

PROCEEDINGS OF THE 43rd RESEARCH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 4.3.2010

The 43rd meeting of the Research Council was held on 4.3.2010 in the Rasi Seeds Conference Hall of the Centenary Building. The list of the Research Council Members who attended the meeting is given in the Annexure.

Dr.P.Murugesu Boopathi, Vice-Chancellor, TNAU Chaired and inaugurated the Research Council meeting.

Dr.M.Paramathma, Director of Research, TNAU welcomed the members and narrated the important research achievements *viz*, new varieties, technologies and farm implements developed since the inception of the University. He also proposed for the confirmation of the proceedings of the 42nd Research Council meeting and the house accepted it unanimously. This was followed by the presentation of the action taken report on the 42nd Research Council meeting. In the presentation, groundnut pod storage, development of high yielding late maturing maize hybrids suited for rainfed conditions, fine grain rice variety for export, optimum dose of water soluble fertilizers for different crops, solid waste management techniques, liquid formulation of bio control agents were highlighted.

The new research projects and new activities initiated during the year 2009-10, which included the development of submergence tolerant rice varieties, evolution of blast resistant breeding lines through gene pyramiding in rice, development of GM crops, development of molecular diagnosis of coconut wilt pathogen, engineering resistance against viral diseases through RNAi technology and nanotechnology.

After the presentation, the new expert members and HOD's of Research Council were introduced. The new expert members are nominated by Govt.of Tamil Nadu and the HOD's are nominated by the Vice-Chancellor

of TNAU. The term of the members is for three years (from 9.1.2010 and 28.6.2009 respectively for expert members and HOD's).

The views offered by the expert members are as follows:

Th.P.Palanivel, Managing Director, 'Jaysan Home Builders', Chennai

Research activities of TNAU should aim to increase agricultural inputs use efficiency besides safeguarding environment. The technologies for pulses and oilseeds production under rainfed condition, farm mechanization, value addition for agricultural products, nanotechnology applications for fertilizers & pesticides usage and utilization of IT for studying climate changes etc may be concentrated.

Th.Venkataramani Govindan, Water Management Communication and Knowledge Sharing Specialist, Chennai

The research on water use efficiency, biotechnology, nanotechnology and communication technology may be strengthened

Dr.N.Kalamani, Principal Scientist, Aquatic Animal Health and Environment Divisions (ICAR), Chennai

Attempts to develop Salt water tolerant rice varieties and disease resistance of plants through biotechnological means may be initiated

Dr.(Mrs). Raniperumal, Former Prof. and Head, Dept of SS&AC, TNAU

Extension activities may be geared up by the development departments for the quick spread of TNAU varieties and technologies.

The Vice-Chancellor in his Presidential address made the following remarks covering the points raised by some members:

- Automatic weather stations were established in 224 blocks in 2009-10 and another 164 will be installed in 2010-11 under NADP to monitor climate changes which will not only help in forecasting of weather and pest incidences but also to assist in crop insurance.

- The waste water collected from the campus is used for irrigating lawn and trees.
- A model “integrated farming system for wet land” is functioning.
- Anna(R) 4, a short duration drought tolerant rice variety through Marker Assisted and Participatory Breeding Approach has been released.
- The Vice-Chancellor assured that enough seeds will be multiplied before a variety is released and enough nucleus seed will be produced for breeder seed production and the qualities of breeder seed will be assured.
- In biotechnological research, Bt brinjal varieties have been developed and research is going on to develop resistance to pod borer in redgram.
- A separate IPR Department will be established for patenting new technologies.
- A separate Department for Nano technology is being established.

The Vote of thanks was proposed by Dr.K.Thiyagarajan, Director (CPBG). The Director thanked the Scientists for their efforts in evolving new varieties and technologies. He also thanked all the developmental dept. officials for disseminating varieties and technologies to formars developed by TNAU.

Remarks on the 42nd Research Council meeting action taken report

Out of the 28 suggestions made in the 42nd Research Council Meeting, actions were completed for 14 suggestions and for the rest, research is in progress and the results will be presented in the 44th meeting.

Crop improvement

1. Work on development of high yielding late maturity hybrids in maize for rainfed conditions may be continued and suitable hybrids identified (**Action:** Director, CPBG, CBE)

2. ART can be conducted in farmers field and during harvest time field day may be conducted and adequate publicity may be given by mass media so that many farmers would get benefited (**Action:** Director, CPBG, CBE)
3. Work on fine grain rice variety for export may be continued and suitable varieties evolved (**Action:** Director, CPBG, CBE / Director, TRRI, Aduthurai)

Crop management

1. Research undertaken on response farming may be extended to encompass the pest and disease forecast especially in banana and Cassava may be continued (**Action:** Director, SCMS, CBE)
2. Experiment on night soil composting may be continued (**Action:** Director, SCMS, CBE)
3. Studies on influence of climatic changes on the crop growth and pest and diseases is to be continued (**Action:** Director, SCMS, CBE / Director, CPPS, CBE)

Water management

1. The research on fertigation schedule to the main and inter crop may be continued (**Action:** Director, WTC, CBE / Director, SCMS, CBE)
2. Sub surface drip irrigation trials may be conducted in dry areas like Sivagangai, Virudhunagar, Thoothukudi, Ramanathapuram for field crops and vegetables (**Action:** Director, WTC, CBE / Director, SCMS, CBE)
3. Research on micro sprinkler system is to be continued (**Action:** Director, WTC, CBE / Director, SCMS, CBE)

Crop protection

1. Pestigation studies to be continued and appropriate crop and material(s) specific prescription is to be made (**Action:** Director, CPPS, CBE / Director, WTC, CBE / Director, SCMS, CBE)

Horticulture

1. Work on alternate variety for PKM 1 tamarind may be continued (**Action:** Dean, HC&RI, Periyakulam)
2. Work on supply of quality mother plants in banana and cassava to the private entrepreneurs may be continued for tissue culture plant multiplication (**Action:** Dean, HC&RI, Coimbatore)

Agri. Marketing

1. The price forecast for banana may be disseminated to farmers through NRBC also (**Action:** Director, CARDS)

Policy

1. Policy note on water harvesting by desilting of tank and water harvesting at dwellings has to be submitted to the Govt. of Tamil Nadu (**Action:** Director, WTC, CBE / Director, CARDS, CBE /Dean AEC&RI, CBE)

43rd Research Council Meeting recommendations:

Crop Improvement

1. Pure line selection can be made from the long duration redgram variety grown in Theni and Dindigul districts (**Action:** Director, CPBG, CBE)
2. Fine quality rice varieties suited for saline water may be evolved (**Action:** Director, CPBG, CBE)

Crop Management

1. Combined essential micronutrient mixtures may be supplied to farmers for different crops (**Action:** Director, SCMS, CBE)
2. Action may be taken to get pest surveillance data from all the blocks through the Agri. Department extension officials (**Action:** Director, CPPS)

3. Varieties and technologies should be patented immediately after development (**Action:** Director, CARDS)

Water Management

1. Precision farming in transplanted redgram may be developed (**Action:** Director, WTC/Director, SCMS/Director, CPBG)

Crop Protection

1. Liquid formulation of biocontrol agents like Pseudomonas may be popularized among farmers and action should be taken to patent it (**Action:** Director, CPPS/ Director, CARDS)

Horticulture

1. As advised by the Vice-Chancellor to examine the cause for non flowering of tamarind trees in the forest area as expressed by the Chief Conservator of Forest, a committee may be formed with Director of Research, Chief Conservator of Forest and Dean, HC&RI, Periyakulam. Dean, FC&RI, Mettupalayam (**Action:** Dean, HC&RI, Periyakulam)
2. Vice-Chancellor suggested to recommend TNAU tamarind varieties for forest areas in Tamil Nadu (**Action:** Dean, HC&RI, Periyakulam)

Forestry

1. From Thenkanikottai, the high yielding pungam trees can be identified as pointed out by the Chief conservator of Forest (Research) and used for cultivation (**Action:** Dean, FC&RI, Mettupalayam / Director of Research, CBE)

Extension

1. The Vice-Chancellor informed the members that Agri tech portal was appreciated by the Vice-Chancellor's of various states in the Vice-Chancellor's Conference. While appreciating the scientists for

- developing Agri Portal, Vice-Chancellor suggested to get more funds under NADP (**Action:** DEE, CBE)
2. Expert Member Th.Venkataramani Govindan, requested to increase the queries by farmers through linking with popular search engines. In the agri tech portal, global warming can be included and the level of CO₂ gas evolved by different crops may be given (**Action:** DEE, CBE)

Policy

1. The Vice-Chancellor suggested to write to Govt. about desilting of supply channel, strengthening of tank bunds and restriction of dwellings along supply channel. The cost of desilting supply channel and strengthening of bunds may be worked out and funds may be sought from the World Bank (**Action:** Director, WTC, CBE /Director, CARDS, CBE / Dean, AEC&RI, CBE)
2. As opined by the Superintending Engineer (Agrl. Engineering) Coimbatore, soil conservation works may be carried out in catchment areas and prevent silt deposit. The Vice-Chancellor suggested that a policy note be prepared and sent to Govt. to allow farmers to remove silt and use the silt by them [**Action:** Director, WTC, CBE / Dean, AEC&RI, CBE / Superintending Engineer (Agrl. Engineering), CBE / Director, CARDS, CBE]

ANNEXURE

43rd RESEARCH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 4.3.2010 AT RASI SEEDS CONFERENCE HALL, CENTENARY BUILDING, TNAU, COIMBATORE - 3

List of participants

Sl.No.	Name	Designation
	University Officers	
1.	Dr.P.Murugesu Boopathi	Vice-Chancellor, TNAU, Coimbatore
2.	Dr.P.Subbian	Registrar, TNAU, Coimbatore
3.	Dr.M.Paramathma	Director of Research, TNAU, Coimbatore
4.	Dr.P.Kalaiselvan	Director of Extn. Education, TNAU, CBE
5.	Dr.K.Thiyagarajan	Director, CPBG, TNAU, Coimbatore
6.	Dr.Ebinezer Iyadurai Jonathan	Director, CPPS, TNAU, Coimbatore
7.	Dr.S.Jeyaraman	Director, SCMS, TNAU, Coimbatore
8.	Dr.K.Appavu	Director i/c, WTC, TNAU, Coimbatore
9.	Dr.R.Samiyappan	Director, CPMB, TNAU, Coimbatore
10.	Dr.P.Sivasubramanian	Director, P&M, TNAU, Coimbatore
11.	Dr.T.Rathakrishnan	Director, SW, TNAU, Coimbatore
12.	Dr.A.Chandrasekaran	Controller of Examination, Coimbatore
13.	Dr.V.Jayapal,	Dean, AC&RI, TNAU, Coimbatore
14.	Dr.T.N.Balamohan	Dean i/c, HC&RI, Coimbatore
15.	Dr.S.Santhana Bose	Dean, AEC& RI, TNAU, Coimbatore
16.	Dr.S.Mohan	Dean i/c, AC&RI, Madurai
17.	Dr.A.Raja Rajan	Dean, AC&RI, Killikulam
18.	Dr.G.Kathiresan	Dean, ADAC&RI, Trichy
19.	Dr.Masina Govinda Rao	Dean, FC&RI, Mettupalayam
20.	Dr.A.Tajuddin	Dean, AEC&RI, Kumulur
21.	Dr.V.Ponnusamy	Dean, HC&RI, Periyakulam

22.	Dr.P.Banumathy	Dean, HSC&RI, Madurai
23.	Dr.K.Ramamoorthy	Special Officer (Seeds), Coimbatore
	Expert Members	
24.	Th.P.Palanivel	Managing Director, 'Jaysan' Home Builders, Chennai
25.	Th.Venkataramani Govindan	Water Management Communication and Knowledge-Sharing Specialist, Chennai
26.	Dr.N.Kalaimani	Principal Scientist, Aquatic Animal Health and Environment Divisions, Chennai
27.	Dr.Rani Perumal	Former Professor and Head, (SS&AC) TNAU,Coimbatore
	State Dept. Officials	
28.	Th.Rama Kant Ojha, IFS Chief Conservator of Forests (Research),Forest Dept., Panagal Building,Saidapet, Chennai	
29.	Th.A.Karmugilan,Director of Seed Certification, Coimbatore	
30.	Th.V.Kandasamy, Joint Director of Agriculture, Coimbatore	
31.	Th.V.Sivaprakasam, Superintending Engineer (Agrl. Engineering), Coimbatore	
32.	Th.M.Thangarasu,Deputy Director Horticulture, Coimbatore	
33.	Deputy Conservator of Forests, Forest Genetic Division, Coimbatore	
34.	Th.K.S.Subramanian, Deputy Director of Agriculture (Agri Business), Coimbatore	
35.	Th.P.Rangarajan, Secretary, Coimbatore Market Committee, Coimbatore	
36.	Asst. Director of Fisheries, Dharmapuri	
	Heads of Departments	
37.	Dr.M.Chandrasekaran	Prof. & Head, Dept. of Economics, CBE
38.	Dr.V.Udayasuriyan	Prof. & Head, Dept. of Biotech., CBE
39.	Dr.A.K.Mani	Professor and Head, RRS, Paiyur
40.	Dr.V.M.Duraisamy	Prof. and Head, Dept. of Farm Machinery, CBE
41.	Dr.S.Nanthakumar	Professor, Dept. of Fruit Crops, CBE

