

TNAU NEWS

July 2022

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University
Coimbatore - 641 003



VOL. 74 No. 07

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Tamil Nadu Agricultural University is conferred with Sardar Patel Outstanding ICAR Institution (Agricultural University Category) Award for the year 2021. The Award was received by the Vice Chancellor, Dr. V. Geethalakshmi from Hon'ble Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Shri. Narendra Singh Tomar on 16.07.2022.

Siruthuli, a Coimbatore based Non-Governmental Organization and Rotary Metropolis Club, Coimbatore together inaugurated a new project "Metropolis Mazhai Vanam" on 01.07.2022 in RKV Nagar, Theethipalayam Panchayat Thondamuthur, Coimbatore District.

Metropolis Mazhai Vanam is the project for planting 1100 saplings across 21 varieties of native trees. Chief Guest of this grand occasion was Dr. V. Geethalakshmi, Vice Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Dr. Laxman Singh Rathore, Former Director General of India Meteorological Department, New Delhi felicitated. The President of Rotary Metropolis Club, Managing Trustee of Siruthuli along with Theethipalayam Panchayat President and Ward Counselor participated and planted the saplings.

Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Coimbatore, organized a one week training course on Forest Genetic Resource Management for Indian Forest Service officers from 04.07.2022 to 08.07.2022. Dr. V. Geethalakshmi, Vice Chancellor, inaugurated the Training Course by lighting the lamp and released the training manual. On the inaugural address, she stated that Forest Genetic Resources (FGRs) is the fundamental requirement for the genetics and tree breeding studies. She also suggested the conservation of FGRs in sanctuaries and preservation plots for sustainable utilization and need to have adequate knowledge on biodiversity and also elaborated on the threats associated with loss of biodiversity.

The Government Aided Autonomous institution, Gobi Arts and Science College, Gobichettipalayam Affiliated to Bharathiar University, Coimbatore conducted its 'Convocation 2022' on 09.07.2022. Dr. V. Geethalakshmi, Vice Chancellor of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University participated as Chief Guest and delivered special address. The students were motivated and provided with career guidance through her convocation address. The medal winners were also honored by the Chief Guest.

Nehru College of Management, a part of Nehru Group of Institutions organized 24th Graduation Ceremony on 30.07.2022 at NIET B Block Seminar Hall. Dr. V. Geethalakshmi, Honorable Vice Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University participated as Chief Guest and distributed certificates to the students. She emphasized the importance of Corporate Social Responsibility and ethical values which play a major role in shaping country's economy. She provided insights about the great opportunities for youth in agriculture sector especially in application of IoT in agriculture, Big Data Analysis and Modern Managerial practices in agribusiness.

52nd Foundation Day Celebrations

The 52nd Golden Jubilee Year Foundation Day was celebrated on July 1, 2022 along with TNAU Graduation Day of Directorate of Open and Distance Learning. Dr. Laxman Singh Rathore, Former Director General of India Meteorological Department, New Delhi was invited as Chief Guest. He offered foundation day address and distributed testimony for the staff who had put forth relentless and unblemished service besides

distributing the graduation certificates to the students of Open and Distance Learning programme. Thiru. V. Balakrishnan, IPS Commissioner of Police, Coimbatore, Dr. R. Jagannathan, Vice-Chancellor of Periyar University and Former Vice Chancellors of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University *viz.*, Dr. C. Ramasamy, Dr. P. Murugesu Boopathi and Dr. K. Ramasamy offered felicitation. Dr. V. Geethalakshmi, Vice Chancellor of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, in her address highlighted the milestone achievements of the University. Dr. R. Thamizh Vendan, Registrar of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University proposed vote of thanks.

Legislative Assembly Plot Committee visit TNAU

The Legislative Assembly Plot Committee Government of Tamil Nadu Chaired by Thiru. N. Ramakrishnan, Member of Legislative Assembly along with 14 Members visited TNAU on 05.07.2022. The committee interacted with the University officials and visited various Departments and facilities including Technology Business Incubator (TBI) of Directorate of Agri Business Development. On this eve, Dr. E. Somasundaram, Director (ABD) and Mr. A.V. Gnanasambandam, Chief Executive Officer briefed the activities of TBI, Coimbatore. The Chairman and Members of the Legislative Assembly Plot Committee of Tamil Nadu Government interacted with TBI Members and witnessed the products showcased at TBI Permanent Exhibition Hall.



Training on Nanotechnology based 3D Printing

Department of Science and Technology sponsored training programme on 'Application of 3D Printing in Agriculture' was organized at Department of Nano Science and Technology on 08.07.2022 with the emphasis on creating awareness among the faculty, young scientists and research scholars on basic principles of 3D printing technology. Dr. K. S. Subramanian, Professor and Head, Department of Nano Science & Technology, had set the stage for the training program by presenting potential applications of 3D printing in seed science, plant health, crop management, agricultural engineering and food science. Dr. M. Raveendran, Director of Research briefly explained the history of 3D printing and its importance in developing prototype before validation under field conditions. Dr. P. Balasubramaniam, Director, Natural Resource Management sensitized the participants to apply for competitive grants utilizing 3D printing as one of the component in their research programme. A total of 28 participants from various colleges, research stations and KVKs participated.



TNAU - Dalhousie Dual Degree Programme – An Interactive Meeting

An interaction meeting was organized on 08.07.2022 with Ms. Anaha Pradeep Kumar, an alumna of Agricultural College and Research Institute, Madurai pursuing her Masters in Dalhousie University, Canada. The Under Graduates students of Agricultural College and Research Institute and Community Science College and Research Institute, Madurai participated. Ms. Anaha Pradeep Kumar briefed on the Dual Degree (TNAU - Dalhousie University) experiences with the students. She also interacted on the prospects of undergoing Post Graduate Programme in Dalhousie University, Canada with the aid from ICAR-NAHEP - IDP funds. Dr. P.P. Mahendran, Dean, Agricultural College and Research Institute, Madurai chaired this interactive meeting.



23rd PG Advisory Committee Meeting



The 23rd PG Advisory committee meeting was organized on 08.07.2022 at Centre for Plant Molecular Biology & Biotechnology (CPMB). The Meeting was chaired by Dr. V. Geethalakshmi, Vice Chancellor, TNAU. She emphasized the promotion of commercial Micro Propagation of banana (Grand Naine) under section 8 company and to explore the opportunities for faculty training. Dr. N. Senthil, Director (CPMB) and Programme Coordinator for the DBT sponsored PG Biotechnology programme presented the 23rd PG Advisory Committee Report. The external experts

Dr. Arun Jagannath, DBT Nominee and Professor, University of Delhi; Mr. Anshul Saxena, DBT Nominee from Life Sciences Sector of Skill Development Council, Dr. A. Selvi and Dr. N.V. Mathish, the External academic experts and Dr. M. Karunakaran, Industrial Representative offered their remarks. Dr. A. Lakshmanan, Dean (SPGS) insisted to form a separate cell, 'School of Finishing and Grooming' to impart focused training on IoT and Big Data Analysis to the students. Dr. E. Kokiladevi, Professor and Head, Department of Plant Biotechnology was also present.

56th Annual Convention of ISAE 2022 - Website and Brochure Launch

The 56th Annual Convention of Indian Society of Agricultural Engineers on Agricultural Engineering Innovation for Global Food Security is scheduled to be held during November 9 -11, 2022 at Agricultural Engineering College and Research Institute, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore. This convention is jointly organized by Tamil Nadu Agricultural University and Indian Society of Agricultural Engineers, New Delhi in Hybrid Mode. Dr. V. Geethalakshmi, Vice-Chancellor launched the Website and Brochure on 08.07.2022. Dr. A. Raviraj, Dean (Agricultural Engineering) Coimbatore, Dr. S.S. Sivakumar, Deputy Registrar (Administration), Dr. S. Ganapathy, Deputy Registrar (Education), Dr. N. Senthil, Director (CPMB), Heads of Departments and other faculty members participated.



TNAU Alumni Meets

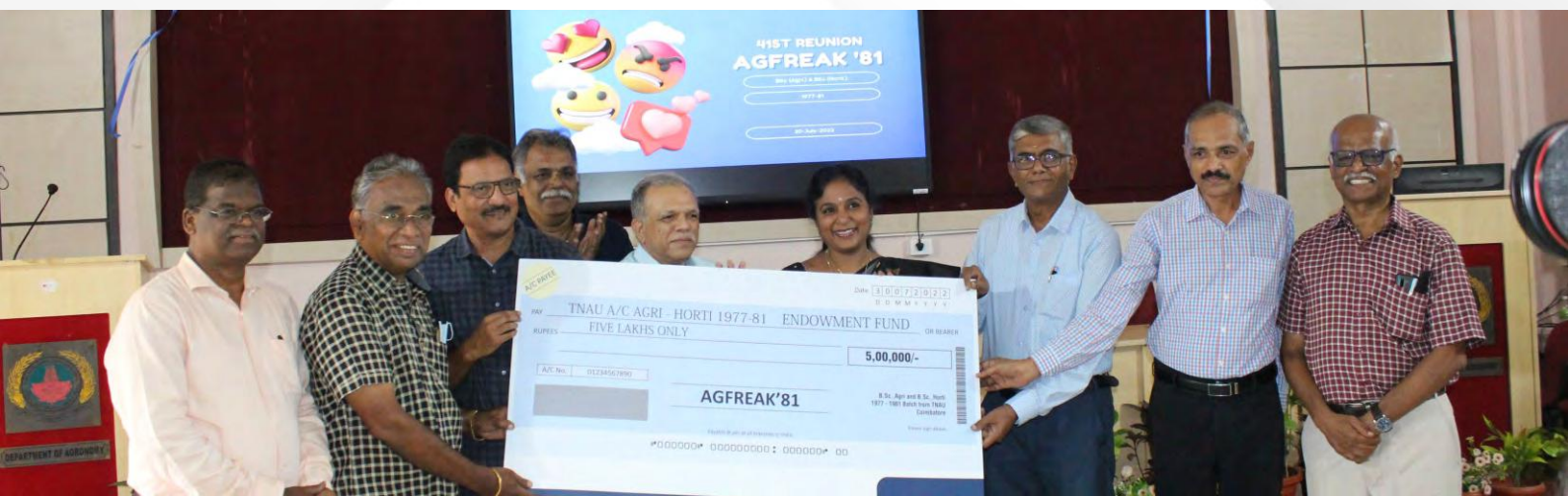


The 1993 B.Sc. (Agriculture) alumni batch meet was held on 10.07.2022 at Golden Jubilee Hall, TNAU, Coimbatore. Totally, 65 members participated along with their family. Dr. V. Geethalakshmi, Vice Chancellor delivered the presidential address. Dr. N. Maragatham, Dean, Centre for Students' Welfare and President of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University Alumni Association facilitated the meeting.

The TNAU alumni 1969 batch meet of B.Sc. (Agriculture) and Reunion was held during July 22-23, 2022 at Anna Auditorium. The Vice Chancellor delivered the presidential address. Around 50 alumni with their family participated. A cultural event was also organized during the meet. The President, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University Alumni Association and the Dean, Centre for Students' Welfare, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University participated in the meeting and offered felicitation.

The 41st Reunion (1981 batch) of B.Sc. (Agriculture) and B.Sc. (Horticulture) 'AG FREAK 81', took place on 30.07.2022 at Freeman Hall, TNAU, Coimbatore. Totally 67 alumni along with their family participated and offered scholarship to the students. The Vice Chancellor presided and released 'Tatler 2.0', the souvenir of students' club.

The 1965 batch of B.Sc. (Agriculture) alumni meet was held on 31.07.2022 at Freeman Hall, TNAU, Coimbatore. Totally 20 alumni attended with their family. The alumni witnessed the state of art facilities created over the time and recalled their memories. The Vice Chancellor graced the meet at University Botanical Garden, Coimbatore.



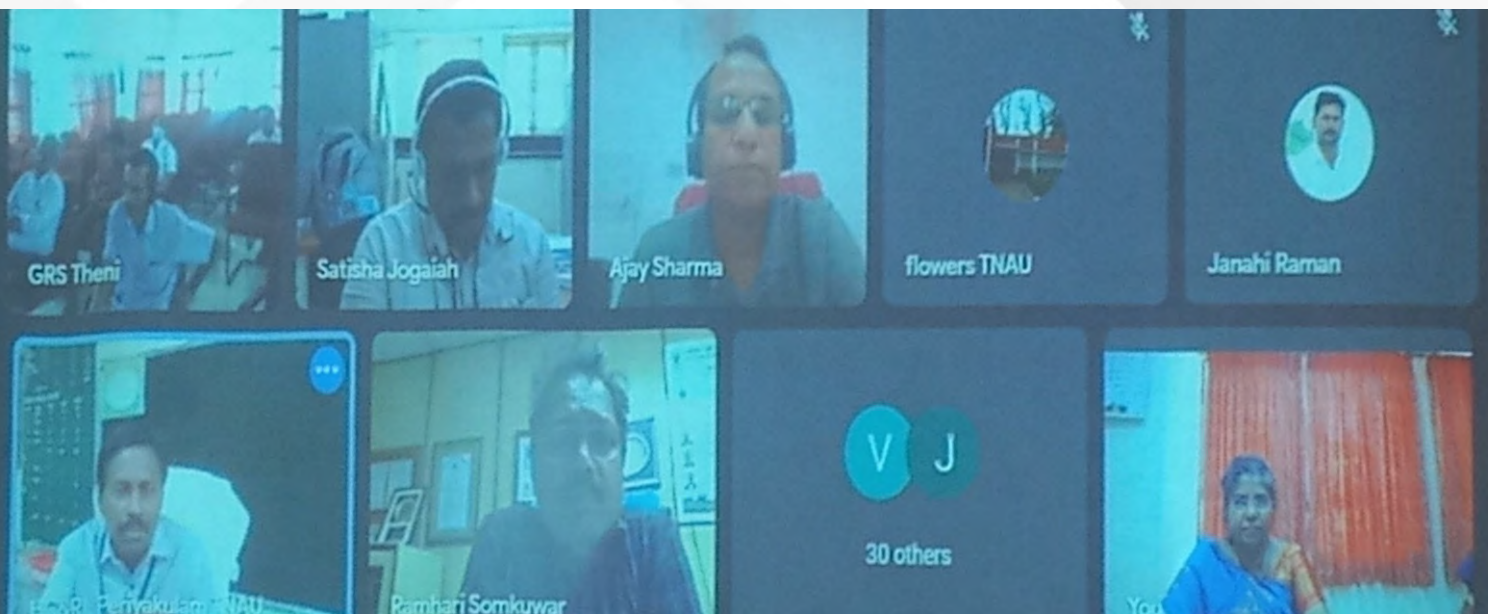
Horticulture Higher officials visited AC&RI, Madurai

Dr. Prabhat Kumar, Horticulture Commissioner, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Government of India, New Delhi and Dr. Homey Cheriyan, Director, Directorate of Arecanut and Spices Development, Calicut visited Agricultural College and Research Institute, Madurai on 12.07.2022. The scientists of Apiculture unit explained about the various species of bee colonies and their foraging behaviour. The officials were also exposed to *Chrysoperla* production unit and its distribution channels to the farmers for controlling the Coconut Rugose Spiralling White fly. Dr. P.P. Mahendran, Dean, Dr. S. Kumar, Professor and Head (Horticulture) and Dr. R. Nalini, Professor and Head (Agricultural Entomology) facilitated the visit.



Brain Storming Session on Grapes Quality Improvement

A brain storming session on 'Quality Improvement Practices for Commercial Grapes Varieties in Tamil Nadu' was conducted on 12.07.2022 at Grapes Research Station, Anaimalyanpatty, Theni in association with Horticultural College and Research Institute, Coimbatore in Hybrid Mode. Dr. P. Irene Vethamoni, Dean, Horticultural College and Research Institute, Coimbatore presided and highlighted the production and productivity of grapes and problems faced by the grapes growers in the State. She emphasized that quality improvement of Muscat Grapes is need of the hour. The significant researchable areas in grapes viz., pruning techniques, special viticulture practices and quality improvement were delivered by Dr. R.G. Somkuwar, Director, NRCG, Pune; Dr. A.K. Sharma, Principal Scientist (Horticulture) NRCG, Pune and Dr. J. Sathisha, Principal Scientist (Horticulture), IIHR, Bengaluru. Grapes growers and Scientists participated in the session. Dr. A. Subbiah, Assistant Professor and Head, Grapes Research Station, Theni coordinated the meeting.



16th Annual Review Meeting on Spices

The Department of Spices and Plantation Crops, HC & RI, Periyakulam and Directorate of Arecanut and Spices Development, Calicut jointly organized 16th Annual Review Meeting of Government of India - Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (GOI - MIDH) on Spices on 13.07.2022 and 14.07.2022. In the presidential address, Dr. Prabhat Kumar, Horticultural Commissioner, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India presented the Nation's vision to sustain the competitive edge of the Indian spice industry with added thrust on high-end value addition and new product development. Dr. Homey Cheriyan, Director, Directorate of Arecanut and Spices Development, Calicut highlighted the impact of GOI - MIDH scheme on spices production in the country. Dr. C.K. Thangamani, Director, Indian Institute of Spices Research, Calicut, stressed the demand for Indian spices in the international market. Dr. N. Senthil, Director (CPMB); Dr. E. Somasundaram, Director (ABD); Dr. P. Paramaguru, Dean, HC & RI (Women), Trichy and Dr. J. Rajangam, Dean, HC & RI, Periyakulam felicitated. Dr. A. Ramar, Professor and Head and Dr. R. Chitra, Assistant Professor, Department of Spices and Plantation Crops coordinated the programme.



Inauguration of Post Graduates Students Forum

Dr. R. P. Kingsly Ambrose, Professor, Purdue University, USA and Dr. A. Lakshmanan, Dean (SPGS) inaugurated "Agricultural Engineering College Post Graduate Students Forum (AECPGSF)" on 13.07.2022. The Heads of the Department, faculty members along with PG and Ph. D students participated. Dr. A. Raviraj, Dean (Agricultural Engineering); Dr. S. Karthikeyan, Professor and Head,



Post-Harvest Technology Centre and Staff advisor of AECPGSF felicitated. The Logo of AECPGSF was released and the student members were provided with membership certificates. Er. N. Janani has been nominated as President and Er. Ravuri Sai Prasanth as Vice-President of AECPGSF.

Sales Outlet of TNAU Products at Kovilpatti

Dr. K. Baskar, Professor and Head inaugurated the 'Sales Outlet of TNAU Products' at Agricultural Research Station, Kovilpatti on 13.07.2022 for the benefit of farming community. The TNAU products *viz.*, Maize Maxim, Pulse Wonder, Cotton Plus, Groundnut Rich, Coconut Tonic and Vermicompost are being distributed through this sales counter. Dr. B. Arthirani, Assistant Professor (Agricultural Meteorology) demonstrated coconut tonic application and preparation of vermicompost to the participants.



Capacity Building Workshop on Genomics of Abiotic Stress

An International capacity building workshop on 'Genomics of Abiotic Stress in Crop Plants' was organised by the Centre for Plant Breeding and Genetics (CPBG), Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore in collaboration with United States India Educational Foundation (USIEF) and Indian Society of Plant Breeders (ISPB) from 29.06.2022 to 15.07.2022. Dr. V. Geethalakshmi, Vice Chancellor inaugurated the workshop and delivered presidential address. Dr. Kalpalatha Melmaiee, Associate Professor, Delaware State University, USA and visiting Fulbright specialist briefed on the research activities in breeding for abiotic stress tolerance at Delaware State University, USA. Dr. R. Ravikesavan, Director (CPBG) sensitised the gathering about the workshop and Dr. P. Jeyakumar, Director (Planning and Monitoring) and Dr. N. Senthil, Director (CPMB) felicitated. Virtual lectures were delivered by international guest speakers from University of Florida, Delaware State University, Rutgers University and specialists from National Institute of Plant Genome Research, New Delhi and Regional Centre for Biotechnology, Faridabad, Haryana. Research scholars from Department of Genetics and Plant Breeding and Department of Fruit science; Assistant Professors from the Departments of Rice, Pulses, Millets, Forages, Oilseeds, Genetics and Plant Breeding, Biotechnology, Plant Physiology, Fruit science, Spices and Plantation Crops, Medicinal and Aromatic Crops participated virtually. Dr. S. Geetha, Professor and Head, Department of Pulses; Dr. A. Subramanian, Professor (Plant Breeding and Genetics) and Dr. B. Meenakumari, Assistant Professor (Plant Breeding and Genetics) coordinated the workshop.



Dr. S. Geetha, Professor and Head, Department of Pulses; Dr. A. Subramanian, Professor (Plant Breeding and Genetics) and Dr. B. Meenakumari, Assistant Professor (Plant Breeding and Genetics) coordinated the workshop.

Guest Lecture on Hi-tech Nursery Technologies

A Guest Lecture on 'Hi -Tech Nursery Technologies in Horticultural Crops and Orchard Management' was organized on 18.07.2022 at Horticultural College and Research Institute, Coimbatore. Dr. P. Irene Vethamoni, Dean (Horticulture) presided and highlighted the importance of Hi-tech nursery and orchard management in Horticultural Crops. The invited speaker Mr. Randip Ghosh, Senior Production executive, VNR Nursery Private Ltd., Chhattisgarh delivered lecture on various factors influencing the Hi-Tech Nursery management and innovative technologies of growing fruit crops in trellis system. The Under Graduate, Post Graduate and Doctoral students of Horticultural College and Research Institute, Coimbatore participated.



Global Conference on Linking Students with Stakeholders for Demand Driven Research and Industrial Internship

The Global conference on 'Linking Students with Stakeholders for Demand Driven Research & Industrial Internship' was organized by the Dean (SPGS) on 19.07.2022 to show case Students' innovations to wider audience and create a platform to stakeholders to work with Tamil Nadu Agricultural University for transforming the applied research into innovative products. This event provided an opportunity for Industries, FPOs, Entrepreneurs, Start-ups and MSMEs to understand the



innovative ideas, products, business models to work with students of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University under project/product mode to ensure food and nutritional security. Crop Nutrition, Crop Care, Crop Improvement, Post-harvest processing, Marketing and Machineries, Drones and AI were the themes of the conference. Each session had a lead lecture followed by display of technologies and interaction. More than 150 industries / Start-Ups / MSMEs participated and around 75 innovations from students' research were

displayed. The event created an opportunity for stakeholders to understand the cutting edge research and innovation in agriculture and allied sectors and for industries to identify and employ powerful brains in their assignments.

Hands-on Training in Sequence and Structure Analysis

The Department of Plant Molecular Biology and Biotechnology organized a two days 'Hands on Training in Sequence and Structure Analysis: Molecular Modeling Docking and Simulation' through hybrid mode from 22.07.2022 to 23.07.2022 at Centre for Plant Molecular Biology and



Biotechnology, TNAU, Coimbatore. Scientists and students from Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Tokyo University of Agriculture, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Pondicherry University, Bharathidasan University, Adhiyamaan College of Engineering, Pasteur Institute of India, Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding and Mahatma Gandhi Phule Krishi Vidya Peeth participated. Dr. N. Senthil, Director (CPMB); Dr. E. Somasundaram, Director (ABD); Dr. R. Gnanam, Professor and Head, Department of Plant Molecular Biology and Biotechnology and Dr. N. Bharathi, Assistant Professor (Bioinformatics) participated in the inaugural session. Dr. C. Selva Kumar, Head, Department of Bioinformatics, D.Y. Patil University, Dr. S. Prabhakaran, Scientist, National Institute of Plant Genome Research (NIPGR), Dr. Archana Prabhakar, Post-Doctoral Fellow, Cleveland State University, Dr. Shiv Bharatwaj, Scientist, Prague (Czech Republic), Dr. N. Bharathi, Dr. N. Jayakanthan and Dr. N. Saranya, Assistant Professors in Bioinformatics from TNAU delivered lectures and provided hands on training.

Horti UTSAV 2022

An intellectual and cultural event 'HORTI UTSAV 2022 - An Aesthetic Fest of Joy' was organized at Horticultural College and Research, Coimbatore on 23.07.2022. The students from the five Horticultural Colleges of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University participated and showcased their talents. Dr. V. Geethalakshmi, Vice Chancellor inaugurated and presided over the event. Various on stage and off stage events *viz.*, quiz, fruit and vegetable carving, handscaping, fire-less cooking, singing, dancing, poetry, valluvam, pic to poem, win over the word, tint your thoughts, who am I, brushless painting, flower arrangement, mobile photography, turn coat, classical solo dance, instrumental music were



conducted. Dr. V.J. Chandran, IPS, Inspector General of Police, Puducherry, an alumnus of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University delivered Chief Guest Address and distributed prizes to winners. Dr. P. Irene Vethamoni, Dean (Horticulture); Dr. N. Venkatesa Palanichamy, Dean (Agriculture); Dr. N. Maragatham, Dean (Centre for Students Welfare) and Dr. V. Balasubramani (Controller of Examinations) from TNAU, Coimbatore and Dr. L. Jeevajothe, Nodal Officer, HC & RI, Jeenuur offered felicitation. A scientific exhibition based on various Horticultural concepts was also organized by the students.

Civil Service Examination Motivational Lecture

A motivational career guidance lecture on Civil Service Examination was organized for the final year B.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture students of Agricultural College and Research Institute, Madurai 26.07.2022. Mr. P.S. Kumar from Sadik IAS Academy and an alumnus of Agricultural College and Research Institute, Madurai motivated the students through his experience in cracking Civil Service Examination. The programme was guided by Dr. P.P. Mahendran, Dean and organized by Dr. K. Mahandrakumar, Professor and Head, Department of Agricultural Extension and Rural Sociology, Agricultural College and Research Institute, Madurai.



Industry - Institutional Collaboration

The officials from Coromandel International, Hyderabad and Indofil, Mumbai, visited the TNAU Nanotechnology Centre on 27.07.2022 and 28.07.2022 for collaboration with TNAU to develop processes and products suitable for Indian farming. Dr. S. Sankarasubramanian, President - Fertilizers, Coromandel International Ltd, Hyderabad and Dr. Amar Nath Chandrani, Senior Vice President, Indofil, Mumbai represented the industries. They were briefed about the activities and achievements of the Centre and taken for a laboratory tour. The industries have bestowed interest to collaborate with TNAU and to support students' research.



Director of Agriculture visits Nanotechnology Center

Thiru A. Annadurai, IAS, Director of Agriculture, State Department of Agriculture, Government of Tamil Nadu visited Department of Nano Science and Technology of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore on 28.07.2022 as part of Farmers Interactive Meeting for Western Zone along with nine Joint Directors of Agriculture. Dr. M. Raveendran, Director of Research, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University and Dr. K.S. Subramanian, Professor and Head, Department of Nano Science and Technology presented the activities and achievements. The Director of Agriculture appreciated the teaching and research activities being taken up. He also suggested to prepare a paper as well as book in Tamil for easy understanding of nanotechnology by the farmers.



LC - MS Based Non Targeted Metabolomics - Hands on Training

A Hands on training on 'LC-MS based Non Targeted Metabolomics' was organized during July 28-29, 2022 at Centre for Plant and Molecular Biology and Biotechnology, Coimbatore. Dr. N. Senthil, Director (CPMB) presided and narrated the importance of LC - MS and its application in the field of Biotechnology, Plant Pathology, Entomology, Plant Breeding, Crop Physiology, Environmental Science and in other allied fields. The past and recent developments in the LC-MS were delivered by Dr. R. Umarani, Director (Seed Centre). Dr. S. Mohankumar, Professor (Biotechnology) and Project Director, Centre of Excellence in Biotechnology, Dr. R. Gnanam, Professor and Head, Department of Plant and Molecular Biology and Biotechnology, faculty members and research scholars participated in the training. The hands on training on LC-MS based non-targeted metabolomics was provided by Mr. Sathish (Application Specialist), Spinco Biotech.



Annual Scientists Meet - 2022

The 3rd **Allied Agricultural Scientists' Meet** was held at TNAU, Coimbatore on 22.07.2022 through hybrid mode. The scientists of allied disciplines *viz.*, Tamil, English, Library Science, Physical Education, Journalism, Veterinary Science, Agricultural Chemicals, Organic Chemistry, Mathematics, Statistics, Computer Science and Physics attended the meeting. Dr. M. Raveendran, Director of Research, TNAU sensitized the Allied Agricultural Scientists to get involved in the projects of plant sciences. He invited Tamil faculties in the preparation of Tamil curricula and standard Tamil text books. The foot fall in libraries need to be augmented through organizing interesting competitions. Dr. P. Balasubramaniam, Director (NRM), Dr. A. Raviraj, Dean, AEC & RI, Coimbatore and Dr. N. Maragatham, Dean (Centre for Students' Welfare) presented action taken on the recommendations of 2nd Allied Agricultural Scientists Meet and progress of research.



The 10th **Agricultural Engineering Scientists Meet** was held at Video Conferencing Hall, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore on 25.07.2022. Dr. A. Raviraj, Dean (AEC&RI), Coimbatore presented the action taken on the recommendations of the 9th Agricultural Engineering Scientists Meet 2021. The Heads of Departments presented the Research highlights of 2021-22 and Action Plan for 2022-23. The session was chaired by the Vice-Chancellor, Dr. V. Geethalakshmi. Mentioning the low adoption rate (40%) of

mechanization in India as compared to USA (>90%), the Vice Chancellor emphasized on the urgent need of mechanization suitable for small and marginal farmers. The Vice Chancellor also insisted on developing complete mechanization package for specific crops as that of paddy and sugarcane. Dr. M. Raveendran, Director of Research, TNAU, Dr. A. Raviraj, Dean (AEC&RI), Coimbatore and Dr. P. Rajkumar, Dean, AEC&RI, Kumulur attended the meeting. Dr. M. Raveendran, Director of Research, TNAU suggested to popularize the TNAU released farm machineries and implements to reach to the small and marginal farmers through custom hiring.

Dr. V. Geethalakshmi, Vice Chancellor chaired and offered opening remarks on the 38th **Horticultural Crops Scientists Meet** held on 29.07.2022 at Video Conference Hall, TNAU, Coimbatore through hybrid mode. The importance horticultural genetic resources, novel management technologies, importance of organic cultivation utilization, post-harvest management and value addition were highlighted by the Vice Chancellor. The need for bringing the current fallow lands under cultivation with arid zone fruits was stressed by Dr. M. Raveendran, Director of Research. Dr. P. Paramaguru, Dean, HC and RI (W), Trichy; Dr. P. Irene Vethamoni, Dean (Horticulture), HC&RI, Coimbatore and Dr. J. Rajangam, Dean, HC&RI, Periyakulam presented the Action Taken Reports, Research Highlights of 2021-2022 and Action Plan for 2022 - 23. The action taken on Plant Protection recommendations of the previous meet, progress made during 2021 - 22 and Action Plan for 2022 - 23 were presented by Dr. M. Shanthi, Director (CPPS).

Training for Maldivian Officers

The Directorate of Extension Education, TNAU organized a Certificate Level Agricultural Training Programme for Agricultural Field Officers of Maldives from 06.06.2022 to 02.07.2022 with the support from FAO and Ministry of Fisheries, Marine Resources and Agriculture, Maldives. Dr. P.P. Murugan, Director (Extension Education); Dr. P. Balasubramaniam, Director (NRM), Dr. D. Suresh Kumar, Director (CARDS), Dr. M. Asokhan, Professor and Head, Training Division and Dr. Ravi Kumar Theodore, Professor, Directorate of Planning Monitoring graced the Inaugural Function. The trainees were exposed to latest technologies on Horticulture, Drone Technology, Organic Farming etc. Dr. V. Geethalakshmi, Vice-Chancellor interacted with the participants and suggested to get hands on experience.



Workshop on Empowering Essential Employability Skills

A Workshop on 'Empowering Essential Employability Skills' was organized at Agricultural College and Research Institute, Madurai on 11.07.2022 for the final year B.Sc., (Hons.) Agriculture students. The theme of the workshop was to prepare power packed resume and get ready to face any interview with more confidence. The students were also provided Group Discussion skills. Dr. P.P. Mahendran, Dean, Agricultural College and Research Institute, Madurai inaugurated the workshop and distributed testimonials to participants. Dr. K. Mahandrakumar, Professor and Head, Department of Agricultural Extension and Rural Sociology coordinated the workshop.

The Placement cell of Agricultural College and Research Institute, Killikulam organized the workshop on "Enhancing Essential Employability Skills" to the Final Year Under Graduate and Post Graduate students on 11.07.2022 and 12.07.2022. Mr. S. Nataraja Subramanian, CEO, Natraj Institute of Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission, Chennai was invited as Chief Guest. The Subject Matter Specialist from the Natraj Institute invigorated on resume preparation, group discussion and personal interview.



Dr. T. Dhamodaran, Professor and Head, Department of Social Science and Dr. G. Ravi, Academic Coordinator and Professor and Head, Department of Agricultural Entomology were present. Dr. M. Theradimani, Dean, AC&RI, Killikulam distributed prizes to the winners. Dr. T. Elenchezian, Assistant Professor (Agricultural Economics) and Dr. M. Paramasivan, Assistant Professor (Pathology) coordinated the programme.

Organic Farming Training to Agricultural Officers



The Nammazhvar Organic Farming Research Centre, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore organized Organic Farming Training to Agricultural Officers from 11.07.2022 to 13.07.2022. Dr. V. Geethalakshmi, Vice Chancellor inaugurated the training and highlighted the significance of organic cultivation in cotton, fruits and vegetables which are highly remunerative coupled with high demand in national and international

arenas. She also emphasized that organic inputs should be produced by farmers themselves as it facilitates timely availability of inputs at reduced price. Dr. M. K. Kalarani, Director (Crop Management) opined that organic nutrient management is highly essential and farmers should practice diversified organic farming to improve soil fertility. Dr. P. P. Murugan, Director (Extension Education) emphasized the importance of organic farming towards food safety and need for strengthening of organic products marketing sectors to protect the interest of organic farmers. Dr. R. Krishnan, Professor and Head, Nammazhvar Organic Farming Research Centre explained about the opportunities in organic farming. The technical sessions on organic nutrient and weed management, pest and diseases management, organic certification and participatory guarantee system were also delivered. Dr. R. Jansirani, Professor (Agricultural Extension) coordinated the training.

Career Guidance Workshops

Series of Career Guidance workshops on soft skill development and counselling were organized at Agricultural College and Research Institute, Vazhavachanur on 12.07.2022 and 20.07.2022 for the benefit of third and final year B.Sc., (Hons.) Agriculture students. Dr. N. Muthukrishnan, Dean highlighted the importance of developing soft skills among the students to select the right career and to reach professional heights. The invited speakers Mr. R. Kalaiyaran, Branch manager and Mr. C. Janarthan, Team leader from RACE institute, Thiruvannamalai exposed the students to various employment avenues and demonstrated to write an impressive resume. Group Discussion and mock interviews were also conducted and the programme was coordinated by Dr. S. Angles, Placement Officer AC&RI, Vazhavachanur.



Awareness Training Programme on 'Pokkah Boeng' Disease in Sugarcane

An awareness training programmes on 'Sugarcane Cultivation Technology with Special Emphasis on *Pokkah Boeng* Disease in Sugarcane' was organized by the Sugarcane Research Station, Cuddalore for the contract farmers and cane officers of MRK Co-operative Sugar Mill, Cuddalore and Chengalrayan Co-operative Sugar Mill, Periyasevalai, Villupuram on 20.07.22 and 27.07.22 respectively. Awareness on the recently released clones (CoC 13339, CoG 7 and Si 8) and management of '*pokkah boeng*' disease were imparted with live demonstration. The scientists from Sugarcane Research Station, Cuddalore visited Cheyyar Co-operative Sugar Mill, Cheyyar on 26.07.22 and Kallakuruchi II Co-operative Sugar Mill, Kachirayapalayam on 04.08.22 and provided training on recent sugarcane varieties, soil health management, integrated nutrient management and integrated pest and disease management to farmers and cane officers.



Data Analysis Workshop in Agricultural Extension Research

The Department of Agricultural Extension and Rural Sociology, Coimbatore organized a workshop on 'Data Analysis in Agricultural Extension Research' on 29.07.2022. The Vice Chancellor of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University Dr. V. Geethalakshmi inaugurated the workshop and appealed to the students for special drive to learn new softwares to identify extension problems precisely in variegated domains. Dr. D. Suresh Kumar, Director (CARDS) envisaged that the ranking of the university is related to publications vis-a-vis application of software package in research. Dr. A. Lakshmanan, Dean (SPGS) insisted the students to publish papers in high impact factor journals. Dr. C. Karthikeyan, Professor and Head and Dr. J. Venkata Pirabu, Professor (Agricultural Extension) organized the workshop.



Fungal Mass Production Technology Training to Rural Farm Women



Under DBT sponsored scheme, one day training programme on mass production of AM fungi was given to farm women and Self-Help Groups of Ramnad district on 28.07.2022. The Joint Director of Agriculture for Ramnad District Mr. Kannaiah presided over the function. Additional Director (Central schemes) Mr. Baskaramanian and Additional Director of Agriculture Mr. Gopalakrishnan felicitated the function. Dr. M. Gomathy, Assistant Professor (Agricultural Microbiology), Agricultural College and Research Institute, Killikulam highlighted the significance of AM fungi in agriculture. Dr. K. G. Sabarinathan, Assistant

Professor (Agricultural Microbiology) and Dr. D. Rajakumar, Assistant Professor (Agronomy) demonstrated the AM fungal mass production technology.

Training on Compost Production through Vermi Technology

A Training programme on 'Production of Compost Through Vermitechnology and Solid Waste Management' was organized for the students of Shifan Noor Global Academy, Ramanathapuram on 28.07.2022 at Coastal Saline Research Centre, Ramanathapuram. Dr. T. Ragavan, Professor and Head, Coastal Saline Research Centre stressed upon the significance of green revolution towards attaining self-sufficiency in food grain production and also pointed out the importance of solid waste management and nutrients in plant system. Dr. J. Prabhakaran and Dr. T. Balaji, Assistant Professors of Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry and Dr. K. Elanchezhiyan, Assistant Professor (Agricultural Entomology) imparted training to the students. The Professor and Head, Coastal Saline Research Centre distributed the Certificate of Participation to the students.



Awards

TNAU Won ICAR's Sardar Patel Outstanding University Award

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi announces 15 National Awards every year in commemoration with its Foundation Day to recognize outstanding performance by the Central Agricultural Universities, State Agricultural Universities, ICAR institutes, individual scientists and farmers. Among them, 'Sardar Patel Outstanding ICAR Institution Award' is conferred on the best performing University/Institution to promote a sense of institutional pride. For the year 2021, ICAR

conferred 'Sardar Patel Outstanding ICAR Institution (Agricultural University Category) Award' to Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore based on its outstanding performance in teaching, research and extension activities. TNAU students have outperformed other SAUs by securing 374 national level fellowships during the assessment period. TNAU

remained at the top among the 71 institutes including Central Agricultural Universities, State Agricultural Universities and ICAR Deemed Universities in attracting the students for higher education. In research, TNAU has released 74 improved crop varieties and published around 2000 SCOPUS index scientific papers during the period of assessment. TNAU excelled in its outreach activities even during the pandemic period by delivering technologies to about 6 lakh farmers. All these efforts have empowered TNAU to clinch this prestigious award of ICAR.

TNAU Best Colleges Award – 2020 and 2021

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University celebrated its 52nd Foundation Day and Open and Distance Learning Graduation Day on 01.07.2022. On this occasion, in recognition of significant contribution in the fields of education, research, extension and income generation, Best college Awards were given to AC&RI, Killikulam for the year 2020 and AC&RI, Madurai for the year 2021. The respective Deans Dr. M. Theradimani and Dr. P. P. Mahendran received the awards from Dr. V. Geethalakshmi, Vice Chancellor of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University.



Students Activities

TNAU Recounts Climate Change via Agronova 22

AGRONOVA - 22, an event to create awareness about agriculture was held from 04.07.2022 to 05.07.2022 at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore with 'Climate Change as a Perk for Agriculture' and 'Outsmarting the Climate Barriers' as tagline. AGRONOVA served as a platform to stage talents and also to learn agriculture. On stage and off stage events like Quiz, Elocution, Poetry, Models, Collage, Pencil Sketch, Origami and Varthai Vilayattu etc., were organized for school and college students. Dr. N. Venkatesa Palanichamy, Dean (Agriculture) released the compendium.



Chozhar Peruvizha Celebrations

'Chozhar Peruvizha' was celebrated on 05.07.2022 and 06.07.2022 at Agricultural College and Research Institute, Eachangkottai as a part of the 5th Students Club activities. The programme was inaugurated by Dr. A. Velayutham, Dean and the traditional "MulaiPari" was showcased by the students. Film lyricist Thiru. M. Arivumathi, the special guest addressed the students with his patriotic and linguistic style of songs and poems. Standup comedian Thiru. Mohamad Kurashi entertained the students in the forenoon session through comedy and mimicry skills. The second day was inaugurated by Dr. V. Thiruvalluvan, Vice Chancellor of Tamil University, Thanjavur. A special debate was arranged under the leadership of Thiru. Raja, Tmt. Kavitha Jawahar and Thiru. Rajkumar along with the students on "Recent Information Technology Tools - Are They Useful to the Students or Not?". South Indian traditional cultural programmes were performed by artists from



South Zone Cultural Centre, Thanjavur. Valedictory session was chaired by Dr. N. Narmatha, Dean, Veterinary College and Research Institute, Orathanadu. Dr. V.G. Mathirajan, Staff Advisor coordinated the programme.

Muthamizh Vizha at Madurai

Muthamizh vizha, the pronounced cultural festival was organized at Agricultural College and Research Institute, Madurai from 06.07.2022 to 07.07.2022 to celebrate the three dimensions; poetry, music and drama of Tamil language. Dr. R. Tamizh Vendan, Registrar, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore inaugurated the cultural fest and elucidated the youthfulness of Tamil language which is the reason for its immortality over the centuries. On this eve, Padma Bhushan Dr. Parveen Sulthana delivered motivational lecture and Padma Shri Dr. Solomon Pappaiah served as moderator in the students' debate. Kalaimamani Velmurugan entertained the students with his eminence of village folk. Dr. S. Thiruvudai Nambi, Staff Advisor and Dr. P. Vellaichamy, Professor (Tamil) coordinated the event.



Post Graduate Seminar at AC&RI, Madurai

The Department of Agronomy, Agricultural College and Research Institute, Madurai organized a Post Graduate Seminar on 08.07.2022. Dr. Muthukumar Bagavathiannan, Associate Professor, Texas A & M University, USA delivered case studies on 'Sustainable Weed Management through Appropriate Weed Seed Bank Harvest' through virtual mode. Dr. P.P. Mahendran, Dean, AC&RI, Madurai highlighted the importance of weed management for successful crop production.



Dr. R. Durai Singh, Professor and Head, Department of Agronomy and Dr. Chelvi Ramessh, Professor (Agronomy) organized the seminar. Post Graduates and Doctoral Scholars from the Departments of Agronomy, Soil Science & Agricultural Chemistry and Seed Science & Technology participated.

Pragadha - An Intra Collegiate Fest

'PRAGADHA' was conducted at Agricultural College and Research Institute, Eachangkottai on 08.07.2022. Series of competitions in Dance, Drama, Singing, Skit, Mime, Add Act, Monoact, Trailer Time, Meme Creation, Essay Writing, Poem Writing etc were conducted among the students. Overall championship was won by 2nd year students. Dr. A. Velayutham, Dean, inaugurated and presided the programme. Dr. S. Venkatesa Palanisamy, Dean, Agricultural College and Research Institute, Coimbatore, the chief guest for the programme distributed testimonies to the winners.



111th Annual Sports Meet of TNAU

The Centre for Students Welfare of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University organized 111th Annual Sports Meet - 2022 for all Under Graduate and Post Graduate students of Coimbatore Campus on 11.07.2022 at University Stadium. Dr. N. Maragatham, Dean, Centre for Students Welfare, welcomed the gathering and Dr. V. Geethalakshmi, Vice Chancellor delivered the presidential address. The special address was delivered by Chief Guest Dr. K. Periaiah, IPS, Inspector General of Police (Rtd.). Dr. A. Lakshmanan, Dean (SPGS), Dr. A. Raviraj, Dean (Agricultural Engineering), Dr. P. Irene Vethamoni, Dean (Horticulture) and Dr. N. Venkatesa Palanichamy, Dean (Agriculture) felicitated. The students were grouped into four houses *viz.*, Orange, Red, Blue and Green and more than 20 games were conducted. 1200 students and 25 faculties participated and the overall championship was bagged by "Blue House". Dr. J. P. Desiga Srinivasan, Assistant Director of Physical Education coordinated the event.



Hostel Day Celebration at AC&RI, Eachangkottai

Hostel Day was celebrated at Agricultural College and Research Institute, Eachangkottai on 08.07.2022. The programme was inaugurated by Dr. A. Velayutham, Dean, AC&RI, Eachangkottai. The Chief Guest Dr. S. Karuppuchamy, Deputy Transport Commissioner addressed the students and stressed upon personal health and studies. The Annual Report of Hostel for the year 2021-22 was presented by Dr. S. Mohandas, Warden. The Dean, in his presidential address narrated the life changing experiences

of students in the hostel life. Cultural programmes were performed by the students and prizes were distributed by the Dean and Chief Guest. The Deputy Wardens, Dr. M. Tamilselvi, Assistant Professor (Crop Physiology) Dr. M. Shanmugapriya, Assistant Professor (Nematology) and Dr. K.S. Vijai Selvaraj, Assistant Professor (Horticulture) coordinated the programme.



Students' Plot Cultivation Inaugurated

As a part of the Practical Crop Production course offered by the Department of Agronomy, sowing of TNAU Maize Hybrid COHM 6 was done by 135 students of 3rd year B.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture on 12.07.2022 at Eastern Block Farm. The programme was inaugurated by Dr. N. Venkatesa Palanichamy, Dean (Agriculture). Dr. M.K. Kalarani, Director (Crop Management), Dr. E. Somasundaram, Director (ABD) and Dr. N. Maragatham, Dean (CSW) motivated the students for raising successful crop. Dr. S. Panneerselvam, Professor and Head, Department of Agronomy and other faculty members Dr. R. Kalpana, Dr. S.K. Natarajan, Dr. M. Senthilvelu and Dr. S.P. Sangeetha were present in the inaugural programme.



TNAU Job Fair 2022

Dr. N. Maragatham, Dean (Centre for Students Welfare), coordinated the 'TNAU Job Fair 2022' on 14.07.2022 and 15.07.2022 at Anna Auditorium. A total of 32 companies from varied sectors participated in the campus placement drive. Dr. V. Geethalakshmi, Vice Chancellor delivered the inaugural address and appreciated the recruitment firms for rendering constant support by providing placements to the students. 1140 Undergraduate and Postgraduate students of different disciplines participated. The Pre Placement talk on the nature of job, profile of company, emoluments, roles and responsibilities was presented by the officials from recruiting companies through presentation and videos. Dr. N. Thavaprakash, Career Guidance Coordinator and Dr. S. Moghana Lavanya, Placement Coordinator were also present.





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