

TNAU NEWS



TAMILNADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY NEWS LETTER

Patron : **Dr. C. RAMASAMY** - Vice Chancellor

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FARMERS' DAY 2008)))



State Level Farmers' Day was organized at Tamil Nadu Agriculture University, Coimbatore on 25th June 2008. More than 2000 Farmers and Extension Functionaries across the State participated in the Farmers' Day function. Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture Thiru. Veerapandi S. Arumugam inaugurated the Farmers' Day workshop and released new varieties for the benefit of the farming community. During his speech, Agriculture Minister emphasized the need for use of modern technologies and agriculture mechanization to overcome the labour shortage. Minister also urged farming community to make use of the

subsidy given by the Government to buy mechanized implements. He reminded the farmers about the disbursement of subsidy by the Chief Minister recently for buying twenty five harvesting implements. He also said that other mechanized implements like seed implanter and sugarcane harvester which are in use in China and Japan will be modified and the harvester will be distributed to each of the seventeen co-operative sugar mills. He urged the farmers to make use of the new varieties, implements and management technologies released during this year to increase food production. Earlier Agriculture Minister inaugurated the State Level Agriculture Exhibition.

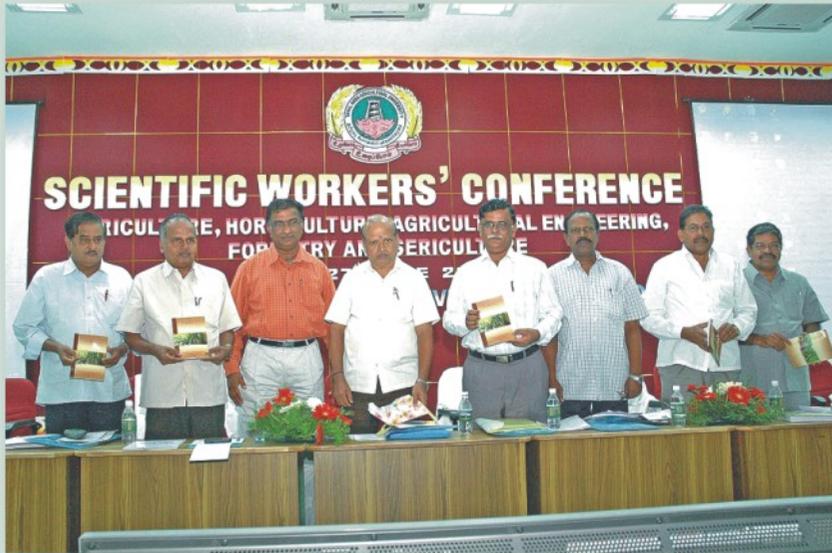
Mr. K. Ramachandran, Hon'ble Minister for Khadi, released the management technologies and implements for the benefit of the farming community and felicitated the Farmers' Day function. Vice-Chancellor C. Ramasamy said that with globalisation and more job opportunities, agricultural labour has become scarce. Labour shortage coupled with water scarcity and soil losing its nutrients, pose challenge to take agriculture forward. He recommended the use of technologies and implements to tide over the problem. In addition to various technologies, adopting fertigation and integrated pest management techniques are required for enhancing food production. The Vice-Chancellor urged the farmers to think of marketing and not the production alone to ensure good returns. He assured them of the safety of genetically modified seeds and crops. Important speakers during the occasion were Collector V. Palanikumar, IAS; Executive Director, TAWDEVA Govt of Tamil Nadu Th. Atul Anand IAS; Agriculture Department Commissioner S. Kosalaraman, IAS and D. Nandagopal, Joint Director of Agriculture, Coimbatore. In the beginning, Dr. E. Vadivel, Director of Extension Education welcomed the dignitaries and participants.

STAKEHOLDERS WORKSHOP ON SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT OF AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES

A two days workshop on Supply Chain Management on Agricultural Commodities was organized at TNAU, Coimbatore by State Agricultural

Management and Extension Training Institute (SAMETI) - TNAU jointly with Agriculture department under auspicious of ATMA on 17th & 18th June

COMBINED SCIENTIFIC WORKERS' CONFERENCE – 2008)))



The combined scientific workers' conference (SWC) was held on 26th & 27th June, 2008 at Kalaingar Arangam, TNAU, Coimbatore. Th.C.Perumal, Director of Seed certification i/c, Coimbatore presided the conference.

Dr.R.Chandrasekaran, Joint Director, Sericulture; Th.Sankaran, Joint director of Horticulture, Chennai; Th. D.Gobishankar, Joint Director of Agriculture, Marketing; Th.S.Balasubramanian, Joint

Director of Agriculture, Chennai and Th.R.Subramanian, Chief Engineer i/c, Agrl. Engineering Chennai delivered the special addresses. The Director of Research, TNAU Coimbatore-3 presented the action taken on the recommendation of SWC 2007 and current research focus of TNAU. Research highlights on crop management, crop protection, mechanization in agriculture, horticulture and seed production activities in TNAU were presented by the concerned Directors. Group discussions on Agriculture / Horticulture / Agrl. Engineering / Seed Production were held and action plan drawn. Dr.B.Chandrasekaran, Director of Research TNAU, welcomed the gathering and Dr.S.Jebaraj, Director, TRRI, Aduthurai proposed vote of thanks.

2008. Around 2000 participants have participated in the two days workshop. The participants were Extension Functionaries of Agriculture, Horticulture, Agricultural Marketing, Agricultural Engineering, Staff of Seed Certification Departments, Farmers Federations, Commodity Groups, Exporters, Input Agency, Processors, Bank Officials, Industries, Distributors, Dealers, Farmers and Scientists.

Dr.P.K.Mishra, Secretary, Union Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperation inaugurated the Stakeholders Workshop and delivered

inaugural address. He said that the growth in agricultural production had triggered up a set of new challenges that included development of supply chains and finding suitable markets for surplus. He also opined that evolution of integrated supply chains of agricultural commodities was a key factor for higher growth. He emphasised that, the focus should be on market-driven production. In order to harness the potential of the emerging consumer demand, both domestic and international, a professionally managed competitive alternative marketing structure is necessary. Mr.Mishra noted that, better supply chain management with

fewer middlemen and logistical costs in organised retail could help in saving over 1 trillion rupees.

Prof.C.Ramasamy, Vice-Chancellor, TNAU in his presidential address emphasised the need for promoting commodity groups / federations for linking farmers to market directly to get higher income in farming. Th.S.Kosalaraman Commissioner of Agriculture in his felicitation address said that efforts were being taken to bring maximum area under paddy cultivation. He also explained the State Government initiatives for the benefit of the farming community. Dr.B.Chandramohan, IAS, Director of



Horticulture and Plantation Crops, Govt of Tamil Nadu. Th.Satya Prata Sahoo, I.A.S., Director of Agrl. Marketing & Agri Business, Govt of Tamil Nadu. Th.S.Perumal, Director of Seed Certification, Govt of Tamil Nadu and Th.R.Subramanian, Chief Engineer, Agrl.Engineering Department participated and graced the inaugural function. Dr.E.Vadivel, Director (SAMETI) and Director of Extension Education, TNAU welcomed the participants and delivered the significant achievements and initiatives in Tamil Nadu especially, on Precision Farming Projects, Supply Chain Management programmes, SRI and Restructuring of Agriculture Department.

Union Secretary also released the TNAU publications viz., Tamil Nadu Precision Farming Project – Turnkey Project, Building University Capacity to improve fruits and vegetables in India (2004-07)- Supply Chain Development, HRD through SAMETI-Technical Managerial and ICT Capacity Building programmes

for Extension Functionaries in the Context of Restructured Extension System in Tamil Nadu and District Specific Technology Inventories for Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. Special Pre-Kharif Exhibition was also organized during the workshop.

SWOC analysis and Brainstorming sessions were conducted in the two days workshop involving all the stakeholders in the supply chain viz., Agricultural Commodities Associations / Federations (Precision Farmers Associations, Banana Growers Federations, Mango Growers Federation, Maize Growers, Amla & Flower Growers Associations), Confederation of Indian Industries, Rabo Bank, Nationalized Banks, Corporate, Exporters, Wholesalers, Distributors, Dealers, Retailers and Extension functionaries.

TRAINING FOR PALMYRAH TAPPERS AND GROWERS

Under the DBT funded scheme entitled “**Entrepreneurship**



development of edible and non edible products formulation, value addition and marketing of palmyrah (Borassus flabellifer palm)”, a hands on training was conducted at Attukkaranur village, Mecheri, Salem on 5th & 6th June, 2008. In the training programme, about 102 neera tappers participated and got trained. The tappers were trained on value addition of edible and non edible products, popularization of TNAU palm climbing device, motivation of palmyrah tappers and their family members to encourage the value added product preparation etc. Dr.V.Ponnuswami, Professor (Hort.) & Principal Investigator of the scheme delivered a lecture to the participants about the need for identifying the high

CAMPUS INTERVIEW)))



The Directorate of Students' Welfare at the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore, conducted Campus Interview for Indian Bank and Agro-based industries during June 4-6, 2008. Over 400 students from all the ten constituent colleges of

TNAU attended the Campus Interview. About 295 short-listed candidates from all constituent colleges of TNAU participated in the written test followed by a group discussion. After two rounds of screening, 40 students appeared in the final interview out

of which 33 were provisionally selected by the bank. Dr. M. Thangaraju said that the banking sector is the major employer who recruited about 120 graduates in 2007-08 and the number may increase well over 200 for the ensuing year. The banks offer a lucrative salary package of Rs. 2.4 lakhs per annum. Improvement of students' language proficiency, energy level and soft skills will lead to more success.

In continuation to the Indian Bank on-campus recruitment, about 7 leading Agro-Based Industries and government institutes had participated in the Campus Interview. At the end of the campus interview, 90 students got their placements / appointment orders in various sectors. The salary varied from Rs. 8,500 to Rs. 35,000/- per month.

TNAU INKS MoU WITH CADBURY INDIA LIMITED))



Tamil Nadu Agricultural University signed a MoU with Cadbury India Limited (CIL) to have a collaborative research project to promote cocoa cultivation in Tamil Nadu. The Agreement was signed on 30th May 2008 in the presence of Dr. C. R. Ramasamy, Vice-Chancellor, TNAU and Mr. K. P. Magudapathy Associate Vice President, Cadbury India Limited, Mumbai. Dr. D. Veeraraghavathatham, Dean (Hort.), Mr. Rajesh Ramachandran, Manager (Cocoa Operations) and Mr. T. Bellie Joint Director of Horticulture were present during

the occasion

Cocoa has been given a major thrust for development in Tamil Nadu by the National Horticulture Mission. Coconut and arecanut plantations are the focus areas where the crop can be successfully cultivated. Pollachi, Thondamuthur, Dindigul, Theni, Salem, Kanyakumari, Tanjore, Vellore, Erode and Krishnagiri are some of the regions found suitable for cultivation. Cadbury India Limited is involved in supply chain of cocoa from farm level to consumers for several decades. The company has buyback arrangement of cocoa beans from

farmers.

The present project is to be operated at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University. The main objective is development of high yielding, pest and disease tolerant and quality cocoa varieties suitable for Tamil Nadu. The scheme also contemplates production of available superior seed materials, development of location specific package of practices, partnering Cadbury and Government in popularizing scientific cultivation methods through seminars, training programmes, meetings and imparting technical training to horticultural department officials and farmers. The scheme is to be started initially in Coimbatore and Pollachi areas. This will give an impetus in cocoa research and development on various agro-climatic conditions in Tamil Nadu. Cadbury India Limited is extending financial support to the tune of Rs. 50 lakhs to Tamil Nadu Agricultural University for over five years with a possible scaling up in near future. Dr. K. Rajamani, Professor & Head, Dept. of Spices & Plantation crops will be the Principal Investigator of the scheme.

neera yielding, early bearing dwarf elite types, standardization of protocols for tissue culture and other vegetative propagation techniques for mass multiplication. He also emphasized about the consumer attractive handicrafts prepared from palm leaves, trunk, roots and petiole. The other scientists of TNAU who imparted the training programme were Dr. R. Jagadeesan, Dr. A. Ramesh Kumar, Dr. M. Prabhu, and Ms. Hema. It is also pertinent to note that tree climbing in palms is drudgery and no tapper is willing to allow their children to continue this profession for their livelihood. This skillful art of tree climbing is slowly vanishing and

in future there will be no tappers for climbing palmyrah trees. Keeping this in mind, the tappers were exposed and also trained to TNAU coconut and palmyrah tree climbers. A handout in tamil on "Value addition and marketing of edible and non edible products from palmyrah" was issued for the benefit of the tappers.

FIELD DAY CUM DEMONSTRATION ON DRUM SEEDER AND MECHANICAL WEEDERS

A field day cum demonstration on direct seeding through drum seeder and mechanical weeding through

cono / rotary weeders were organized by Regional Research Station, Paiyur in collaboration with RAIDCO Kerala Ltd., and Joint Directorate of Agriculture Dharmapuri at Annamalaipatti Village, Dharmapuri district on 18th June, 2008. Dr. A. K. Mani, Professor and Head



WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY CELEBRATIONS)))

At AEC & RI, Coimbatore



The World Environment Day was celebrated on June 5th, 2008 at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore. The first year B.Tech (Energy Environmental Engineering) and B.Tech (Food Process Engineering) students of Agricultural Engineering College & Research Institute, Coimbatore initiated this programme under the guidance of Dr.A.Sampathrajan, Dean, AEC & RI, TNAU, Coimbatore. The students along with NSS unit, TNAU took part, in various activities like clearing plastics, awareness creation by way of charts, pamphlets and rally programmes at AC & RI, Coimbatore.

Dr.K.Vanangamudi, Dean, AC&RI, Coimbatore was the chief guest to initiate the rally. Dr.D.Manohar Jusudas, Professor and Head (Farm Machinery and Power), NSS unit officers Dr.S.Subramanian and Dr.K.Bhuvaneshwari motivated the students. A pamphlet comprising of different slogans in Tamil and English version about the protection of environment was circulated to the public and also to the students and staff of TNAU.

They also displayed posters in and around TNAU campus. The first year students of main campus actively participated in the rally and created awareness on plastic free campus.

At Environmental Sciences Department, Coimbatore

World Environment Day was celebrated on June 5th in the Department of Environmental Science, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore. Dr.C.Udayasoorian, Professor and Head, welcomed the gathering and briefed about the theme of this year "CO₂ - KICK THE HABIT". Dr.S.Natarajan, Director (Centre for Soil and Crop Management Studies) presided over the function, and delivered a special address emphasizing the need for CO₂ reduction in the environment.

He requested the agricultural scientists to undertake research on soil carbon sequestration to control CO₂ emission into the atmosphere and develop agricultural technologies for mitigating this global problem. The staff and the Post Graduate students of the Department demonstrated various causes of global warming and their impact on ecosystem by performing a skit. They also took a resolution stressing on the responsibilities of individuals, Institutions, NGOs and Government in controlling the release of green house gases, particularly, CO₂ to the atmosphere which cause global warming. The Director (CSCMS), staff and

students planted tree saplings in the Department premises. Thereafter, pamphlets on stressing the importance of this year's World Environment Day resolution were distributed in the campus. The function came to an end with a vote of thanks by Dr.G.Rajannan, Professor, Dept. of Environmental Science.

At HSC & RI, Madurai

The world Environment day was celebrated at Home Science College and Research Institute, Madurai on 5th June 2008. Dr.A.Andal, Dean, Home Science College and Research Institute, Madurai planted tree saplings at the Madurai campus and delivered special address to the students on the importance of Environment Day and how to protect the environment from global warming. Dr.R.Chandrababu, Dean (S P G S)



Tamil Nadu Agricultural University also participated and planted tree saplings to mark the memory of this wonderful occasion. All the staff members and students of Home Science College and Research Institute actively participated in the tree planting programme.

welcomed the gathering and highlighted the present scenario of labour shortage for rice cultivation. Mr.Kandasamy, Deputy Director of Agriculture spoke on the importance of increasing the rice production under food security system. Mr.K.P.Sree Kumar, consultant,

RAIDCO Kerala Ltd., highlighted the functioning, availability and marketing of drum seeder and mechanical weeders.

Dr.M.N.Budhar, Professor of Agronomy, emphasized the importance of drum seeding and

mechanical weeding in low land irrigated rice for reduced cost of cultivation and high net return per unit area. He also demonstrated the drum seeder and mechanical weeders. Mr.N.Madhubalan, Assistant Director of Agriculture, Morappur proposed vote of thanks. About 150 farmers

from Dhamapuri and Krishnagiri districts participated and got benefited.

STAKE HOLDERS' MEETING ON JATROPHA



A meeting of the stakeholders on jatropa was held at AEC&RI, Coimbatore on 21.05.08 with representatives of five biofuel companies and extension officials of the Department of Agriculture to review the progress of work during 2007-08 and to draw an action plan to

achieve the pending objectives in the last year target as well as to meet the current year's target.

The meeting was chaired by Dr.A.Sampathrajan, Dean, AEC&RI, Coimbatore. Dr.M.Paramathma, Professor and Nodal Officer welcomed the gathering and briefly presented the progress made in the programme during 2007-08. He emphasized the need for formulating action plan with regard to seed distribution, seedling production, area coverage, biofuel companies' co operation as well as the extension officials of the Department of Agriculture.

Thiru.S.R.Selvaraj, Deputy Director of Agriculture (Oil Palm and Jatropa) envisaged the importance of the programme. The details of the programme were outlined.

The Department officials as well as the biofuel industries were requested to take effective steps to meet the target for this year, besides meeting the shortfall in area coverage for the previous year viz. 2007-08.

Professor and Nodal Officer informed the readiness of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University to provide training to the extension officials and to conduct regional and location specific training to the beneficiaries. The stakeholders were also asked to express their problems during the implementation of the programme. The staff of the centre, Department officials and thirty one stake holders (Bio-fuel companies) have participated.

The meeting concluded with a formal vote of thanks by Dr. R. Jude Sudhagar, Assistant Professor.

PRECISION FARMING UNDER NADP : INAUGURAL FUNCTION >>>



The Honorable Minister for Agriculture Thiru.Veerapandi S.Arumugam inaugurated the precision farming scheme under NADP for the year 2008-09 at Sukkampatty village of Ayothiyapatnam block, Salem district on 07.06.2008. Thiru.N.Madhivanan, the District Collector, Salem presided over the function.

Thiru Surjit K.Choudhry,

Agriculture Production Commissioner and Secretary, Dr.C.Ramasamy, Vice Chancellor, TamilNadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore; Thiru.Atul Anand, Director, TamilNadu Watershed Development Agency; Thiru.S.Kosalaraman, Agricultural Commissioner, Dr.E.Vadivel, Director of Extension Education, TNAU; Thiru K.Janagan, JDA, Salem,

Thiru Dhasarathan, DDH, Salem; Mrs.Rekha Priyadarshini, Mayor, Salem and scientists from TNAU participated in the function. The programme was jointly organized by TNAU and Department of Agriculture & Horticulture.

In his inaugural address, Honorable Minister for Agriculture expressed his concern over the poor soil fertility and water scarcity resulting in the declining productivity of agricultural and horticultural crops. He welcomed the precision farming scheme and said that it is a boon to the farmers to increase the productivity and to improve their socio economic status. He also encouraged the farmers to adopt this technology and utilize the 50% subsidy under this scheme. About 40 farmers of the Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri precision farming association participated in the function and shared their experiences. Around 200 farmers of Salem district participated in the function.

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON "WATER HARVESTING")))



An International Symposium was organized by Agricultural Engineering College and Research Institute, Coimbatore during 23-25 June 2008. The three days international symposium was jointly organized by Government of India, UNESCO, NABARD Soil Conservation Society of India and Government of Tamil Nadu in association with TNAU. It was inaugurated by Thiru Pongalur N.Palanisamy Honourable Minister, Rural Industries and Animal Husbandry, Government of Tamil Nadu on 23.06.2008. He pointed out that the development of water resources such as farm ponds, small tanks, soil moisture conservation techniques and creation of supplemental irrigation facilities, in addition to harvesting water in rainfed areas, can lead to Green Revolution in dry lands.

Dr.A.Sampathrajan, Dean, Agricultural Engineering College and Research Institute, Coimbatore, welcomed the gathering. Dr.Arumugam Kandaiah, visiting Professor, Department of Soil and Water Conservation Engineering, TNAU, Coimbatore gave

introductory remarks.

Dr.A.K.Singh, Deputy Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Government of India in his special address said that 80 percent of the cereals, 75 percent of oilseeds, 48 per cent of rice and 65 per cent of cotton were grown in rainfed areas.

Dr.P.Santhana Krishnan, Registrar, TNAU in his presidential address said that nearly 60 percent of India's cultivable area would remain dependent on dry land farming even after full exploitation of all irrigation potentials. Productivity growth in these areas was essential for rural income growth and poverty alleviation and depended critically on better moisture conservation and development of suitable varieties.

The special address of Dr.Minja Yang, Director, UNESCO, New Delhi was read by Dr.B.R.Neupane of UNESCO. Vote of thanks was proposed by Dr.S.Santhana Bosu, Professor and Head, Department of Soil and Water Conservation Engineering, TNAU, Coimbatore. During this

function a souvenir on "water harvesting" was released by Thiru Pongalur N.Palanisamy, Honourable Minister for Rural Industries and Animal Husbandry, Government of Tamil Nadu.

The Valedictory function was organized on 25th June, 2008. The valedictory address was delivered by Thiru Veerapandi S.Arumugam, Honourable Minister for Agriculture, Government of Tamil Nadu. He also released the "Compendium of technical Papers of Professor R.K.Sivanappan".

Dr.A.Sampathrajan, Dean, AEC & RI, Coimbatore, welcomed the gathering. Dr.Arumugam Kandaiah, Visiting Professor, Department of Soil and Water Conservation Engineering, TNAU, Coimbatore read the recommendations of the symposium.

Professor C.Ramasamy, Vice Chancellor, TNAU in his presidential address said that the goal of the symposium is to promote water harvesting in the rainfed areas in order to reduce poverty, hunger, malnutrition and to ensure food security and sustainable livelihood.

Dr.K.Ramaswamy, Professor, Department of Soil and Water Conservation Engineering, TNAU, Coimbatore proposed Vote of thanks. In this symposium 50 papers on 5 different themes viz., Water harvesting at the Farm level, Micro-water level, enhancing Water productivity in rainfed areas, policies, institutions and socio-economic aspects and Role of Research, Extension and Education were presented. Besides, 25 students' papers were also presented.

NEW SCHEMES

Name of the Scheme	PI	Amount (lakh Rs.)	Funding Agency
Risk Assessment models and Insurance products for agriculture	Dr.K.Palanisami Director (CARDS)	40.84	ICAR (NAIP)
Mycorrhizal symbiosis to promote carbon sequestration for sustainable soil fertility and environmental safety	Dr.K.S.Subramanian, Professor (SS&AC)	37.06	GOI, New Delhi
Impact adaptation and vulnerability to Indian Agriculture to climate change	Dr.K.Palanisami Director (CARDS)	23.03	ICAR
Molecular strategies for the control of Fumonisin mycotoxin contamination in maize	Dr.V.Paranidharan, Assoc. Prof. (Pathology)	18.13	DST, SERC Fast Track
Case study in Tamil Nadu vulnerability assessment of climate, water resources, agricultural productivity and development of an adaptation framework	Dr.K.Palanisami Director (CARDS)	6.00	M/s.Winrock International India, NATCOM
Comprehensive assessment of watershed development programme in Tamil Nadu	Dr.K.Palanisami Director (CARDS)	4.89	TN SLUB SPC
Evaluation of post-emergence tank mix application of kloben 25 WP + pantera 4EC on weed control in soybean	Dr.P.Janaki, Asst. Prof. (SS&AC)	3.61	M/s.E.I.Dupont (Private)
Evaluation of DISCO brand seed coating polymer of Incotec on major agronomic crops for storability	Dr. A.S. Ponnuswamy SOS	1.59	INCOTEC India Ltd., Ahamedabad

IMPORTANT VISITORS

- Dr.P.K.Mishra, IAS, Secretary to Government Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperation, GOI, New Delhi on June 17, 2008.
- Th.Veerapandi S.Arumugam, Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture, Government of Tamil Nadu on June 25, 2008.
- Th. K. Ramachandran, Hon'ble Minister for Khadi Government of Tamil Nadu on June 25, 2008.

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