



# TNAU NEWS

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

TAMIL NADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY NEWS LETTER



## GREETINGS

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University  
Coimbatore,  
extends warm greetings to  
**Thiru S. Damodaran**  
on assuming as Minister for Agriculture,  
Government of Tamil Nadu,  
on 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2011

## Foodxplore - '11



Our Vice-Chancellor, Dr.P.Murugesha Boopathi, delivered the inaugural address. Mr. Jayatheertha Chary, General Manager, Reliance Retail Ltd., Hyderabad addressed the participants. Dr. S. Chellamuthu, Dean (Agrl. Eng.) in-charge presided over the inaugural session. Mr.V.Kumar, General Manager, Food Specialists Ltd., Dubai and Mr. Dharmesh P. Gala, National Product Manager, Anton Paar India Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai offered their felicitations. Dr.R.Viswanathan, P & H, Dept. of Food and Agrl. Process Engineering welcomed the gathering. Dr.N.Varadharaju, P&H, PHTC proposed vote of thanks.

National Seminar on "Emerging Technologies in Food Processing for Ensuring Food safety and Quality" was organised during October 14-15, 2011, at AEC&RI, Coimbatore to commemorate the celebration of World Food Day on 16<sup>th</sup> October of every year. The theme of the World Food Day for the current year is *Food Prices - From Crisis to Stability*. About 20 scientists / faculty and students numbering around 150 from Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala from different institutes attended Foodxplore.

During the two days seminar, 30 research papers, 45 posters and 5 models were presented. A quiz programme related to food was organised. Dr.Helmut Weidlich, Institute Prof. Dr. Georg Kurz GmbH, Köln, Germany, delivered a talk on "Unresolved Issues for Food Safety in Europe with possible Parallels in India" in the valedictory session. Dr.P.Subbian, Registrar, TNAU delivered valedictory address and distributed prizes to the winners of various events.

**XX Group Workers Meeting in AICRP- Subtropical Fruits at HC & RI, Periyakulam**

The XX Group Workers Meeting in AICRP-Subtropical Fruits was organized from 29.9.11 to 2.10.11. The inaugural function of the meeting was conducted on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2011. Dr. V. Ponnuswami, Dean, welcomed the gathering. Dr. P. Subbian, Registrar, presided over the function and delivered the presidential address. Dr. H. P. Singh, DDG (Hort.), ICAR, New Delhi inaugurated the function and delivered the inaugural address. Dr. N. Kumar, Dean, HC & RI, Coimbatore, Dr. H. Ravishankar, Director, CISTH, Lucknow and Dr. Vishal Nath felicitated the function.



The valedictory function of the XX Group Workers' Meeting was conducted on 01.10.2011. Our Vice- Chancellor, Dr. P. Murugesu Boopathi, delivered the valedictory address. The Assistant Director General, Dr. S. Rajan presided over the function and delivered the presidential address. Dr.A.K. Misra, Project Co-ordinator, STF and Dr. M. Selvarajan, the Organizing Secretary of the XX Group Workers' Meeting of All India Co-ordinated Research Project and Subtropical Fruit Crops proposed the vote of thanks

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**Seminar on Integrated management of parthenium at RRC, Tirur**



A seminar cum field demonstration on Integrated approaches for the management of parthenium

weeds was organised on 20.10.2011. Dr.C.Muralidharan, Professor (Agronomy) welcomed the gathering and explained the deleterious effect of parthenium weeds on socio-economic environment. Dr.G.Manickam, Professor and Head, narrated the various integrated approaches for effective control of parthenium weeds. Dr.A.Manjula, Associate Professor, KVK, proposed vote of thanks.

**VC visits HRS, Kodaikanal; Inaugurates rose garden**

Our Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Murugesu Boopathi inaugurated the Rose Garden after reviewing the various ongoing activities and research programmes including ICAR network projects on 02.10.2011. Dr. N. Kumar, Dean (Hort.), HC & RI, Coimbatore accompanied and highlighted the uniqueness and aesthetic values of rose garden. In the garden, 60 varieties of Floribunda, Hybrid Tea, Miniature and Climbing roses were planted. Dr. J. Rajangam, Associate Professor & Head, HRS, Kodaikanal explained the importance, maintenance of mother block for mass production of rose varieties. He also inaugurated the harvesting of potato seed production programme.



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**TN-IAMWARM - Theniyar sub basin Off campus training on SRI**

Off campus training was conducted on 'SRI' at Bodi Meenachipuram



on 28.10.2011 by ARS, Vaigadam under TN – IAMWARM of Theniyar sub basin. In this training, Dr.M.Kathiravan Assistant Professor (SST) welcomed the gathering. Dr.P.R.Renganayaki (Associate professor and Head) explained the SRI technology and scheme activities. Dr.C.Vanitha Assistant Professor (SST) expressed the importance of seed quality and enhancement techniques. Dr.M.P.Kavitha Assistant professor (Agronomy) narrated about the Pai Nursery and its advantages over conventional nursery and discussed the management of nursery. More than 50 farmers participated.

**Tapioca Project-Monitoring committee meeting at TCRS, Yethapur**

The first Tapioca Project Monitoring Committee meeting was held on 14.10.2011. Dr.V. Rajendran, P&H, TCRS welcomed the gathering and highlighted the



The National Service Scheme day was celebrated in Coimbatore campus, on 24<sup>th</sup> September, 2011 on a grand note to mark the launching of NSS in India on this day in 1969.

Our Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Murugesha Boopathi, presented citations to supporters of

social service and NSS activities also presented certificates to best NSS volunteers and blood donors of 2010-11 and winners of prizes of NSS Day competitions and delivered Presidential Address. Dr. A. Raja Rajan, Dean (Agriculture) felicitated the NSS volunteers. Dr.N.Kumar, Dean (Hort.), appreciated the NSS volunteers for their dedication in planting more than 1000 saplings inside the campus during last year.

Dr. P. Renuka Devi, NSS Programme officer presented the NSS activity report of 2010-11. Dr.A.S. Krishnamoorthy, NSS Programme Coordinator of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University welcomed the gathering and Dr.I.Cannayane, NSS Programme Officer proposed vote of thanks.



use of foliar spray of cassava tonic for enhancing the tapioca tuber yield. Dr. K. Nageswari, Associate Professor (Horticulture), Co- PI of the project gave a brief introduction about the scheme and explained the plan of action and details of benefits to the farmers who are raising tapioca crop through this project. The Project monitoring Committee approved the programme of activities, action plan, training and exposure visits proposed for the farmers in the project. Dr.V. Jayalakshmi, Associate Professor (Plant Pathology) proposed vote of thanks.

use of foliar spray of cassava tonic for enhancing the tapioca tuber yield. Dr. K. Nageswari,

The training programme was inaugurated by our Vice-Chancellor. During the training programme,



various technologies developed by the University for increasing the production of quality seeds of pulses and oilseeds were explained to the growers. Besides, the efficient management practices were also given in protecting the Pulses and Oilseed crops from various pests and pathogens.

**“Entrepreneurial Training on Production and Marketing of Quality Seeds of Oilseeds and Pulses”**

Three days entrepreneurial training programme on “Production and Marketing of quality seeds of Oilseeds and Pulses” was organized for the seed growers across the major oilseeds and pulses growing districts of Tamil Nadu between 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> sep, 2011. 50 farmers & 10 procurement agencies from 10 districts of Tamil Nadu participated in this programme.

**Trainers Training on Scaling up of Water Productivity**

Trainers training programme on “Scaling up of Water Productivity” was organized at ARS, Bhavanisagar from 10.10.2011 to 23.02.2011. The training was inaugurated by Dr.M.Mohamed yassin, P&H, on 10.10.2011. Fifteen extension officers from the Department of Agriculture and Horticulture and Agricultural Engineering from Salem, Namakkal, Karur and Erode districts participated in the training programme. During the training, various technologies



on ground water utilization, drip irrigation cum drip fertigation technology, subsurface drip irrigation, quality of irrigation water, irrigation water

management, use of water saving farm implements, community water management, improved dry land technology for moisture conservation, sustainable sugarcane initiative, soil related constraints and their management, new crop varieties etc., for efficient water utilization were delivered by the scientists of this station.

### Scientific Advisory Committee Meeting of KVK, Virinjipuram



The fourth Scientific Advisory Committee meeting was held on 07.10.2011. Our Vice

Chancellor, Dr.P.Murugesu Boopathi, presided over the meeting. Dr.S.Prabhukumar, Zonal Project Director (ICAR), and Dr. P. Kalaiselvan, DEE, delivered special addresses. Dr.S.Nanthakumar, Programme co-ordinator, presented the achievements and progress of KVK, Virinjipuram. All other line department officials of Vellore district and farmers attended the meeting.

### Programmes at HSC&RI, Madurai

#### World Nutrition Week celebrated



World Nutrition week (September 1-7, 2011) was celebrated by H S C & R I , Madurai, at Government Boys

Higher Secondary School, Othakadai. Dr.S.Kanchana, Associate Professor, Food Science and Nutrition welcomed the gathering. Dr.P.Banumathi, Dean, inaugurated the function. The importance of balanced diet, health and dental hygiene, millet based food

products etc., were spoken extensively by the staff. An exhibition was arranged. Dr.G.Hemalatha, Associate Professor (Food Science and Nutrition) proposed vote of thanks.

#### New website launched

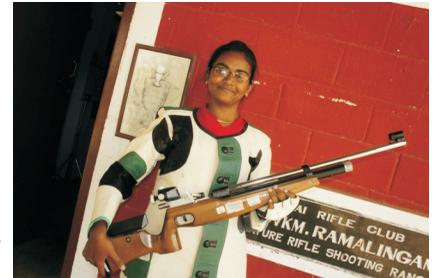
Our Vice-Chancellor Dr.P.Murugesu Bhoopathi, visited HSC&RI, recently and inaugurated the website of the college. He appreciated the



efforts taken by the Dean and faculty members in creation of an informative website which will definitely serve as a mouthpiece of the college. He urged the students to prepare themselves to be employment oriented and should venture into new avenues. He praised the excellent efforts taken by faculty members and motivated them to continue the endeavour with renewed vigour.

#### Undergraduate student hogs the limelight

Selvi. A.Noorul Anisha, a third year undergraduate student of Home Science College reached the pinnacle of glory by winning



silver medal in 10 metre Air Rifle Competition for Junior women in National Shooting Championship Competition held at Pune from August 3<sup>rd</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> 2011. Among three women represented Tamil Nadu at National level, she topped the list.

### B.Tech (Hort.) Student brings laurels to the University

Mr.S.M.Saminathan, B.Tech (Horticulture) 2<sup>nd</sup> year student of TNAU has represented the state of Tamil Nadu as a part of the 10 members Indian delegation to Japan for the SAARC – YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAM 2010 from 7<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> December,2010. He was the only one selected among 5400 boys and girls to represent the state of Tamil Nadu.



He has also been identified as one of the two most inspiring students among the 80 participants from 8 different

countries by Mr. Yuji Hara, the Director of "THE JAPAN – INDIA ASSOCIATION". At the end of this program, S.M.Saminathan who was playing as the ambassador of SPAIN, a European country won good success once again and has been identified as THE BEST CRISIS MANAGER AWARD (male) among 650 different faces of the world.

### Visit of Project Director to SWMRI, Thanjavur

Dr.B.Gangwar, Project Director, Farming System Research, Modipuram, visited SWMRI on 02-10-2011. He reviewed the research activities viz., Identification of efficient cropping systems for Cauvery New Delta Zone, package of practices for conserving natural resources, higher productivity and higher profitability in agricultural production and betterment of the farming community in Cauvery Delta

zone etc. Dr. K.Siddeswaran, Chief Agronomist, TNAU, CBE., and Dr. B. Chandrasekaran, Professor and Head, SWMRI, Thanjavur, Scientists of ECF centres participated in the review and shared their views.



### Commissioner of Horticulture and Plantation crops visit to HRS, Kodaikanal

The commissioner of horticulture and plantation crops Thiru. K. Sellamuthu, I.A.S. Government of Tamil Nadu,



Chennai, visited on 08.10.2011. During this occasion, the various on going research programmes,

### BPD-TNAU Expands its Incubation Territory to Africa



Development has extending its business incubation activities in Africa. Of all the ten Business Planning and Development Units in the country, BPD-TNAU is the first incubator to extend agri-business incubation services in foreign countries. Top Worth Group of Companies - one of the incubatees of the BPD Unit has ventured in corporate farming in Guinea, Africa. As a part of the incubation services requested by the incubatee company, officials of BPD-TNAU has visited Guinea and provided technical support in selecting large stretches of land for corporate farming and also had business meeting with Mr.

The Business Planning and Development (BPD) Unit of the Directorate of Agri-Business

Madikaba Camara, Secretary of Agriculture, Government of Guinea.

experimental plots, exotic vegetable cafeteria, polyhouse and botanical repository were highlighted. A planting programme was also organized.

### Participatory Varietal Evaluation Programme



A Participatory Varietal Evaluation Programme for Small millet growing farmers from Krishnagiri,

Madurai and Thiruvannamalai districts were organized at Department of Millets, Coimbatore on 30.09.2011. A total of 34 farmers participated in the evaluation programme.

Dr.N.Varatharaju, P&H, PHTC, welcomed the gathering. Need of the farmers' participatory evaluation of Small Millet varieties was explained by Dr.A.Nirmalakumari. The present scenario and the prevailing marketing opportunities of the Small Millets were highlighted by Th.K.Vesli Jeevanraju, ADA (Central Scheme), Coimbatore. The nutritional benefits and advantages of the Small Millets were shown by Dr.D.Malathi, Professor (FSN). S.Manoharan, Professor (Agronomy) proposed vote of thanks.

### Exposure visit on Improved Production Technology for pulses

An exposure visit has been arranged to National Pulses Research Centre, Vamban on 29.09.2011 for the farmers of TN-IAMWARM Sevalaperiyar Sub basin under capacity building programme. The farmers were exposed to different aspects of pulses cultivation viz., fertilizer, water and weed management, improved production technologies, integrated pest and disease management and post harvest technologies. Totally fifty farmers participated in the programme.

### Fifth Scientific Advisory Committee Meeting at KVK, Tiruvallur

The fifth Scientific Advisory Committee of KVK, Tiruvallur was conducted on 08.10.11. Our Vice Chancellor presided over the function.

Dr. C. Prabhu kumar, Zonal Project Director, Zone VIII; DEE and the JDA, Tiruvallur District were the



dignitaries on the dais. The Programme Coordinator, KVK, Tirur, Dr.M. Devanathan presented the activities of the KVK during the year 2010 - 11. The Scientific Advisory Committee members of various development departments of Tiruvallur district and farmer members participated in the meeting and offer their valuable ideas for enhancing the activities of KVK, Tiruvallur.

### Irrigation Park inaugurated at AEC&RI, Kumulur

An irrigation park featuring modern irrigation technologies to demonstrate and training to the



students, farmers and agricultural managers on water saving in various crops has been inaugurated by our Vice-Chancellor on 09.09.2011. The Irrigation Park features surface irrigation, macro-sprinkler, impact sprinkler, rain gun, drip irrigation systems for various crops.

Dr. A. Tajuddin, Dean, informed that high value crops will be grown in the park under various irrigation systems and water saving upto 60 percent and yield increase upto 100 per cent will be demonstrated. Dr. S. Somasundaram, Assistant Professor (Agronomy) and Dr. K. Nagarajan, Associate Professor (Soil & Water Conservation) designed and created the park.

### Programmes at FRS, Thovalai

#### CPCRI Scientists' visit

A team of six scientists from Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Regional Station, Kayankulam, Kerala visited the coconut farms in and around Thovalai nad Maramalai region and suggested the suitable remedial measures to the growers on

## Nation Level Training on “Allele Mining: Basic Concepts, Methods and Applications”



Realizing the importance of allele mining in genomics-driven plant breeding era,

Institute, Coimbatore shared their experience on “Allele Mining”.

a National level training on “Allele Mining: Basic concepts, Methods and its Applications” was organised at CPMB&B, TNAU during 10.10.2011 to 21.10.2011. A total of seventeen participants from various ICAR/SAUs/Central Government Institutes participated in the training. Eminent scientists in the field of allele mining namely, Dr. Brigitte Courtois from CIRAD, France, Dr. Mohapatra from IARI, New Delhi, Dr. Sheshayee from UAS, Bangalore and Dr. Shoba Kumari from Sugarcane Breeding

16.09.2011. In the afternoon, an interaction meeting was arranged. Dr. R. Richard Kennedy, Associate Professor and Head, welcomed the gathering and explained the efforts taken by the FRS in promotion of flower crops as intercrops in coconut gardens. Dr. M. Jacob, Head, CPCRI, Kayankulam elaborated the



production potential of growing heliconia as intercrops in coconut gardens to get additional income and also to diversify the stagnant coconut industry. During interaction, farmers queries were clarified. Dr. G. Preetha proposed vote of thanks.

### Former Vice - Chancellor's visit



23.09.2011. Dr. R. Richard Kennedy, Associate Professor and Head, welcomed the guest and explained the activities of the station. Dr. A. Abdul Kareem, Former Vice Chancellor, TNAU as the chief guest, inaugurated

production potential of growing heliconia as intercrops in coconut gardens to get additional

income and also to diversify the stagnant coconut industry. During interaction, farmers queries were clarified. Dr. G. Preetha proposed vote of thanks.

A n awareness programme on “Planting of Rose under Precision Farming” was organized on

the function and explained the modern concepts to improve the flower production Dr. G. Preetha proposed vote of thanks.

### Tree planting programme

In a special programme, Dr. A Abdul Kareem former Vice-Chancellor, Tamil Nadu



Agricultural University visited the station and inaugurated the tree planning proqramme on 23.09.2011. The planting of RET, medicinal and religious trees in the campus premises and also in public places were done. Earlier Dr. R. Richard Kennedy, Associate Professor and Head, welcomed the gathering and spoke on the importance of trees, as they are endless providers for the needs of the future generation. Dr. A Abdul Kareem former Vice-Chancellor, stressed the values of the indigenous trees such as neem, moringa and highlighted that they are going to be the panacea for most of our emerging health problems. He initiated the programme by planting of a calabash tree - *Crescentia cujete*. Dr. G. Preetha and Dr. P. Hemalatha, Assistant Professor have made the arrangements.

## New schemes

Name of the scheme	Principal Investigator	Amount (Lakh ₹.)	Funding Agency
GOI- NHM – Spices	Dr. V. Ponnuswami, Dean, HC&RI, Periyakulam	69.70	NHM
Upscaling popularization of Little millet in Javadu Hills of Thiruvannamalai district, Tamil Nadu for enhancing the livelihood of tribal farmers.	Dr.A.Nirmalakumari Professor (PBG)	32.12	NRTT, Mumbai
Commercial exploitation and industrial application of tamarind for food grade pectin, gum and other value added products	Dr. V. Ponnuswami, Dean, HC&RI, Periyakulam	29.78	MFPI, New Delhi
Development of low phytate soybean (Glycine max L.Merrill) through induced mutagenesis.	Dr. T. Kalaimagal, Associate Professor (PB&G),	18.82	BRNS, Mumbai
Evaluation of Bioefficacy, Phytotoxicity of new chemical insecticides viz., Volium Flexi 300 SC, Virtako 40 WG and Volium Targo 063 SC against major pests of rice and Biosafety to natural enemies”	Dr.V.G.Mathirajan, Assistant Professor (Entomology), SWMRI	5.23	Syngenta India Ltd., Coimbatore
Short and Long term impact of Distillery effluent (Briomethonated) Fertigation and one time controlled land application to paddy, sugarcane and banana on changes in soil and water sources	Dr.P. Balasubramanian, Associate Professor (SS&AC), Kumalur	5.00	M/s. Kothari Sugars and Chemicals Ltd.
Voluntary centre for spices	Dr. V. Ponnuswami, Dean, HC&RI, Periyakulam	1.00	AICRP

## Important visitors

- Prof. Willem A. Stoop, Ph.D., Rtd. Professor (S.S), Wageningen University, The Netherlands, visited Directorate of WTC on 06.10.2011 and 07.10.2011
- Dr. Brigitte COURTOIS CIRAD France visited Directorate of CPMB&B on 09.10.2011 and 12.10.2011
- Andrew Nelson, IRRI, Philippines visited Directorate of Crop Management on 12.10.2011 and 14.10.2011

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To  
Thiru

From  
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