



# TNAU NEWS

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

TAMIL NADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY NEWS LETTER

## Release of Micro-watershed Atlas of Tamil Nadu



Dr.P.Murugesha Boopathi presided over the function and Dr.P.Subbian, Registrar delivered the inaugural address. Dr.S.N. Das, Chief Soil Survey Officer and Head, Soil and Land Use Survey of India, New Delhi delivered the key note address. Thiru.S.Damodaran Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture, Government of Tamil Nadu released the Micro-watershed atlas of Tamil Nadu. The Joint Director of Agriculture, SE, EE and AEE of Agricultural Engineering Departments from all the districts attended. The micro watershed atlas of Tamil Nadu will be a useful document

The Release function of Micro-watershed atlas of Tamil Nadu and inauguration of one day workshop on Delineation and Codification of micro-watersheds was organized by the Department of Remote Sensing and GIS, Directorate of Natural Resource Management, on 21.01.2012. Dr.V.Velu, Special Officer, DNRM welcomed the gathering. Our Vice Chancellor

for planning and development of water resources and implementing soil conservation measures. Various development departments could use this as a framework for planning their work. The atlas would also be useful for scientists to identify geographic units for the development and testing of location specific technologies.

## Training on E-Velanmai

One day training on e-velanmai scheme was conducted under the TN-IAMWARM project on 08.12.2011. Dr.K. Thirukumaran, Assistant Professor (Agronomy) and scientist Incharge for IAMWARM welcomed the gathering and briefed about the e-velanmai scheme. Dr.V. Rajendran, P & H, Tapioca and Castor Research Station, Yethapur delivered a lecture on drip fertigation and e-velanmai scheme. About 30 farmers attended the training. Farmers were advised to enroll themselves in e-velanmai project so that they can get solution through

on line for their field problems as and when the problem is noticed.

## International Climate Champion 2011

Harshita Mehta third year B.Tech (Energy and Environmental Engineering) student of AC & RI, Coimbatore TNAU has been selected as "International Climate Champion 2011" among 400 competitors from all over India by the British council.

International Climate Champions, a youth oriented programme run by the British Council in partnership with

The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI). TERI is part of British councils global project called climate generation. Harshita Mehta has taken up a project on waste management in the hotels of Ooty. She also attended a project management workshop for a week in the month of October, at the TERI campus in Bangalore. She will work with a group of champions on a national action project related to research and innovation. The project is based on quantifying the impact of climate change on and from tribal population in India.

**Muthamizh Vizha - 2012 at HC & RI, Periyakulam**



Horticultural College & Research Institute, Periyakulam celebrated its Muthamizh Vizha

for two consecutive days. The inauguration of this event was held on 10.01.2012. The welcome address was given by the Staff advisor, Dr. L. Jeeva Jothi followed by the Presidential Address by The Dean, Dr. V. Ponnuswami. The Special Address given by the Chief Guest Mr. Nellai Kannan was inspiring and carried through the ceremony in a positive note. Muthamizh Vizha was crafted to enrich the students in our native Tamil culture.

**Dr.B.Ramamoorthy Memorial Lecture**



Dr. B. Ramamoorthy memorial first lecture was organised by Indian Society of Soil Science, Coimbatore

chapter. The lecture was delivered by Dr.M.Velayutham, Former Director, National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning (NBSS&LUP), Nagpur on 28.12.2011. The gathering of Scientists and students was welcomed by Dr.V.P.Duraisami, P & H, SS & AC, Coimbatore and President, ISSS, Coimbatore chapter.

Dr.Velayutham while delivering his lecture on the “Law of Optimum and Soil Test Based Fertiliser Use for Targeted Yield of Crops for Sustainable Agriculture”, the 1<sup>st</sup> Dr.B. Ramamoorthy Memorial Lecture made a point that soil testing is the first entry point to the farmer's field for extending agro technology transfer to the farming community including long term soil fertility management.

Dr. P. Murugesu Boopathi, Vice chancellor, in his presidential address, expressed that as a tribute and homage to the memory of Dr. B. Ramamoorthy, TNAU feels proud to institute “Dr. B. Ramamoorthy Memorial Lecture” and to invite eminent scientists every year to enrich the knowledge and wisdom on soil fertility and fertiliser use research among the younger generation and to recall the contributions made by Dr.B.Ramamoorthy.

Dr.S.Chellamuthu, Director WTC, and Vice President, ISSS, Coimbatore chapter proposed the vote of thanks.

**Training on Value Added Products of rice and pulse using By products of Milling Industries**

A training programme was arranged to popularize rice and pulse based value added products, using milling industrial by-products of rice and pulse. This training was organized at KVK, Madurai on 22.12.11. and attended by 50 members from farming community, rural youth and SHG members of Madurai district.



Dr. N. S. Venkataraman, Programme Coordinator, KVK, Madurai welcomed the gathering and Dr.S.P.Sundaram Dean i/c of AC & RI, Madurai presided over the function. The Inaugural address was delivered by Dr.R.Shankar Narayan, AGM, NABARD, Madurai stressing the importance of value added products. The special invitee Thiru Kandasamy, Manager, Bank of India, Madurai gave information on availing loan for small scale industry. The special

address on value addition of rice and pulse was delivered by Dr. R.Jagan Mohan, Assoc. Professor & Head, Department of Food Product Development, IICPT, Thanjavur. Dr.S.Kamalasundari, Assistant Professor (FS & N), KVK, Madurai proposed vote of thanks.

### Workshop in DSW



Two-days ICAR sponsored Workshop on Strategies and Skills of Personality Development was inaugurated on 21-12-2012 at

Anna Auditorium, Coimbatore. Resource persons were from Fluency Center, Bannari Amman Institute of Technology, Sathyamangalam and NIT, Trichy. Dr. S. Hariharan, Professor of English welcomed the gathering. Dr. T. Rathakrishnan, DSW, in his inaugural address said that the workshop has been organized for the second time based on the good response and positive feedback. Dr. N. Kumar, Dean HC & RI, Coimbatore in his special address re-emphasized that hard skills and soft skills are the two essential components for a professional's survival, growth and development. Dr. M. Suresh, Assistant Professor of English gave vote of thanks. The sessions focused on preparing a winning resume which facilitated the participants to prepare for interview. The sessions comprised Social Skills and cultural values like Etiquettes, manners and personal grooming, creating impact and unlearning the unwanted communication flaws. corporate skills such as Leadership traits, overcoming self-sabotaging tendency. Employability skills like Group Discussion and mock-interview were held. The final year students of all undergraduate courses and third year students of EEE and FPE numbering 290 participated in the workshop and they were given the certificate of participation.

### Cornell students visit to TNAU

As a part of IARD - 602 (International Agricultural and Rural Development) programme

Cornell University students from United states of America visited Tamil Nadu Agricultural University on 6th and 7th January 2012. They visited Uzhavar sandhai, R.S.Puram and explained the activities carried out at uzhavar sandhai. The students were impressed by the variety of vegetable and fruit produces which they spotted at the market, the prices and regulatory mechanism followed.

On day two they visited various Departments/Centers and were explained the various research and extension activities carried out by TNAU. Hands-on training was given to them.

A total of 40 students participated in this program, out of which 34 are from Cornell and 6 from TNAU who have registered for Dual degree program in 2011-12 batch. These six students would go back to Cornell along with the team and continue their course work at Cornell University.

### Workshop on "How to Prepare a Manuscript for a Scientific Journal"

Three day workshop was organized at SPGS,, TNAU, Coimbatore in collaboration with the National Research Foundation (NRF) of South Africa and the Durban University of Technology (DUT), and South Africa from 5<sup>th</sup> -7<sup>th</sup> January 2012.

Our Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor Dr. P.Murugesu Boopathi presided over the inaugural function. Dr. Gansen Pillay, Vice President, NRF, South Africa presented the program in eight sessions. The session ended with certificate distribution. The participants would submit their completed article to a reputed International journal for publishing by February 15, 2012.

### Tamil Nadu Young Women Scientist Award 2010- (Agricultural Sciences)

Dr.S. Maragatham, A.P., Department of SS & AC received the Tamil Nadu Young Women Scientist Award for the year 2010 in the discipline of Agricultural Sciences from Science City, Department of Higher Education, Chennai. The award was given by Thiru.P.Palaniappan, Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education, Government of Tamil Nadu and Chairman,





Science City in the inaugural function of Chennai Science festival on the theme of Science in Every day life at Chennai on 27.1.2012. The award carries a citation, shield and cash price of Rs.20,000/-.

### Golden Jubilee Celebration

Golden Jubilee Celebration of Department of Agricultural Economics, TNAU and National level seminar on "The Future of Agricultural Development in India: The Role of Agricultural Economists" was organized on 28<sup>th</sup> December 2011 by the Department of Agrl.Economics, TNAU, Coimbatore. More than 200 eminent Agricultural Economists of National and International repute, well-known researchers, senior academicians, faculty members, students and alumni working in other renowned organizations participated in the seminar. Dr.P.Murugesu Boopathi, Vice-Chancellor,



inaugurated and emphasized the role of agricultural economists in assisting policy makers in the frontier areas of poverty, agricultural development and rural problems. The Vice-Chancellor released the Golden Jubilee Souvenir and Commodity Report of the Domestic and Export Market Intelligence Cell (DEMIC). The retired Professors of Agricultural Economics were honoured during the function. Dr.N.Ajjan, Director, CARDS welcomed the gathering. Dr.M.Chinnadurai, Organising Secretary of the Seminar and P & H, proposed vote of thanks.

### SRS Participation in the National Service Scheme camp at Gudiatham

The NSS special camp for volunteers was organized under Organic Agriculture Awareness Programme by the Municipal Hr.Sec.School, Gudiatham at Ananganallur Middle School.

Dr. B.Rajendran P & H, SRS, Melalathur delivered lecture on Agriculture and on Environment Protection. by Dr. R. Sheeba Jasmine A.P.



(Agrl. Entomology). Totally 25 NSS students from various schools of Gudiatham area attended.

### Programme at AC & RI, Killikulam

#### Field demonstration and training

Demonstration cum training programme on "Farmer Participatory Seed Production on Pulses and Oilseeds"



was organized during January 2012. This programme under NADP- Phase III (Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana) was sponsored by Government of India. Dr. R. Ganesan, Dean, inaugurated the programme and explained the significance of critical technologies in pulses for enhancing the productivity. Under this programme, field demonstrations were organised at six different villages. A total number of 120 farmers participated

#### Muthamizh Vizha

'Muthamizh Vizha' was celebrated on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> January 2012. Dr. R. Ganesan, Dean, in his presidential address emphasised the heritage of Tamil language. The famous poet Nandhalala gave keynote address and explained the reality of life in poetic way and sought the individual commitment in up keeping the societal values. Prof. Abdul Kadhar explained the greatness and nobility of Tamil language. Actor Delhi Ganesh shared his stage experiences with the students. Earlier Dr.M.A.K.Pillai, Staff Adviser made elaborate arrangements for successful conduct of the programme.

## Dual Degree Graduation Ceremony



The Second Dual degree graduation ceremony was held on 4<sup>th</sup> January, 2012 at TNAU, Coimbatore. The graduation ceremony was presided over by our Hon'ble vice-Chancellor Dr. P.Murugesha Boopathi. The second batch of 10 students received their M.Tech. degree from TNAU and MPS (Master of Professional Studies) from Cornell University. Out of the 10 students 5 belong to faculty of Food Processing and Marketing and 5 from Biotechnology and Buisness Management faculty.

Dr. P. Murugesha Boopathi, Vice-Chancellor, said that the programme would develop according to the changing times. He believed that the graduates of the programme would make significant contributions in agriculture. "Recognizing the success of the programme, ICAR has agreed to institute fellowships to eight students who have secured admission to the MPS programme", Dr. Ronnie Coffman, Director, International Programmes, College of Agricultural Sciences(CALS), Cornell University was the special guest and in his address said that India is No. 1 in the world in irrigated land and in production of milk. It is No.2 in the production of fruits and vegetables. Yet, only 2-5 per cent of India's foods are processed, compared with the 80 percent in the U.S. and 30 per cent in Thailand and the students are well poised to change these numbers. Food production and food processing will contribute to more food-secure future for India".

### Pongal vizha Celebration

Pongal Vizha was celebrated on 16.01.2012. Dr. R. Ganesan, Dean, presided over the function. He underlined the significance of celebrating Pongal Vizha as a thanks giving event to the farmers and the supporting livestock. The labourers were honoured who have rendered efficient services in cattle management by giving dhoti and sarees. College staff members, farm labourers and students attended the function. Dr. M. Hemalatha, A.P. (Farm) made all arrangements.

### Farmers training on "Diagnosis and Management of Nematode diseases"

Three days farmers training programme on "Diagnosis and Management of Nematode Diseases" was organized at ADAC & RI, TNAU, Trichy on 06.02.2012. Dr V. Jayabal, Dean, inaugurated Dr. E. I. Jonathan, Director, CPPS, delivered special address that the training is necessary as awareness

among the farmers about nematodes causing damage to cultivated crops is very low. Unlike insects and

disease, where the farmers can identify the organism or damage easily, nematodes and their damage symptoms are difficult to diagnose. He explained the various ecofriendly methods of nematode management in crops. Thiru. R. Chandrasekaran, Deputy Director of Agriculture, Thiru R. Pandiarajan, Assistant Director of Agriculture and Thiru R. Shanmugam, Assistant Director of Horticulture of Manikandam block, Trichy offered felicitations. Dr. G. Gajendran, Professor & Head, Dept. of Plant Protection, welcomed the gathering and Dr. K. Senthamizh, Assistant Professor (Nematology) proposed vote of thanks.





## Deputy Director General (Hort.), ICAR, New Delhi visits HRS, Pechiparai



Dr. H. P. Singh, Deputy Director General (Horticulture), and Dr. N. Kumar, Dean (Hort.) visited the Horticultural

Research Station, Pechiparai on 17.12.2011. Dr. J. Prem Josuah, Professor & Head explained the various activities. Tree planting was done by the dignitaries. DDG (Hort.) emphasized the need for establishing High pedigree nursery for high rainfall humid zone fruits and to conduct studies on rubber and *Annona muricata*.

## National Training on Molecular Characterization of GMOs and its Purity Testing



National training on "Molecular Characterization of GMOs and its Purity Testing" was conducted at the Department of

SS & T, from 1<sup>st</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> December 2011 with the financial support from National Seed Research and Training Centre, GOI, Varanasi. Thirty participants attended the training.

Dr.P.Subbian, Registrar, inaugurated the training programme and delivered the inaugural address. He emphasized the importance of GM crops for improving crop productivity and achieving food security. Dr.M.Bhaskaran, Special Officer (Seeds), and P & H incharge and Course Director highlighted the role of DNA finger printing in the genetic purity testing of varieties and hybrids.

In the valedictory function, Dr.M.Paramathma, D.R., narrated the importance of creating awareness among farmers about GM crops. Dr.M.Bhaskaran,

Special Officer (Seeds), Dr.R.Samiyappan, Director, CPMB & B also spoken. Dr. P. Selvraju, Professor (SST), was coordinating in association with Dr.R.Jerlin, Assoc. Professor (SST) and Dr.V. Manonmani Assoc. Professor (SST).

## Inauguration of Community Radio Students' Club in TNAU

TNAU Community Radio is broadcasting the programmes four hours daily weather, market prices of perishable commodities, experts' advices, farmers' success stories etc. through Vivasaaeye FM 107.4"



A Students' Community Radio Club was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor. on 23.1.2012. In his presidential remarks, highlighted the need for motivating the students. Around 105 students have enrolled as members of the club

Dr.P. Kalaiselvan, DEE gave welcome address, Dr.SP.Ramanathan, P & H, Department of Market Extension presented the activities of the Community Radio Station. Dr.A.Palanisamy, Professor of Agrl.Extension proposed a vote of thanks.

## Cornell University Scientist visit to SRI field, Thumbal

Tapioca and Castor Research Station is implementing SRI technology under T N - I A M W A R M project in the Upper Vellar sub



basin of Salem district. Third anniversary of Thumbal SRI farmers Association was celebrated at Thumbal on 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2012. Dr.Norman T. Uphoff, Cornell University, USA visited SRI field at Thumbal village

Dr.V. Rajendran, P & H, TCRS delivered the welcome address. Dr.C.Chellamuthu, Director, WTC and Dr. B.J. Pandian, Head TN- IAMWARM and Nodal officer, Dr.P. Manickam, Programme co-ordinator, KVK, Salem, Mr.K. Sridharan, Senior Vice president, T-Stanes and Co. felicitated the function. Dr.K. Thirukumaran, proposed vote of thanks.

### Field day on SRI



SRI cultivation was implemented through TN- IAMWARM scheme in Sevalaperiyar sub basin, by CRS, Srivilliputtur and organized

field day on 07.02.2012 at North Venganallur village, of Rajapalayam. Block. Dr.R.Vimala, Associate Professor and Tmt.K.Vanaja (JRF) participated. About 50 farmers attended the field day and interacted with the scientists.

### Training on- NADP (Demonstrations on improved varieties and key technologies in groundnut)



One day training on "Demonstrations on improved varieties and key technologies in groundnut funded

by NADP was conducted at ORS, Tindivanam to the 60 Farmers from Vamban, Pudukottai on 10.2.12. Dr. N. Ramamoorthi, Professor & Head, ORS, Tindivanam welcomed the gathering. Mr. V. Kanthasamy, Joint Director of Agriculture (Retd.), Coimbatore delivered the lecture on Yearikai Velanmai. Dr. M.Vaithiyalingan, A.P. (Plant Breeding & Genetics), Dr. J. Balamurugan, A.P. (SS & AC), Dr.V. Radhakrishnan A.P. (Entomology), Dr. N. Ramalingam, Asso. Prof (Micro.), Dr. C.Tamil Selvi and Dr. K. Kavitha, A.P. (Plant Pathology) delivered lectures on groundnut cultivation.

### Training on 'Precision Farming and Insect Pest Management'

A training on, 'Precision Farming and Insect Pest Management' was organized by Department of Agricultural Entomology under the aegis of Centre of Advanced Faculty Training sponsored by ICAR for 21 days from February 8 to 28, 2012. A total of 25 participants from different parts of the country participated. Dr. P. Karuppuchamy, P & H, welcomed the gathering Dr. G. Asokan, Professor proposed the vote of thanks. Dr. A. Chandrasekaran, CoE, inaugurated and exhorted the plant protection scientists to keep pace with the latest challenges in plant protection.

### TNAU student selected as youth advisor for United Nations environment programme

Ms. Archana Jayaraman, a third year B.Tech (EEE) student has been selected as the Sub-regional youth advisor for the Asia and Pacific region TUNZA youth wing. She will be working in India, Pakistan, Maldives, Bhutan, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka for assisting UNEP on better ways of engaging young people, contribute to the development of UNEP's publications, facilitate youth input in various environmental fora etc.

### Vice Chancellor inspected 'Thane' damages in VRS, Palur

Our Honourable Vice Chancellor, Dr. P. Murugesha Boopathi, Dr. T. Jayaraj, Director, TRRI, Aduthurai and Dr. P. Kalaiselvan,



DEE visited Thane cyclone affected places at VRS, Palur on 12.1.2012 and 13.01.2012. They witnessed the severe damages caused on buildings, perennial tree crops and other economically important trees, different seed crops viz., paddy, blackgram, sunhemp and vegetable seed crops and ongoing research trials by 'Thane' cyclone which hit on



30.12.2011 with wind velocity of more than 125 kmph. He inspected the very old Mangalore tiled roof buildings. Rupees 50 lakhs sanctioned as immediate relief fund for the construction of new Administrative building. In addition to this, he also sanctioned a sum of Rupees 15 lakhs to construct compound wall and 25 lakhs for repairing of all damaged buildings.

Our Vice Chancellor recommended to

use shredder to powder the fallen leaves and twigs for making compost. He also suggested to clean all the damaged trees without disturbing the grafts and seedlings and to utilize fallen teak trees for making laboratory stools and shelves for office use. He advised to use Chain belt type harvester to harvest the lodged rice crop during the field visit and suggested to take up sunhemp sowing after the harvest of Paddy.

### New schemes

Name of the scheme	Principal Investigator	Amount (Lakh ₹.)	Funding Agency
"Coupling mechanisms of soil Carbon Sequestration and productivity enhancement for different cropping systems for sustainable agriculture."	Dr. K. Baskar, Associate Professor (SS&AC).TNAU, Coimbatore	33.47	Department of Science and Technology
Climate change assessing impacts and developing adaptation strategies for the Agriculture in Tamil Nadu.	Dr. V. Geethalakshmi, Professor and Head, Agro Climate Research Centre, TNAU, Coimbatore – 3.	65.87	Govt - DST
Market-led Extension Activities under Marketing Research and Information Network(MRIN)	Dr.P.Kalaiselvan, Dr. SP. Ramanathan, Dr. D. Selvi, Dr. T. Alagurani Directorate of Extension Education, TNAU, Coimbatore – 3.	6.53	Directorate of Marketing Inspection, Govt. of India

### Important visitors

- Dr. S.K. De Datta, VT. UAS, Dr. Ed Rajotte, PSU, USA, Dr. Doug Pfeiffer, VT, USA, Dr. R. Muniappan, VT, USA and Dr. George Norton, VT, USA visited to discuss about the progress of IPM - CRSP project and finalize the work plan of third year CPMB&B from 27.01.2012 to 29.01.2012.

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