



# TNAU NEWS

Patron: **Dr. P. Subbian**, Acting Vice Chancellor  
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TAMIL NADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY NEWS LETTER

## TNAU Scholar receives Jawaharlal Nehru Award



Dr. Shinoj Subramannian, former Ph.D. Scholar (Department of Food and Agricultural Process Engineering), has been awarded the prestigious

Jawaharlal Nehru Award for outstanding doctoral thesis research for the year 2011 by the ICAR, New Delhi. The Award was presented by Hon'ble Union Minister for Agriculture Shri. Sharad Pawar in the presence of Shri Harish Rawat (Hon'ble Minister of State (Agriculture)), Dr. Charan Das Mahant, Hon'ble Minister of State (Agriculture and FPI) during the ICAR Award Ceremony held on July 16, 2012 at New Delhi. The award carried a medal, citation and Rs. 50,000/- cash.

His doctoral thesis work was on "Development and Characterization of Oil Palm Fibre - Linear Low Density Polyethylene (LLDPE) Biocomposites".

## HRS, Yercaud in Flower Show

The Horticultural Research Station (HRS), Yercaud bagged the special prize for the institutional landscape in Salem district and a special prize for wide array of cut flowers and flowering ornamentals in the 37<sup>th</sup> Summer Festival conducted by Government of Tamil Nadu at Anna Park, Yercaud from 24.5.2012 to 27.5.2012. This prestigious event was inaugurated by Thiru S. Damodaran, Honourable Minister for Agriculture, Government of Tamil Nadu in the presence of Thiru Edappadi K Palaniswami, Honourable Minister for Highways & Minor Ports and Tmt. S. Gokula Indira, Honourable Minister of Tourism. A group of more than 1000 potted plants comprising of cut Roses, Anthurium, Orchid, Carnation, Chrysanthemum, Bird of Paradise, Gerbera, Heliconias, Balsam, Coreopsis, Gomphrena

along with many cut foliage displayed was the centre of attraction. Besides, the ecofriendly organic inputs viz., vermicompost and pot mixture were distributed to the planters to encourage organic farming.

## Annual Seed Workshop 2012

One day Annual Seed Workshop was held in Tamil Nadu Agricultural University on May 23, 2012 in order to review the existing seed production programme of TNAU and to provide a platform to the stakeholders and scientists to discuss the problems and prospects with Seed Industry. The inaugural session of the workshop was conducted at the Rasi Seeds Conference Hall of TNAU with 100 participants comprising of scientists of TNAU, officials from Commissionerate of Agriculture, National Seed Corporation, Department of Seed Certification and

members of Tamil Nadu Seed Producers' Association. Dr.M.Bhaskaran, Special Officer (Seeds) welcomed the gathering with a special address over the seed supply chain systems of TNAU. Dr.P.Subbian, Registrar, TNAU delivered the inaugural address and released the Annual Seed Workshop manual. Dr.N.Kumar, Dean (Hort.), Dr.S.Jeyaraman, Director (Crop Management Studies) and Mr.A.Gopal, Joint Director of Seed Inspection, Coimbatore shared their expertise. Dr.M.Ramasamy, Managing Director, M/s. Rasi Seeds Pvt. Ltd., Salem delivered the key note address. Dr.P.Srimathi, Professor (SST), TNAU, Coimbatore proposed vote of thanks.

In the afternoon session, the production programme and supply of seeds and NADP programme were discussed. Scientists of 36 BSP Centers participated in the seed workshop.

**Papaya Mealybug Parasitoid Released**



Blackgram variety ADT 5 has been extensively cultivated as Summer irrigated crop in Thruvaiyaru block of Thanjavur to an extent of 500 acres area. During pod maturity stage, incidence of papaya mealybug, *Paracoccus marginatus* was observed in few villages covering about 10 acres area with intensity of grade 2. To create awareness among the nearby farmers, a training programme on management of this mealybug was conducted at Nagachi village of Thiruvaiyaru block on 15-6-2012. Dr. V.G. Mathirajan, AP (Entomology), SWMRI, Kattuthottam explained the various mealy bug species attacking crops and management options for this notorious pest. The farmers were trained on the chemical and biological means of controlling the pest. The farmers were also advised to avoid synthetic pyrethroids which favoured resurgence of this pest. As a biological resort to contain this polyphagous pest, a field release of *Acerophagus papayae* was conducted through farmers participatory approach and more than 1000 adult parasitoids have been released in blackgram ecosystem spreading in 10 acres area in less damaged crop. Professor and Head and other scientists of SWMRI participated in this programme. About 60

farmers participated and were provided with the parasitoids.

**SWIC establishment under TN – IAMWARM – Kambainallur SUB Basin**

Single Window Information Centre (SWIC) has been established under TN – IAMWARM – Kambainallur Sub basin on behalf of



KVK, Dharmapuri at Thippampatti of Morappur Block. The SWIC was inaugurated by the respected District Collector, Tmt. R. Lilly on 11.06.2012. All line department officials participated and awareness programme on water scarcity and water saving technologies like precision farming in Vegetables, SRI, crop diversification and growing low water consuming crops like groundnut, pulses, maize instead of sugarcane and paddy was conducted.

The objective of SWIC is to provide information on available schemes and technologies in various line departments at one single point when a farmer approaches this centre. The activities are providing Common Meeting place for farmers, facilitating selection of beneficiaries for drip fertigation system by Agricultural, Horticultural and Agricultural Engineering departments by interaction with the concerned officials. A touch screen facility has been installed with internet facilities for updating knowledge on agricultural technology and daily marketing price of different markets for the benefit of the farmers.

**Capacity building training to ATMA farmers**

One day "Capacity Building" training on coconut cultivation for stakeholders of ATMA farmers was organized at



Coconut Research Station, Veppankulam on

26.06.2012. Fifty progressive farmers from Thanjavur district participated in the programme. Programme was inaugurated by Dr. C. Natarajan, Professor & Head of this research Station. He delivered a special lecture on Mother palm selection procedures and production of quality seedlings. Dr. S. Thiruvarassan, A.P. (Agron.), Dr. K. Rajappan, A.P. and Dr. K. Ganesan, A.P.. (Entomology) have handled the practical session on root feeding techniques in coconut. Earlier Shri Sudhakaran, A.O welcomed the gathering and Smt. Sivaranjani proposed the vote of thanks.

### Awareness campaign programme by TCRS, Yethapur



One day awareness campaign on Hybrid castor cultivation was conducted by Tapioca and Castor Research Station, Yethapur for the women Self Help Group members at Kurichi village, Vazhapadi block of Salem district. Dr. G. Selvarani, AP (Agricultural Extension) welcomed the gathering. Dr.V. Rajendran, Professor & Head, explained about hybrid castor and its industrial importance. Dr.S.R. Venkatachalam, AP (Plant Breeding & Genetics) Dr. K. Tirukumaran, AP (Agron.) and . Dr. P. Arutchenthil, AP (Plant Breeding & Genetics) explained hybrid castor cultivation techniques.

An exhibition was arranged. About 55 farm women participated in the meeting and benefitted. Dr. P. Kalaiselvi,



AP (Environmental Science) proposed the vote of thanks. Final Year students of B.Sc. (Agriculture), Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore undergoing Rural Agricultural Work Experience RAWE programme conducted method demonstration on root feeding of coconut tonic for the Women Self Help Group members.

### Training/ Meetings conducted

#### a. Field day on Drip irrigation in Rice:

A collaborative research programme on drip irrigation in rice was carried out at TRRI, Aduthurai, to create awareness on drip



irrigation among officials and farmers A field day was organized to visualize the feasibilities of growing paddy under drip irrigation. Dr. V. Ravi, Professor (Agronomy) welcomed the gathering and narrated the scheme objectives. Dr.T. Jayaraj, Director, explained the benefits of drip irrigation in all crops and possibilities of using drip irrigation in a system basis for rice and rice fallow crops like pulses/vegetables. Mr. Eli Vered, Head Agronomist, Netafim Irrigation, Israel explained that the one way of achieving the present target of food grain production was through drip irrigation. Mr. SubbaRao Netafim, Hyderabad and Mr. Sabarinathan, Managers, Netafim, and more than 50 progressive farmers from the delta districts participated in this programme.

#### Azolla to Augment Rural Livelihood

To promote Azolla technology among rural families, six training programs were organized at Department of Nano



Science and Technology, Coimbatore during June and July 2012 with the financial support from Navaibai Ratan Tata Trust, Mumbai. Totally 420 farmers were trained on Azolla cultivation and field visit was arranged to provide hands on experience on Azolla multiplication and harvesting. Farmers also visited Animal husbandry unit to observe the Azolla feeding to farm animals and poultry birds. Dr. V.Velu, S.O, DNRM, Dr.K.S.Subramanian, P&H, DNST, Dr.S.Ramanathan and Mr.Xavier, Programme Coordinators, Sir Ratan Tata Trust participated in the

programme Dr. A.Lakshmanan, AP, DNST, Dr.K.Kumar, Professor and Head, CAS in Microbiology, Dr.V.Geethalakshmi, Professor & Head, Agro Climate Research Centre and Dr.R.Balagopal, Professor & Head, Animal Husbandry participated as resource persons.

### Vermicompost production technology training at HRS, Kodaikanal



One day training on “Vermicompost production technology” was organized at HRS, Kodaikanal, with ATMA, on 18.07.12 Mr.L.Karthikeyan, Block Development Manager (ATMA) welcomed the gathering. The training was presided by Dr. J. Rajangam. Assoc. Professor and Head, HRS, Kodaikanal. The lecture was delivered by Dr. D. Janaki, Asst. Prof. (SS&AC) During the training, pit and silpaulin methods of vermicomposting were demonstrated. The progressive farmers, entrepreneurs, Self Help Group members and farm women of Upper and Lower Pulney hill regions participated. Dr. T. K. S. Latha, AP (Path.) proposed the vote of thanks.

### Special Lecture at Agricultural Engineering College & Research Institute, Kumulur



A guest lecture on Renewable Energy and its Conservation was organized on 26.06.2012 at AEC&RI, Kumulur. The programme was

inaugurated by Dr. A. Tajuddin, Dean, Er. P. Balachandran, Joint Director and Er. S. Mahadeven, Consultant of Petroleum Conservation Research Association, Chennai delivered special lectures and distributed pamphlets on energy saving measures to the B. Tech. (Agrl. Engg.) students and staff of this college. The programme ended with vote of thanks by Dr. K. Nagarajan, Staff Advisor.

## Events of Home Science College and Research Institute, Madurai

### Eye Camp

Eye camp was conducted at the College Dispensary on 06.07.2012. Vasan Eye Care Hospital organized the camp jointly with the Department of Apparel Designing and Fashion Technology (AFT) of HSC&RI, Madurai. The Camp was inaugurated by the Dean, Dr.P.Banumathi. Dr.T.Padmini, P&H made elaborate arrangements. Around 150 members including staff of AC&RI and HSC&RI, students and farm labourers were benefitted and got their eyes checked.



### Lighting ceremony celebrated

The 29<sup>th</sup> Lighting ceremony of HSC&RI, Madurai was celebrated on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2012, to symbolize the outgoing graduates



to drive away the darkness of ignorance with light of knowledge. Dr.K.Alagusundaram, the Director, IICPT, Thanjavur was the chief guest who lighted the mother lamp. An oath was administered to the outgoing students by the Dean of the college. During his special address, Dr.K.Alagusundaram, motivated the outgoing students to explore the ever widening possibilities in the food processing sector.

Dr.P.Banumathi, Dean, emphasized the qualities of students developed to get them employable and positive thinking for success. Dr.T. Padmini, P&H, Dr. S. Amutha, P&H, Dr.P. Parimalam, felicitated. Dr.M.Ibrahim, P&H (PB&G) and Warden made an appeal to the students to rise up to the occasion and seize the opportunities. Dr. S.Kanchana, Staff Advisor of Home Science College welcomed the gathering and Dr. G.Hemalatha, Associate Professor (FSN) proposed the vote of thanks.

## Commercialization of technology - Seed Centre, TNAU, Coimbatore



The 'Secondary Proteins extracted in the liquid form is being marketed in the trade name of "NutriGold" and "SeedAid" by the Nitta Gelatin India Limited, Cochin – the company which sponsored the research project. Directorate of Seed Certification and Organic Certification issued the certificate as organic product.

The royalty for "NutriGold" and "SeedAid" was handed over by Th.K.Pradeep Kumar, Asst. General

A project was conceptualized at Seed Centre, to develop a technology for extraction of the proteins and minerals present in the waste sludge and to evolve a methodology of application to seeds and crop to enhance the seed productivity.

Manager, Nitta-Gelatin India Ltd., Cochin to the Dr.K.Sivasubramanian, Director (Agri Bbusiness Development), in the presence of Dr.P.Subbian, Acting Vice-Chancellor,(TNAU) and Dr.M.Bhaskaran, S.O. (Seeds).

### Campus Seminar



A campus seminar on "Evidence influenced Policy making" was organized at HSC&RI, Madurai.

Dr.M.Jegadeesan, AP (Agrl. Extension) presented the lead paper which is based on his participation in International Workshop on Training of Trainers conducted at Kualalampur, Malaysia under the aegis of International Network for Availability of Scientific Publication (INASP) held from May 28 to June 2, 2012.

One day training programme on Integrated Farming System (IFS) was conducted on 19-07-2012. Forty Farmers from Sathy block (Puliyankombai village) of Erode district participated. Dr. M. Mohamed Yassin, P&H, inaugurated and delivered a lecture on "The role of sustainable IFS for Erode district". Earlier, Dr. S. Marimuthu, AP (Agron.) welcomed the gathering. Technical lectures on IFS theme were delivered by the scientists Dr. K. Ramaiah (Agronomy)

Dr. P.A. Saravanan (Entomology), Dr. S. Maruthasalam (Plant Pathology) and Dr. R. Chitra (Horticulture).

### Field day at FRS, Thovalai

A field day on "Harvest and yield assessment in SRI" was organized by the Floriculture Research Station,



Thovalai at Panagudi village of Hanumanadhi sub basin under TN-IAMWARM project. Dr. R. Richard Kennedy, Associate Professor and Head welcomed the gathering and highlighted the different techniques of SRI. The farmers from Veerapandian, Thalavaipuram and Panagudi villages attended the field day and got benefited. Dr. G. Preetha, AP (Agrl Entomology) proposed vote of thanks.

### Field day on INM in Flower Crops

A field day on "INM in flower crops" was organized at Pazhavor village of Hanumanadhi sub

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basin under TN-IAMWARM by the Floriculture Research Station, Thovalai. Dr. R. Richard Kennedy,

Associate Professor and Head welcomed the gathering and explained the importance of integrated nutrient management in flowers and other horticultural crops. Dr. Vasunthara, Professor (Hort.), Department of Medicinal and Aromatic Crops, GKVK, Bangalore was the chief guest of the function and called the farmers to adopt crop rotation for effective INM. She also explained about the INM technology in Andhra red rose. Dr. G. Preetha, AP (Agrl Entomology) proposed vote of thanks.

### German students visited FRS, Thovalai



Dr. Hartmut Stutzel, Chief Scientist, University at Hannover, Germany and his team with of 16

scholars hailing from Agriculture and allied fields visited FRS, Thovalai. Dr. R. Richard Kennedy, Associate Professor and Head welcomed and explained the research activities carried out and the demonstration plots of flower crops. The visitors were also taken to the farmers fields to explore them on loose flower, cut flower and crops grown as intercrops under banana like Heliconia, Alpinia, Bird of Paradise, ornamental turmeric, ornamental banana, ornamental ginger and ornamental pineapple.

### 'e-Velanmai' extension project inaugurated



The innovative agricultural extension project sponsored by World Bank TN-IAMWARM, named e-Velanmai was

introduced to the farmers of Hanumanadhi sub basin on 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2012 at Panagudi village. e-Velanmai method of Agricultural extension involving use of information

and communication technology tools namely computer, internet, camera and mobile phone to provide extension advices by the scientists of FRS, Thovalai to the registered farmers on need basis through a Field Extension Co-ordinator. The project was inaugurated by Dr. Richard Kennedy, Assoc. Prof and Head, FRS, Thovalai.

Dr. C. Karthikeyan, Associate Professor (Ag. Extension) and Project leader explained about the project. During the inauguration 67 farmers including 10 farm women of Panagudi village joined the project in the presence of Mr. M. Ashok Macrin, ADH, Nagercoil. Dr. G. Preetha, AP, welcomed the gathering and Dr. S. Kanaka, Field Coordinator proposed vote of thanks to the participants.

### Visit of Deans and Scientists

Dr.G.S.Tomar, Placement Officer, Indira Gandhi Agricultural University, Chattisghar visited the Directorate of



Students Welfare on 04.07.2012, Dr.V.S.Shinde, Dean of Instructions and Administration, Maharashtra Agricultural University and Dr.D.P.Wasker, Associate Dean and Principal, College of Agriculture, Latur visited the Directorate of Students Welfare on 25.07.2012 and Prof. Mathias Pilz from University of Cologne, Germany visited the Directorate of Students Welfare on 31.07.2012. They have been explained the facilities and activities of the Directorate. Career guidance workshop, personality development, soft skill development, Placement of students through campus interviews and Job fair were explained by the faculty members and the infrastructure facilities developed viz., placement study hall, library, interview chambers, placement lecture hall, group discussion chamber and Advanced Digital Language Laboratory (ADLL) developed for the benefit of students to prepare them to be fit for the job markets were explained.

A motivational talk on Civil Services Examinations was arranged in the Directorate of Students Welfare on 23.07.2012 in which Mr.Shankar from Shankar IAS Academy, Chennai conducted an

interactive session on Civil Services examinations for the benefit of the students of TNAU main campus.

and other delta districts participated in the seminar.

### District Level Seminar on Slatted goat Rearing



The slatted goat rearing a new technique of goat rearing is gaining momentum in the rural areas due to its added advantage such as disease free rearing and weight gain in the goats. To promote the slatted goat rearing, one day district level seminar was organized at KVK, Needamangalam on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2012 . A total of 250 farmers from different blocks of Thiruvarur

Thiruvarur district collector Th. S. Natarajan inaugurated the seminar. and he narrated the benefits of slatted goat rearing. Dr. G. Sudhakar, AP (Agron). Dr. G. Mahendiran, Assistant surgeon, Needamangalam Veterinary Hospital handled the technical sessions. The participants were taken to the Vellankuzhi village near Needamangalam where a group of nine livestock growers constructed slatted goat unit for goat rearing.

Dr. T. Dhamodaran, Associate professor (Agrl Extension) welcomed the gathering and Dr.S.Anantha krishnaveni AP (Agron) proposed vote of thanks

### New schemes

Name of the scheme	Principal Investigator	Amount (Lakh ₹.)	Funding Agency
Development of Technology for Resistant / Modified Starch substituted cereal / Millets and Pulse blended Bakery and Pasta Products	Dr.M.Illamaran Asst.Prof (FSN) Co- Principal Investigators Dr.P.Banumathi Dean ( HSC) Dr.M.R.Premalatha Prof & Head (FSN)	37.96	Ministry of Food Processing Industries
Value added products from yeast fermented heat sterilized defatted rice bran	Dr. P.S. Geetha, Asst.Prof (FSN) Co- Principal Investigators Dr.B.Nallakurumban Asst.Prof (FSN) Dr.S.P.Sundaram Prof &Head (Ag.Microbiology)	12.21	UGC, New Delhi
Study on the dietary antioxidant consumption among the adults and the effect of cooking and processing on the activity of antioxidants	Dr.T.Padmini, Professor & Head (AFT) Co- Principal Investigator Dr.R.Vijayalakshmi Asst.Prof (FSN) Dr.Jesupriya Poornakala Asst.Prof (FSN)	10.18	UGC, New Delhi
Creation of Soil Nutrient Database through ICP Analysis and Issue of Soil Health card	Dr.A.R.Mohamed Haroon Professor and Head Department of Soil and Environment AC&RI Madurai	70.36	NADP

Name of the scheme	Principal Investigator	Amount (Lakh ₹.)	Funding Agency
Designing Safe and Ergofriendly Kitchen for Elderly persons	Dr. P. Parimalam Assoc. Prof and Head Co- Principal Investigator Dr.M.R.Premalatha Prof & Head (FSN) Dr.B.Nallakurumban Asst.Prof (FSN)	13.39	DST New Delhi TIE Programme
ClimaAdapt: Adaptation to Climate Change: An integrated science stakeholder approach to develop Adaptation framework for Water and Agriculture sectors in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu states of India.	Dr. V. Geethalakshmi, Professor and Head, Agro Climate Research Centre, TNAU, Coimbatore  Dr.A.Lakshmanan, Associate Professor, Department of Nano Science and Technology, TNAU, Coimbatore	310.27	Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), Norway, through The Royal Norwegian Embassy, New Delhi.

### Important visitors

- Mr. Neil Moris Powar, Former Asst. Director, N Park, Singapore visited Professor and Head, Department of Floriculture and Landscaping on 2-7-2012 and 3-7-2012
- Dr. A. Jayathilak, Chairman, Spices Board visited Professor and Head, Department of Spices and Plantation Crops on 11-7-2012
- Dr. Barry Jacobson, Montana State University, USA, Dr. R. Muniappan, Virginia Tech., USA, Dr. Ed Rajotte, Penn State University, USA, Dr. Naidu Rayapati, Washington State University, USA visited IPM-CRSP on 14.7.2012
- Dr. Sagadevan Mundree, Deputy Director, Institute for Tropical Crops and Bio-commodities, Queensland University of Technology, Australia. visited on 23.7.2012
- Dr.V.S. Shinde, Director of Instruction & Dean, Faculty of Agriculture and Dr. D.P. Waskar, Dean (Agri.), Marathwada Krishi Vidyapeeth, Parbhani, Maharashtra State visited Registrar, Controller of Examinations, Dean (Agri.), Director of Students Welfare, Director (ODL) & Library on 24-7-2012 to 27-7-2012
- Dr. Matthias Pilz, Director, University of Cologne, Germany visited Professor and Head, Department of ARM on 29-7-2012 to 3-8-2012

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From  
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