D.,
Public Relations Officer
Mobile: 94890 56730

Phone: 0422 - 6611302
Fax: 0422 – 2431821
E-mail: pro@tnau.ac.in

To
The Editor,
Sir,

Date: 15.09.2026

I request that the following message may kindly be published in your esteemed daily:

A New Path to Climate-Smart Rice Cultivation

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University , Coimbatore, in collaboration with TEMASEK Life Sciences Laboratory (TLL), Singapore, organized a Climate-Smart Agriculture Field Day and Farmers–Scientists’ Interaction Meet at Paruthikkottai, Mannargudi, Thiruvavur District on 15th September, 2026 to showcase the research conducted in 250 acres (100 ha) of paddy growing areas of Paruthikkottai village, Mannargudi, Thiruvavur district in two seasons Thaladi (Wet) and Summer (Dry) for adoption of the newly developed innovative interventions comprising alternate wetting & drying (AWD), Tamil Nadu Agricultural University & Temasek Life Sciences Laboratory recommended fertilizer cocktail, suitable rice varieties and TNAU-methanotrophic consortium in the major rice growing areas of Tamil Nadu.

The delegates from TNAU, TEMASEK, officials from State Department of Agriculture, Farmers and stakeholders were attended the programme. The programme was inaugurated by Dr. S. Karthikeyan, Director, Directorate of Natural Resource Management, TNAU, Coimbatore. The welcome address was delivered by Dr. P. Murali Arthanari, Professor and Head, Nammazhvar Organic Farming research Centre, TNAU. Dr. V. Davamani, Professor, presented the project milestones, while Dr. E. Parameswari, Professor, presented the project outcomes. Dr. P. Kalaiselvi, Associate Professor, delivered the way-forward address and Dr. P. Janaki delivered a special address on soil health management to the farmers. Representatives from the funding and collaborating organization, TEMASEK Life Sciences Laboratory, Singapore, including Dr. Srinivasan Ramachandran, Dr. Kins Varghese and Dr. Goh Phuyay Yee, participated and delivered a talk about judicious management of water, improved TLL fertilizer usage, location specific rice varieties and methanotrophic microbial consortium for climate resilient rice cultivation. Special addresses were delivered by Mrs. G. Vidhya, Joint Director of Agriculture, Thiruvavur. Dr. V. Dhanushkodi,

Programme Coordinator, KVK, Needamangalam, also participated in the programme and contributed to the proceedings

The meeting highlighted a significant achievement of the field research, with 369.4 tonnes of CO₂-equivalent emissions reduced across 100 hectares over two cropping seasons, along with a 20 per cent increase in yield compared with conventional farmers' practices. The study further established a technology that combining AWD + TLL fertilizer cocktail + methanotroph consortium + seasonally suitable rice varieties is a promising climate-smart approach. The integrated technology has the potential to provide dual benefits to farmers by improving productivity and profitability while reducing greenhouse-gas emissions, thereby contributing to sustainable rice production. The presidential address was delivered by Dr. S. Karthikeyan, Director, Directorate of Natural Resource Management, TNAU, Coimbatore. Farmers also shared their feedback and experiences and highlighted the benefits of the project, particularly its positive impact on crop productivity, farm profitability and sustainable agricultural practices. The vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. S. Paul Sebastian, Associate Professor (Environmental Science).

The Field Day enlighten that climate-smart rice production can simultaneously enhance farm productivity, improve economic returns and mitigate greenhouse-gas emissions, offering a promising pathway for sustainable agriculture in the Cauvery Delta region.

Public Relations Officer