

# TNAU NEWS



## TAMILNADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY NEWS LETTER

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

Editor : **Dr. R. BALASARASWATHI** - Director (i/c), Planning and Monitoring

### FINANCE MINISTER (GOI) ATTENDS MAIZE FIELD DAY )))



Mr.P.Chidambaram, Honourable Minister for Finance, Government of India, inaugurated the maize harvest by the machinery huller cum

sheller on 11.05.08 at Keelakandani village in Sivaganga district under TN - IAMWARM project. He also visited the exhibition organized in

connection with the field day and distributed rotary weeders and maize hybrid seeds. Dr.C.Ramasamy, Vice-Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, spoke about the importance of maize cultivation in drought prone districts. Dr.M.V.Ranghaswami, Director (WTC) and Nodal Officer ( T N - I A M W A R M ) , Dr.K.Ramamoorthy, Dean, Agricultural College & Research Institute, Madurai and Dr.A.Andal, Dean, Home Science College & Research Institute, Madurai attended the function. Dr.G.James Pitchai, Professor and Head, Department of Soil and Environmental Science in charge of Kottakkaraiar sub basin of TN - IAMWARM project organized the function.

### ERASMUS MUNDUS SCHOLARSHIP FOR TNAU STUDENT



Mr. Naveen Kumar, I year M.Sc. Forestry student of TNAU, Coimbatore has won the prestigious Erasmus Mundus scholarship offered by the European Commission to pursue dual masters program in sustainable tropical forestry in University of Copenhagen, Denmark.

The fellowship is offered to academically outstanding students from Non-European countries to pursue masters degrees in European country. Besides the above masters program, Mr. Naveen Kumar will also pursue another full masters program in sustainable forest management in another University in any of the European countries. The fellowship provides 21,000 EUROS annually for a period of two years starting from August 2008. The fellowship is provided based on the statement of motivation, academic performance, biodata and accomplishments in extra curricular activities. Mr. Naveen Kumar leaves for University of Copenhagen, Denmark to pursue the masters program starting from August

1, 2008. It is worth mentioning that TNAU masters students win this prestigious fellowship every year.

### NCC CADETS WON PRIZES

NCC cadets (Eleven boys and four girls) of Agricultural College and Research Institute, Killikulam have undergone a NCC combined Annual Training camp at Palayamkottai from 19.5.08 to 28.5.08. Captain Dr.S.Ravindran, NCC officer of this campus has performed as Deputy Camp Commandant during the camp period. The participant cadets got the training in foot drill, weapon training, military map reading, sports and cultural activities. Cadet G.Vasanthakumar has won the first

## NSS SPECIAL CAMPS 2008 >>>

### *At AC&RI, Coimbatore*



National Service Scheme Special Camp of 212 second year undergraduate students of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University was conducted at Devarayapuram, from 10.05.2008 to 19.05.2008. The Special Camp was inaugurated by Dr.K.Vanangamudi, Dean (Agriculture), AC&RI, Coimbatore. Healthcare, veterinary and AIDS awareness and blood grouping tests, eye care, yoga training, computer awareness for rural youth were some of the special programmes organized during the camp for the benefit of the village people. About 300 people were screened during the general medical and eye screening camps. KG Hospitals performed cataract eye surgery for sixteen people with free medical and hospitalization care. Maha Ganapathy Trust, Coimbatore sponsored the free blood screening tests for about 150 people. CSC computer centre came forward in conducting the computer awareness programme for school children. Mr. Suresh, Assistant General Manager, NABARD highlighted the special schemes of Banks for rural development. 'Osai' the NGO has helped the students to undertake the environment awareness rally and trekking to Vaidehi falls. Students during the camp period undertook awareness rallies on Parthenium and plastic eradication and AIDS awareness. Dr.Mahadevan, Assistant Professor of Government Medical College Hospitals, Coimbatore delivered a lecture on AIDS awareness to the students and rural people. The experts from TNAU demonstrated

technologies on precision farming, drip irrigation, organic farming, vermicomposting, sericulture, production of bio control agents and mushroom cultivation. Lions Club (Pride) of Coimbatore arranged for the tree plantation programme.

### *At ADAC&RI, Trichy*

The NSS volunteers of Anbil Dharmalingam Agricultural College and Research Institute, Trichy organized a special NSS camp at Sannasipatti Village in Manikandam block of Tiruchirappalli district from 05.05.08 to 14.05.08 under the leadership of Dr.S.Jeyaraman, Dean, ADAC&RI. During this programme, the NSS volunteers collected 100 soil samples from problematic fields and got it analysed for further farming. They arranged a programme for women upliftment, which was presided by Mr.Rajamani, Youth Officer, Chennai. A free medical camp was conducted on 07.05.08 in collaboration with Primary health center, Ennamkulathur, Trichy. Nearly 100 villagers were benefited. A free veterinary camp in association with the Department of Animal Husbandry was organized and 650 animals got treated. In addition, the NSS volunteers conducted a camp for free eye check up. One hundred tree saplings were planted in and around the village of Sannasipatti. The NSS volunteers involved themselves in cleaning the road side weeds which were of great menace to the public and they established a new library at Panchayath Union Primary School, Sannasipatti.

### *At AEC&RI, Kumulur*

Ten days NSS special camp was conducted by unit of AEC&RI, Kumulur for II B.Tech (Agrl. Engg.) students. Totally 44 students

attended the camp from 11.5.2008 to 20.5.2008. During the camp various programmes like self employment day, consumer awareness day, AIDS awareness day, implements day, non-conventional energy sources day, general health day, tree planting day were celebrated. The camp was conducted at Koppavali village of Ialugudi Taluk.

A free eye camp was jointly organized at Koppavali village of Lalkudi taluk by Joseph Eye Hospital, Trichy, Blindness prevention society and AEC&RI, Kumulur. About 158 patients from nearby villages and Koppavali village had free eye check up. Among them 20 were identified as cataract patients and were taken to hospital for free operation. Free medicines and eye drops were distributed.



The camp was inaugurated by Dr.K.Rangaswamy, Dean, AEC&RI, Kumulur.

### *At AC&RI, Killikulam*

The National Service Scheme (NSS) unit of Agricultural College and Research Institute, Killikulam organized a ten day special camp at Murappanadu village of Thoothukudi District from 08.05.2008 to 17.05.2008. The Dean Dr.P.Vivekanandan inaugurated the camp and delivered the presidential address. Dr. S. Somasundaram, Professor and Head (Social Sciences) and Staff Advisor explained the objectives of the camp. The activities of the camp included tree planting, temple cleaning, veterinary camp, general



health camp, eye camp, environmental conservation programmes, women and child development programmes, skill implant to women Self Help Groups of the village on squash and

jam preparation, Youth development programmes, awareness rallies on AIDS, education, social awareness and agricultural education. A sports and games event was organized which was inaugurated by the Inspector of Police, Murappanadu. A special agricultural exhibition was also organized, in which professors from various Departments of the college delivered lectures and interacted with farmers. Earlier in the day, the student volunteers have demonstrated various

agricultural techniques to farmers of the village. Eminent personalities from various Government and link Departments, Non Government Organisations participated and delivered the various beneficiary schemes available for the villagers.

Professor and Heads of various departments of the college, the village panchayat presidents, Headmistress and other prominent personalities of the village took part in the camp.

place in solo song and essay writing competitions, cadet K.Nisha Prathiba won the first place in classical dance and second place in essay writing competition. In sports competition, cadets of this campus won the second place in volley ball.

### TRRI PARTICIPATED IN AGRI. EXPO

Tamil Nadu Rice Research Institute participated in the Agri Expo organized by Dinamalar at Thiruchirapalli from 8<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> May

2008. System of Rice Intensification, details of rice varieties released from TRRI, Site Specific Nutrient Management, Pest and Disease management in rice, biofertilizers, biocontrol agents were exhibited in the stall. Scientists of

### JOB FAIR 2008 >>>



The Directorate of Students' Welfare has organized the Job Fair 2008 during 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> May, 2008 at TNAU Main Campus. More than 600 Students of Agriculture, Horticulture, Agricultural Engineering, Forestry and Home Science from all the constituent colleges of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University participated in the fair. Agro-Based companies and NGOs have participated in the Job Fair. At the beginning, Dr. M. Thangaraju, Director, Students' Welfare welcomed the company

executives and the students. He also explained about the three fold activities such as placement, Higher Education and Career Guidance to the participated companies, besides the technical know how and skills and field experience of the students.

Totally 432 students of Under Graduate and Post Graduate have been short-listed. Some companies have declared the results on the spot, while others wish to have one more screening. However, around 300 students

will get placements in these firms. The salary assured ranges from Rs.8000 - Rs.15,000 at UG level and Rs.10,000 - 25,000 at PG level depending upon the nature of job and positions offered.

The above companies recruited the candidates for the positions of field officers, assistant managers for microfinance, quality control managers in export units, executives for customer care operations, marketing executives and scientists for research and development.

## FPARP DEMONSTRATION OF TECHNOLOGY )))



The Ministry of Water Resources, New Delhi sanctioned a scheme on Farmers Participatory Action Research Programme (FPARP) with a financial outlay of Rs.35.0 lakhs to the Department of Agronomy, Agricultural College and Research Institute, Madurai. The Coastal Saline Research Centre, Ramanathapuram is implementing this technology demonstration programme as co-operating centre. One of the objectives of the scheme is to demonstrate the Mini Portable Sprinkler Irrigation Technology in 10 locations in the coastal sandy soils of Ramanathapuram District.

This technology is highly useful in an area of no electricity, use minimum amount of shallow fresh water avoiding sea water intrusion, possibility of saving 50% of the irrigation water requirement of crops and the farmers will also get assured crop without any loss in crop yield. This irrigation system can be profitably used for growing groundnut, onion, vegetables and greens in the coastal belt.

The entire technology demonstration programme is planned to carry out under farmers participatory mode wherein, the

farmers are formed into 10 groups consisting 5 farmers in each group. The mini portable sprinkler irrigation system will be given to the farmers group on free of cost alongwith the required seed and fertilizers for the first crop. The farmers will be asked to maintain the pumping system and it will be rotated among them on need basis. To mark the inauguration of this programme, Vice Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University presided and distributed the mini portable sprinkler irrigation systems to 10 groups of farmers at a function held at Perungulam Village, Ramanathapuram District on 09.05.2008. Dr. V.Ganesaraja, Professor and Head, Department of Agronomy, Madurai welcomed the gathering. Dr.S.Mahendran, Chief Scientist cum Principal Investigator explained about the various activities and importance of the scheme. The Director (WTC), the Dean, AC & RI, the Dean, HSC & RI, Madurai and the Joint Director of Agriculture, Ramanathapuram offered their felicitations. Dr.K.Srinivasan, Assoc. Professor and Head, CSRC, Ramanathapuram proposed a vote of thanks.

TRRI participated in the discussion with farmers held in the exhibition.

### RATAN TATA TRUST SCIENCE ADVISOR VISITS TNAU

Dr. A. S. Dhatt, Science Advisor, Sir Ratan Tata Trust, Mumbai visited TNAU, Coimbatore during 20-23 May 2008 to review the progress in dual degree program - MPS in Food Science and Technology of Cornell University, USA and M.Tech Food Processing and Marketing of TNAU. Dr. K. V. Raman, Cornell University, USA and Mr. K. Vijayaraghavan, Sathguru

Management Consultants, Hyderabad participated besides Deans and faculty. Dr. C. Ramasamy, Vice-Chancellor presided over the meeting.

Dr. Dhatt was taken to Bargur hills in Andhiyur block, Erode and interacted with the women farmers



who are trained by TNAU in the use of improved minor millet varieties of TNAU and value added products. Dr. Dhatt visited the finger millet seed production fields at Agricultural Research Station, Bhavanisagar. He was also taken to Forest College and Research Institute, Mettupalayam and briefed the activities of manufacturing of biofertilizers and bioreagents for jatropha and other forest species, bio-fuel tree species, mass multiplication and their efficiency. Dr. Dhatt visited Centre of Excellence in Biofuel, AEC&RI, Coimbatore and was explained its activities in depth. Dr. Dhatt visited the Azolla Germplasm

Centre at Department of Environmental Science, TNAU, Coimbatore. He observed the mother inoculum nurseries and the Azolla species being maintained in the Germplasm. He was explained on the methodology of Azolla multiplication at field level and also on the importance of Azolla as animal and poultry feed. He also discussed 20 new concept notes for funding.

were exposed to varieties, management, nutrient, pest and disease management of rice fallow cotton. Dr.K.Thiyagarajan, Professor (PB&G) welcomed the farmers. Dr.G.Selvaraj, Director, ODL and Dr.T.V.Karivaradharasu, Advisor, SIMA participated and explained about the programme to the farmers. The entire programme was sponsored by SIMA, Coimbatore.

issue like agricultural education, e-learning and e-teaching methods, degree programmes offered, changes in eligibility criterion and the new avenues on dual master degree programmes, job opportunities and also about the facilities available for learning, boarding and extra curricular development.

The impact of the press meet was visible in the following week as the sale of application was doubled and the application sought by the under privileged and down trodden has increased by three folds.

**CONTACT PROGRAM ON COTTON CULTIVATION**

The second contact programme for the certificate course "Cotton cultivation techniques" conducted by the Directorate of Open and Distance Learning was organized at Tamil Nadu Rice Research Institute, Aduthurai on 16.05.08. Twenty farmers from six districts participated in the training. They

**PRESS MEET ON AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION**

A press meet was organized on 16.5.2008 at AC&RI, Madurai to create awareness on Agricultural Education, courses and opportunities for the benefit of public. The reporters of Tamil and English dailies attended the meet. The Dean of AC&RI, Madurai, Dr.K.Ramamoorthi discussed the

**HIGH LEVEL MEETING ON REGISTRATION OF HILL BANANA**

A high level committee meeting on Consultative group was held with the officials of Geographical Indications Registry (G.I.) on 24.05.2008 at Kodaikanal for the registration of

**WORKSHOP ON TROPICAL FRUITS >>>**



S.Natarajan, Dean (Hort.), HC&RI, Peiryakulam proposed vote of thanks.

Hundred scientists, spread over across the country, presented their findings in the workshop. Sessions were conducted on Management of genetic resources and varietal improvement under Crop improvement, Planting density, propagation and rootstocks, nutrition, water management, weed control, orchard management, growth and development under 'Crop management' and pest and disease management under 'Crop protection'. A book on 'GAP for mango production' was released on this occasion by the Deputy Director General (Hort.). An action plan was also drawn for the forthcoming year 2008-09 & 2009-10. The participants were taken to a 'GAP certified' mango garden near Palani on the final day.

The Biennial workshop of the All India Coordinated Research Project on Tropical Fruits was conducted from May 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at TNAU, Coimbatore. Dr.H.P.Singh, Deputy Director General (Hort.), ICAR, inaugurated the workshop. Dr.D.Veeraragavathatham, Dean (Hort.), TNAU welcomed the participants.

Dr.B.Chandrasekaran, Director of Research, TNAU offered the presidential address. Dr.Kaul, Former DDG (Hort.), Dr.S.N.Pandey, ADG (Hort.) and Dr.Rathinam, Former Director, NRC Oil Palm, Dr.M.M.Musthaffa, & Dr.S.Sathiyamoorthi, present and former Directors, NRC Banana, Trichy also participated. Dr.

## TRAINING WORKSHOP ON INTEGRATED VEGETABLE GRAFTING TECHNOLOGY )))



Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), Coimbatore in collaboration with AVRDC The World vegetable centre, Taiwan and USAID supported IPM CRSP, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, USA jointly organized a training on "Integrated vegetable grafting technology for managing soil-borne diseases and increasing tolerance to flooding in the hot-wet season" at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore, for three days from 7.5.2008 to 9.5.2008. The training was inaugurated on 7.05.2008 and was presided over by Dr.P.Balasubramanian, Director, Centre for Plant Molecular Biology (CPMB). Dr. R. Samiyappan, Director, Centre for Plant Protection Studies (CPPS), TNAU, Dr.E.A.Heinrichs, IPM

Consultant, Virginia Tech and Dr. Gregory C. Luther, AVRDC gave special addresses emphasizing the need and prospects achieved with the training in different countries. Mr. Deng-Lin, Principal Research Assistant, AVRDC, Dr. Heinrichs and Dr. Gregory C. Luther were the trainers.

A total of 32 farmers, including eighteen women farmers from different parts of Coimbatore and Dharmapuri district participated and benefited out the training. On day one, the farmers were trained to construct tunnel-type grafting chamber, which is the pre-requisite for establishment of vegetable grafted seedlings using locally available materials. On day two, grafting technique was explained and practiced using pro-tray raised seedlings of tomato,

brinjal, chillies, bitter gourd, bottle gourd, watermelon and pumpkin. The grafted seedlings were placed inside tunnel chamber for further observation. On day three, farmers made observation on grafted seedlings done by themselves. The trainees have been taken to the farmer's field at Theethipalayam village and the trainers explained the soil-borne bacterial and fungal disease diagnosis.

The training was concluded with distribution of participation certificates to the farmers. The training was a joint activity of Department of Plant Molecular Biology and Biotechnology and Department of Plant Pathology under the scheme "IPM CRSP Regional Research and Education for South Asia".

Virupakshi/Sirumalai Hill Banana grown in the Lower Pulney Hill under G.I. protection Act . The Registrar of G.I, Dr. V. Ravi, and the former Vice Chancellor of TNAU, Dr. S. Jayaraj organized the meeting. The Associate Professor and Head, Horticultural Research Station, Thadiyankudisai, Dr. M. Ananthan, The Secretary of Tamil Nadu Hill Banana Growers Federation Mr. T.V.S.N. Veera Arasu, and many progressive planters participated in the discussion. The President of the

Federation Mr. W.P.A.R. Shaker Nagarajan presented the application proposal of the G.I. registration. The committee decided to approve the Hill Banana Ecotype of Lower Pulney Hills of Thadiyankudisai region as an Intellectual Property under G.I. Registry.

### DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL PLAN MEET

A meeting for the preparation of the District Agricultural Plan for the year 2008-09 for Cuddalore district

under the NADP programme was conducted on 23.05.2008 in the Camp Office of the Cuddalore Collector. The meeting was presided by the Collector. Representatives of various farmers organizations, Government organizations, Scientists of Sugarcane Research Station, Cuddalore and Chairmen of local bodies attended the meeting and offered valuable suggestions. The overall organization of the meeting was arranged by the Sugarcane Research Station, Cuddalore and

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Directorate of CARDS, TNAU, Coimbatore After thorough discussion, the District Agricultural Plan was approved and the plan submitted to the Agricultural Production Commissioner and Secretary to Government, Agricultural Department, Chennai.

of 47<sup>th</sup> flower show at Kodaikanal from 24.05.2008 to 25.05.2008. Horticultural Research Station, Kodaikanal has participated in flower, fruits and vegetables competition and won fifteen 1<sup>st</sup> prizes, four 2<sup>nd</sup> prizes, one 3<sup>rd</sup> prize and one special prize.

Grain and straw yields of rice during kharif and rabi seasons were recorded in twenty farm sites under rice - rice cropping systems in Anaimalai block of Coimbatore district besides, collection of post harvest soil and plant samples for assessing the change in fertility. Nutrient balance in each farm was worked out by accounting nutrient inputs and outputs used to forecast the nutrient deficiency and sufficiency.

**HRS, KODAIKANAL WON PRIZES IN FLOWER SHOW**

Stall arrangements and Exhibition of Horticultural research and crops were made at Bryant Park on the eve



**NUTRIENT DISORDERS FORECAST IN ANAIMALAI BLOCK**

Imbalanced plant nutrition and negative nutrient input-output balances often leads to significant soil nutrient depletion in irrigated rice growing areas.

Hence a study was taken up in the farmers' holdings of Anaimalai block to forecast the emerging nutrient disorders under farmers' practices of nutrient management.

Nutrient balance studies after three years of rice cropping showed negative balance of all major nutrients regardless of soil type and management strategies. Except Zn and B, all other micronutrients were found in positive balance in heavy textured Anaimalai soil series, while in light textured Irugur and Palladam series, Zn and Cu were found in

**HORTICULTURAL SCIENTISTS' MEET )))**



Annual Research Meeting on horticultural crops was conducted on 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2008. About 120 scientists working in different horticultural crops participated from all over Tamil Nadu. In that meeting, detailed deliberations were made on the progress of various on going research programmes in horticulture. In this meet, Dr.C.Ramasamy, Vice-Chancellor has emphasized that the economically important issues

in the commercially important horticultural crops to be addressed.

The issues like water management, biotic and abiotic stress management, year round production of fruits and vegetables, hybrid development, post harvest technology and value addition, landscape and turf managements, cut flower production etc., have to be

addressed by the concerned scientists on priority basis. He has also insisted that horticultural scientists should focus on basic research related to horticultural science. He further emphasized the importance of marketing intelligence in horticultural crops, particularly on export valuable crops, so that the growers will be much benefited.

Earlier Dr.D.Veeraragavathatham, Dean (Horticulture) presented the salient research achievements in horticulture for the period of 2007-2008. Dr.B.Chandrasekaran, Director of Research, Dr.E.Vadivel, Director of Extension Education, Dr.R.Samiyappan, Director for Centre for Plant Protection Studies also spoke on current issues to be addressed in horticultural research. At the end of the deliberations, the future thrust areas for future research were identified. Dr.S.Natarajan, Dean (Horticulture), HC&RI, Periyakulam proposed vote of thanks.

## REVIEW OF NMPB SCHEMES )))



Dr.B.S.Sajwan Chief Executive Officer, National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB), New Delhi, reviewed the schemes sponsored by NMPB which are being operated at different TNAU centres in Tamil Nadu on 23.05.2008 at

Horticultural College & Research Institute, TNAU, Coimbatore. G.A. Raj Kumar, IAS, Commissioner, Indian Systems of Medicine & Homoeopathy, Chennai, Mr. Amit Agarwal, Director R&D, Natural Remedies

Pvt.Ltd, Bangalore, Dr. E.Vadivel, Director of Extension Education, Dr. D. Veeraragavathatham, Dean (Hort), TNAU, Coimbatore were on the review committee. Totally 23 schemes in different thrust areas viz, Conservation & establishment of herbal garden, Multiplication of quality planting material, Agro techniques, Pest & disease management and Post harvest and value addition of medicinal plants have been reviewed by the committee. The CEO, NMPB inaugurated the Facilitation Centre for Medicinal Plants and the Herbal Garden at Agriculture Technology Information Centre, Directorate of Extension Education, TNAU, Coimbatore. The review and the inaugural programme were organized by Dr. K. Rajamani, Professor and Head, Dept. of Spices & Plantation Crops.

negative balance. Hence, Zn and B in Anaimalai series, K, Zn and Cu in Irugur and Palladam soil series are emerging as yield limiting nutrients with the current management strategies adopted by farmers, thus warrants careful monitoring and management of K, Zn, Cu and B in soils continuously cropped with rice-rice system.

### BSMA MEETING IN TNAU

ICAR has constituted different core groups known as Board Subject Matter Area Committee (BSMA) at National level for PG syllabus revision. For Horticulture the



committee has been constituted under the chairmanship of Dr.J.C.Kattyal, Vice-Chancellor, CCSHAU, Hissar. Dr.K.V.Peter, Former Vice-Chancellor, KAU acts as the convener.

The final meeting of the above said committee was conducted at TNAU

on 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2008 to finalize the structure of the curriculum and syllabus for the PG programmes of Horticulture, uniformly for the entire country.

Dr.A.K.Singh, Head (Fruits and Post harvest Technology), IARI, Dr.M.M.Musthaffa, Director, NRC Banana, Trichy and Professors from UAS, Dharwad, CISH Lucknow, GKVK, Bangalore, HAU, Hissar and KAU, Trissur attended the meeting. Dean (Hort.), TNAU, Dean (SPGS), TNAU, Dean (Hort.), HC&RI, Peiryakulam, all the Heads of the Departments and the Faculty participated in the discussion.

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