

# TNAU NEWS



## TAMILNADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY NEWS LETTER

Patron : Dr. P. MURUGESA BOOPATHI - Vice Chancellor

Editor : Dr. P. SIVASUBRAMANIAN - Director, Planning and Monitoring

### Dual degree sensitization meet )))

A dual degree sensitization meet was organized on 25.8.2009 at AC&RI, Coimbatore. Dr. C. Udayasoorian, Dean, School of Post Graduate Studies in his welcome address expressed that this Dual degree program is first of its kind offered by any Land Grant University of US origin in partnership with a State Agricultural University in India.

Dr. D. Suresh, Manager, Sathguru Management Consultant, Hyderabad during his sensitization address expressed that Dual degree program is an unique opportunity whereby the students can acquire two degrees in five semesters.

Dr. P. Murugesha Boopathi, the Vice-Chancellor, TNAU during his presidential address informed that recent trends in cutting edge technologies such as biotechnology and value addition in food industry have resulted in demand for



professionals with expertise in ground breaking trends in the areas of biotechnology, food processing, value addition, marketing and business management complemented by international exposure and global perspectives.

Dr. V. Jayapal, Dean (Agri.), Dr. N. Kumar, Dean (Hort.), Dr. S. Santhana Bosu, Dean (Agrl. Engg.) and Dr. A. Chandrasekaran, Controller of Examinations, offered felicitations. Dr. B. Rajasekaran, Professor (SPGS) proposed vote of thanks.

### Deans' Committee Meeting on Dual degree program

A Special Deans' Committee Meeting on "Dual Degree Program at the Undergraduate level with Nova Scotia Agricultural College (NSAC), Canada" was held on 5.8.2009. Mr. Dr. Brian Crouse, Manager, Student Recruitment and Awards, Nova Scotia Agricultural College (NSAC), Canada, presented the overview of the dual degree program. Dr. K.S. Subramanian, Professor (Students' Welfare) presented the details on course curriculum and costs involved for the dual degree program.

In continuation to the Deans' Committee

Meeting, Mr. Brian Crouse, NSAC, Canada, Dr. T. Rathakrishnan, Director (Students' Welfare) and Dr. K.S. Subramanian, Professor (DSW) conducted interactive sessions with students and faculty members at AC & RI, Coimbatore (5.8.2009), HC & RI, Periyakulam (6.8.2009) and AC & RI, Madurai (7.8.2009), sensitized various issues relating to the dual degree program and conceptualized the dual degree program with NSAC, Canada.

### Students' club inauguration

The student's club of Anbil Dharmalingam Agricultural College and Research Institute, Tiruchirappalli was inaugurated by Our Vice Chancellor Dr.

P. Murugesha Boopathi on 21.08.09. The Dean was designated as the President of the students' club, Dr.R.Arulmozhiyan as the Staff Advisor and Mr.R.Ambeth Kumar as the Assistant Director of Physical Education. Secretaries for the various clubs and captains for the games and sports were nominated along with respective Staff Associates. In the



maiden speech, the Vice Chancellor motivated the students. The function came to an end after cultural events by the students.

### Punjab National Bank recruited TNAU graduates



The Directorate of Students' Welfare, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore, organized a Campus Recruitment of Agricultural Officer for Punjab National Bank (PNB) on September 1, 2009. The top executives of PNB made a visit to Tamil Nadu Agricultural University and recruited 9 graduates for a permanent position to their bank. Dr. T. Rathakrishnan, Director, (Students' Welfare) welcomed the gathering and apprised the status of TNAU students' placement. Dr. K.S. Subramanian, Professor (SW) explained the protocol to be adopted for the on-campus recruitment. During the current year 2009, a total of 44 TNAU graduates

had been recruited by nationalized banks. Few more financial institutions are in the process of conducting Campus Interviews.

### TNAU student won prize

Selvi. P. Janani, a student in the Department Spices and Plantation crops, HC&RI, Coimbatore working under the guidance of Dr. N. Kumar, Dean ( Hort.) has availed a grant of Rs.5000/- from the Tamil Nadu State council for Science and Technology, Chennai for her research under the sector "Agricultural Science".

Out of 25 students who have availed the grant, she has won the First prize for the project model presentation.

### Special lectures for PG students of TNAU

A Special lecture on "Technology Commercialization and Entrepreneurship" has been organized by School of Post Graduate Studies at AC&RI, Coimbatore on 5.8.2009 for the benefit of post graduate students.

Dr. C. Udayasoorian, Dean (SPGS) during his welcome address explained the activities of the University in

establishing the Department of Marketing extension to empower farmers and other stakeholders with market information as well as catering to various needs of the agribusiness firms and farmers.

Dr. P. Subbian, Registrar, Tamil Nadu



Agricultural University during his presidential address detailed the establishment of Directorate of Agribusiness and Development and the steps taken to commercialize the technologies developed through private entrepreneurs.

The guest speaker, Dr. Jitendra Kumar, Vice-President, ICICI Knowledge Park, Hyderabad shared his knowledge and sensitized the students to have a vision to identify unmet market needs through innovative products / technology. Dr. B. Rajasekaran, Professor, proposed vote of thanks.

### NSS - Tree saplings planting programme >>>



In an attempt for greening the earth, a mass tree saplings planting programme was organized at Anbil

Dharmalingam Agricultural College and Research Institute, Trichy. The programme was inaugurated by

Hon'ble Er. N. Selvaraj, Minister for Forest, Tamil Nadu in the presence of Dean, Dr. G. Kathiresan and District Forest Officer D. Mani. Tree saplings of Neem, Pungam, Golden showers, May flower and *Terminalia* sp were planted by NSS volunteers and Staff members of the college. The Minister emphasized the importance of trees in tackling global warming and pollution. The Dean said that, this programme was an experiential learning process of planting and maintenance of tree species in greening the campus and in the coming years about 12 acres will be planted with tree seedlings in this institute. The District Forest Officer, Thiru. D. Mani, I.F.S. narrated the productive and protective role of forest in Trichy district.

## Inauguration of ICAR short course »»



The inaugural function of the ICAR sponsored short course on **“Gender Mainstreaming through Technology Empowerment”** was organized under the Chairmanship

of Dr.P.Subbian, Registrar, TNAU, Coimbatore on 15.09.2009. Dr.S.Palaniswamy, Professor and Head, Department of Agricultural Extension and Rural Sociology,

TNAU, Coimbatore welcomed the gathering.

Dr.R.Ganesan, Director, Agri-Business Development and the Course Director of the Programme briefed the genesis of the short course. Dr.N.Ajjan, Director, Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development Studies (CARDS), in his felicitation emphasized that the gender mainstreaming would ensure gender equality and helps in integrating policy making, budgeting and implementation of the programmes. Dr.P.Subbian, Registrar, TNAU, Coimbatore delivered the presidential address. He stressed the need for formulation of strategies to mainstream the gender through empowerment. Finally, Dr.V.Ravichandran, Professor (Agricultural Extension) proposed a vote of thanks.

### Award for TNAU food scientists

The exalted best oral presentation award was bagged by Dr.S.Amutha and Dr.J.Selvi of the Dept of Food Science and Nutrition, Home Science College & Research Institute, Madurai for the research paper entitled **“Nutritional and quality evaluation of healthy herbal tea”** at the National Seminar on **“A road map to emerging trends in food processing and marketing”** organized by IICPT, between 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> September, 2009 at Pandit Jawharlal Nehru College of Agriculture (PAJANCOA), Karaikal.



11.9.09 and 13.9.09. The award carries a citation and medal.

### Rural home science work experience program for home science students

Final year UG students belong to Home Science College and Research Institute had undergone a month long Rural Home Science Work Experience. During their stay, the students have conducted exhibition, demonstrations, sports for children, rangoli and cooking competitions for self help group members.

The students have also organized an interaction meeting with rural women involving local leaders, social workers, school teachers regarding the awareness of health and nutrition. Dr.P.Banumathi, Dean, Home Science College and Research Institute inaugurated the exhibitions and

distributed the prizes. Dr.P.Muthiah Manoharan, Professor and Head, Department of Home Science Extension welcomed the gathering and Dr.J.Pushpa, Associate Professor (Agrl. Extension) proposed the vote of thanks.

### '99999' Lights off campaign on global warming

An awareness lecture on global warming was delivered for NSS student volunteers by Mr. Sunderesan, a student coordinator of ExNoRa doing his MCA at Tamil Nadu College of Engineering on 04.08.09. **'Green Wings'**, a students' environmental organization of TNAU was introduced to first year undergraduate students.

The NSS unit of TNAU, Coimbatore along with GREEN WINGS participated in a rally on 29<sup>th</sup> August, 2009 organized by ExNoRa to create awareness among the people about climate change and related issues. It was flagged off from Power house and ended at Thiruvalluvar bus stand. More than 80 students participated in rally holding placards and shouting slogans proclaiming their allusions to the fight against climate change and global warming. Non usage of plastics



### TNAU scientist bagged award

The best paper presentation award was bagged by Dr. K. Samiayyan, Professor, Department of Agricultural Entomology for his paper entitled **“Spider Diversity in Tamil Nadu”** in the agricultural session, at the Ninth Tamil Nadu Science Conference conducted at Karaikudi between

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and waste segregation were some of the solutions written by students. The '99999' campaign aims at creating awareness about saving electricity by switching off lights was also highlighted. The students managed to reach out to a large number of people.

Mayor of Coimbatore city, Mr. B. Nirmal, Founder of ExNoRa and Ms. Kamini, IPS, Commissioner (Crime) graced the occasion with other interesting personalities.

**Home science in reality - an exhibition by students**

The final year UG students of Home Science College and Research Institute, Madurai have organized an exhibition on 18.09.2009 after come back from a thirty day stint in Puthuthamariputtai and Kondayapatti Villages in Madurai District where they played roles of individual home planners as well as village

development planners, showcased lessons they had learnt at the village and shared their experience with teachers and other students. The model exhibits reflected the alternate home and village plans which are proposed to implement by the villagers.

Dr.T.Padmini, Professor and Head, Department of AFT, after declared open the exhibition said that the students have unique experience to share and enabled them to supplement and strengthen the learning they have gained in the class room. The exhibition arrangements were co ordinated by the course teacher, Dr.J.Pusha.

**Participation of TNAU Scientists in Tamil Science Congress**

The IX Tamil Science Congress was held at Alagappa University, Karaikudi during 11-13, September, 2009. Research abstracts in the field of agricultural science, numbering 44 from TNAU were approved and published in the souvenir.

A lead paper entitled “உழவே தொழில் எண்ணங்களும் எழுச்சியும்” was presented by Dr.R.Ganesan, Director, Agri-Business Development, TNAU,



Coimbatore. He chaired the session organized exclusively on Agricultural Science, in which, Dr.G.Ranganathan, Professor and Head, Department of Social Science, ADAC & RI, Trichy, Dr.R.Vijayaraghvan, Professor & Head, Training Division, Directorate of Extension Education, TNAU, Coimbatore and 15 researchers representing various campuses, research stations and KVKs of TNAU presented their research accomplishments in Tamil Contributing to the specialized area of “அறிவியல் தமிழ்”. Dr.K.Manimegalai, Associate Professor (Tamil), AC & RI, Madurai served as Coordinator for the Science Congress.

**TNAU scientists in DHAN foundation seminar**

Kalanjium Thozhilagam Limited, a business initiative of DHAN Foundation, Madurai organized

**ISWS National Symposium**



The valedictory function was held on 03.08.2009 afternoon. Dr. P. Muthukrishnan, Professor and

Head, Dept. of Agronomy has welcomed the delegates. Special address was delivered by our Vice-

Chancellor, Dr. P. Murugesha Boopathi, He has highlighted the need for better control and management of weeds so as to save our environment and biodiversity. Dr. Jay G. Varshney, Director, DWSR, Jabalpur and Dr. S. Jeyaraman, Director, CSCMS, TNAU had addressed the scientists and delegates stressing the importance of weed management practices so as to improve the agricultural productivity. During the event, prizes were distributed for the best posters. TNAU scientists and research scholars bagged four prizes for their poster presentations. The valedictory address was delivered by Dr. M. Paramathma, Director of Research, TNAU. Dr. Sushilkumar, Secretary, Indian Weed Science Society has proposed vote of thanks.

## Field day on new groundnut variety )))



A Groundnut Field Day was conducted on 01.09.2009 at Chinnathambipalayam village of Tiruchengodu block. About 100

farmers, Scientists from Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, officials of the dept. of Agriculture were participated. Special address was delivered by Dr. S. N. Nigam, Principal Groundnut Breeder, International Crops Research Institute for Semi Arid Tropics, Hyderabad. Dr. K. Thiyagarajan, Director, CPBG, TNAU, Coimbatore preside over the function. Thiru. S. Durai, Joint Director of Agriculture also spoke on the occasion. Dr. P. Vindhiyavarman, Professor and Head (Oilseeds) welcomed the participants. Vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. V. Muralidharan, Nodel Officer (Bio fuel), TNAU, Coimbatore.

seminar on '**Agricultural Commodities Marketing- Problems and Solutions for Sustainable Livelihoods**' on 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2009 as a part of the Madurai Symposium 2009 with the major theme of "Advancing Development towards Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)" at Madurai.

Dr. R. Ganesan, Director, Agri-Business Development, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore presented a paper on '**Agribusiness and Agri-Business Incubation**' in the seminar. Dr.K.R.Ashok, Professor (Agrl. Economics) and Mr.R.Bhubesh Kumar, Asst. Manager, ABI of the Directorate of Agri-Business Development exchanged their views on participation of stakeholders in exploring agri-business activities for agricultural development. Farmers, entrepreneurs, corporate companies and academicians participated in the deliberations.

### Field day at SWMRI, Thanjavur

A Field day was organized at Soil and Water Management Research Institute of Kattuthottam, Thanjavur on 19.08.09. Our Vice Chancellor, Dr. P. Murugesu Boopathi; Dr. M. Paramathma, Director of Research; Dr. P. Kalaiselvan, Director of Extension Education; Joint Director of

Agriculture, Thanjavur and officials of various sister departments have participated besides, about 500 farmers and officials from the line service departments. Our Vice Chancellor inaugurated various events



of the day. He declared open the exhibition of farm implements and machineries, mini medicinal plant park, tree cafeteria and farm workers' rest room etc. Dr. B. Chandrasekaran, Professor and Head, SWMRI and his staff made all the arrangements.

### Director (ABD) visits ICICI knowledge park, Hyderabad

Director (ABD) visited to the *ICICI Knowledge Park* at Samirpet recently. Dr.Jitendra Kumar, Vice-President, Life Sciences Incubator, appraised the establishment of the Knowledge Park and expressed his inclination in serving to the rural clientele through the great institution like TNAU. Mr. Deepan Witha Chattopadhyaya, Chief Executive Officer of ICICI

Knowledge Park exhibited keen interest to the appraisal made by the Director on Agri-Business Development activities of TNAU and expressed the desire to facilitate the growth and development of ABI-TNAU.

### Training program on establishment of agri-clinic cum mini soil testing labs

The Department of Soil and Environment, AC&RI, Madurai organized a training programme on "Establishment of Agri-clinic Cum Mini Soil Testing Laboratories" for entrepreneurs representing various districts of Tamil Nadu, from 10<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> August 2009. Our Vice-Chancellor, Dr.P.Murugesu Boopathi - the chief mentor of this project is anticipating a breakthrough in transforming the agriculture scenario of the state through effective implementation of this programme. Under this scheme, so far 93



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candidates have been trained. During the valedictory function, K.Vairavan, Dean, AC&RI, Madurai delivered the presidential address and distributed the certificates to the participants. R Natesan, Professor (SS&AC) & Principal Investigator of the project suggested the participants to commercialize their skills and cater to the wholesome needs of the farmers. G.James Pitchai, Professor and Head (Soil and Environment) presented the concluding remarks B.Bakiyathu Saliha, Assistant Professor (SS&AC) proposed the Vote of Thanks.

**Project coordinator on palms visits CRS, Veppankulam**



The Project Coordinator, AICRP on Palms from Kasargod visited on 9.9.2009 to Coconut Research Station,

Veppankulam and reviewed the progress of technical and administrative and budget aspects at AICRP on palm.

He emphasized to gear up research activities on different aspects on crop improvement. He opined that tissue based nutrient analysis for perennial crops like coconut is worth for quick fertilizer recommendation.

**CSISA group discussion**

Dr. Serge Savary, Senior Scientist (Pathology), IRRI, Philippines and Co-ordinator for CSISA Objective 3 visited TRRI, Aduthurai on 24.08.09 and 25.08.09 and discussed with Agronomists, Breeders and Plant Protection Scientists involved in the research activities of Objective 2 & 3 of CSISA scheme. He also visited the CSISA trial plots at Tamil Nadu Rice Research Institute.

**Awareness campaign on coconut black headed caterpillar**

An awareness campaign against coconut black headed caterpillar was conducted jointly by TCRS, Yethapur and Joint Director of Agriculture, Salem at Thumbai village on 9.9.2009.

Ninety five coconut growers have attended the campaign.

Dr. V. Palanisamy, Professor and Head and Dr. S. Venkatesan, Professor (Entomology) of TCRS, Yethapur presided and offered their technical suggestions as solution for the outbreak. Dr.K.Rajamanickam, Professor and Head of Coconut Research Station, Aliyarnagar, gave the recommendations on parasites release standardized already.

The progressive farmer Th.P.Baskaran of Thumbal village thanked the TCRS, Yethapur scientists and Department officials for arranging this campaign.

**Training on SRI**

Training on “System of Rice Intensification” was organized at Tamil Nadu Rice Research Institute, Aduthurai on 09<sup>th</sup> September, 2009, to the farmer members of Primary Agricultural Cooperative Society, Pudukkottai under Integrated Cooperative Development Programme, Fifty progressive farmer members participated in the training. Scientists of Tamil Nadu Rice Research Institute imparted the training.

**NIWS annual review meeting )))**

The annual review meeting of “National Invasive Weed Surveillance Programme” was organized at TNAU on 1st August, 2009 by Dr.Jay G.Varshney, Director, Directorate of Weed Sciences Research, Jabalpur and Dr. Chandurkur Plant Protection Advisor, Dept. of Plant Quarantine and Storage, Govt. of India. Area Co-ordinators, Assistant Area Co-ordinators, Senior Surveillance Inspectors and Surveillance Inspectors numbering 104 from 22 centres of NIWS from ten States have attended the meeting. A new alien weed namely *Solanum carolinse* has been found to invade widely in states like Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. The weed species was identified in the garbage dumps of the rural area. At



the end of the meeting it was decided to control this alien invasive weed in the garbage area before it spread its

roots into the cropped area which may cause catroscopic effect on the production of crops.

## Training on papaya mealy bug )))

Inaugurating the State Level Training programme for the programme coordinators and subject matter specialists of 32 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry on “Strategies to mitigate Papaya Mealy Bug” organized at the Directorate of Extension Education on August 24, 2009, Dr. P. Murugesha Boopathi, Vice-Chancellor, TNAU called upon the participants to quickly assess the stage of entry of this pest into the district, the extent of infestation and crops affected by papaya mealy bug in the concerned district. Presiding over the function, Dr.P.Kalaisevan, Director of Extension Education, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, stressed the



crucial role of KVKs in mitigating papaya mealy bug menace in the present context of its fact moving to many crops.

## VC visits CRS, Veppankulam

Our Vice Chancellor, Dr. P. Murugesha Boopathi, visited the Coconut Research Station, Veppankulam on 19.9.09 to review the progress of technical and non-technical aspects. During his visit, the Vice-Chancellor declared open the Labours Rest Hall



and inaugurated the newly purchased John Deere Tractor. He met the coconut growers and the press people for answering their queries.

The Vice-Chancellor also sensitized the scientists to persuade their research for the betterment of farming community.

## Macro mode management training )))

Delivering the Valedictory Address at the five-day State Level Macro Management Mode Training Programme, organized by the State Agricultural Management & Extension Training Institute (SAMETI) located at the Directorate of Extension Education, TNAU, on September 26, 2009, Dr. P. Murugesha Boopathi, Vice Chancellor of TNAU called upon the newly recruited Agricultural Officers, the participants of the training programme, to enrich their technical knowledge on agriculture on a continuous basis as newer technologies are emerging at a rapid speed. He also emphasized them to have strong linkage with the TNAU Research Station and *Krishi Vigyan Kendra* in the concerned district for solving the field problems of the farmers jointly.



Dr. P. Kalaiselvan, Director of Extension Education and Director (SAMETI) in his address explained about the various subject matter areas covered in the programme. The Vice Chancellor distributed certificates to the participants. Dr. P. Subbian, Registrar, TNAU and Dr. R. Vijayaraghavan, Faculty Head (SAMETI) also participated in the

## NEW SCHEMES

Name of the Scheme	PI	Amount (lakh Rs.)	Funding Agency
Development and strengthening of seed infrastructure facilities for production and distribution of quality seeds	Dr.K.Ramamoorthy	57.00	GOI
Genetic diversity of tospoviruses and thrips in horticultural crops in seven agroclimatic zones of Tamil Nadu and development of eco-friendly management practices for thrips	Dr. N. Balakrishnan Dr. S. Mohan Kumar	35.00	DBT
Utilization of organic wastes for the production And formulation of entomopathogenic fungi for Eco friendly pest management of white grub	Dr.S.Manisegaran, Professor (Ento.)	17.80	DBT
National Invasive Weed Surveillance (NIWS)	Dr. R. Balasubramaniam, Professor (Agron.)	17.28	GOI, Department of Agriculture and Co- operation
Marker Assisted Introgression of sub1 locus conferring tolerance to flooding into elite rice varieties of Tamil Nadu	Dr. D. Vijayalakshmi Dr. M. Raveendran	15.60	DBT
Development o Sugarcane production technologies for Hindustan petroleum corporation limited project	Vice-Chancellor	10.00	HPCL, Mumbai

## IMPORTANT VISITORS

- Dr. Raman Babu, CIMMYT, Mexico on 9.9.09.
- Dr.Madar Samad, Regional Director, IWMI, Hyderabad between 9.9.09 and 10.9.2009.
- Th.Vijaya Kumar, IAS, Principal Secretary, Planning and Development, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Chennai between 9.9.09 and 10.9.09.
- Moo -Young Lee, Assistant Manager, Korea Agro- Fisheries Trade Corp, South Korea visited TRRI Aduthurai, on 10.9.09.
- Mr.Ganson Pillay, Director, South Africa between 13.09.09 & 15.9.09.
- Dr.Travis, Professor, Dept. of Agrl. Economics, University of California, USA between 19.9.09 & 23.9.2009.

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