



**VANAVARAYAR**  
Institute of Agriculture  
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VANAVARAYAR  
Institute of Agriculture  
**NEWSLETTER**  
OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2023



## Message from Principal



**Dear Readers,**

I am delighted to share with you all the remarkable achievements of our students at the recently conducted Inter-College Tournament held at TNAU, Coimbatore. Our students, participated enthusiastically in various sports and games, showcasing their dedication, teamwork and resilience. I am proud to announce that our collective efforts have yielded outstanding results, both at the zonal and inter-zonal levels. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to all the participants, coaches and supporters who contributed to this success.

'Write Right' the three days Faculty Development Programme organized for the teaching faculties of VIA has enhanced our faculty's proficiency in scientific communication, guided for the development of research proposals and publication of research findings. I am also happy to share with you the enriching experiences and valuable insights gained by our students through recent study tours, crop production activities and exposure visits arranged. These endeavours are essential components of our commitment in providing a holistic education that extends beyond traditional classroom learning.

*Best Regards*

**Dr. K. Prabakar**

Principal,

Vanavarayar Institute of Agriculture

**Exposure Visits****I. B.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture (2022 batch)****Visit to Ooty**

Students pursuing, I B. Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture (194 Nos.) were taken on an exposure visit to Ooty for two days on 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> July, 2023 for the courses HOR 112, SWE 112, AGR 102 and FSN 111. On the first day, students have visited Government State Horticulture Farm, Kallar and Indian Institute of Soil Water Conservation (ICAR-IISWC), Ooty. During the visit, Mr. Senthil



Kumar, Asst. Horticulture Officer at Kallar provided a detailed explanation on the farm activities. He highlighted that the farm predominantly cultivates subtropical fruits with specialization in major plantation crops such as jackfruit, lime and pepper. Followed by this, students visited ICAR-IISWC institution where Dr. P. Sundarambal, Senior Scientist briefed on the activities of the research station and also headquarters' activities present in Dehradun, Uttarakhand. The main focus of the institution is to develop methodologies for managing land degradation in high-rainfall hilly regions of southern India and to meet the challenges like floods and landslides.

On the second day, students visited Wood House Farm, Ooty where Mr. Karthick, Farm Manager provided detailed information about the station activities which was established under TNAU, especially on the field trials carried out in the farm. It is followed by the visit to Meteorological Weather Station where Nodal Officer Dr. S. P. Thamaraiselvi, Assoc. Professor (Hort.) explained the purpose and principles of various instruments maintained at the weather station. Students also visited tea factory and learned the process involved in manufacturing of tea dust and chocolates.

**Visit to TNAU, Coimbatore**

The students of I B.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture (194 Nos) (2022 batch) visited various units of Directorate of Extension Education for the course AEX 102 - Fundamentals of Agricultural Extension and Education (1+1) on 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov 2023. During the visit, Dr. P. Jaisridhar, Asst. Prof. (Agrl. Extension) discussed on the activities of KVK and explained on the farm information available in Agritech Portal. He also outlined the operation of the Community Radio Station. In Educational Media Centre, Professor,

Dr. M. Senthilkumar highlighted activities of EMC, covering video cameras, editing software, recording of agricultural technologies, live scientist programs and university events. Students then visited the TNAU press and learned about printing processes, including design, layout, plate creation, overall printing, cutting and binding processes. Mr. Gowtham, Technician at Kisan Call Centre (KCC) explained the services offered to farmers through KCC in their local language. Dr. C. Karthikeyan, Professor and Head (DAE & RS), explored the scope of Agricultural Extension and showcased the Digital Extension Innovation Lab. Students were explained on the usage of equipments such as pant tilt zoom cameras, interactive smart boards, audio mixers and software applications like Adobe Photoshop, Macromedia and data analysis.



### III. B. Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture

#### Visit to Sugarcane Breeding Institute and TNAU

Students numbering 115 of III. B. Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture (2020 batch) visited ICAR-Sugarcane Breeding Institute, Coimbatore on 28<sup>th</sup> Nov, 2023 for the course ABT 301. Dr. C. Appunu, Senior Scientist (Plant Breeding) explained about the various activities of the station which was established in the year 1912. Students were taken to field to witness the ongoing breeding programmes. She further explained that farmers can visit the institute and select their desired parents for carrying out any hybridization work. Dr. D. Neelamathi, Principal Scientist (Seed technology) took the students to tissue culture laboratory and explained the plant production facility available in the station. The students were also exposed to the genetic engineering aspects that are carried out in biotechnology field.



Students also visited Millet Breeding Station at TNAU which focused on the research activities carried out in millet crops and training aspects given to farmers on millets production. Dr. Iyyanar, Professor (PBG) briefly explained the breeding activities of all major and minor millets. Since, the year 2023 has been declared as International Year of Millets, the role of millets in climate-resilient agriculture was explained to the students. The students were taken to the field to identify the different varieties and cultural practices followed in millets cultivation.



### **Visit to Primary Agricultural Credit Cooperative Society**

Students of III B. Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture (2020 Batch) enrolled in the course AEC 301, visited the Periyapothu Primary Agricultural Credit Cooperative Society (PACCS) in three batches on the 18<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of December, 2023. The visit provided the students with practical insights into the functioning of PACCS and their pivotal role in rural finance and development. Students also visited Tamil Nadu Grama Bank, Periyapothu to gain knowledge on agricultural finance and the role of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) in financial inclusion.

### **II B.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture (2021 Batch)**

Students of II B.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture (2021 Batch) (151 Nos.) were taken on an exposure visit to Sugarcane Breeding Institute and TNAU, Coimbatore for the courses AGR 203, AEN 202, PAT 202 and NST 201 on 12<sup>th</sup> Dec, 2023. In Sugarcane Breeding Institute, Dr. S. Anusha, Senior Scientist, Department of Agronomy explained about the history and objectives



of the institute, recent varieties and hybrids released from the institute and crop protection measures for pest and disease management in sugarcane. Followed by this, students visited Biocontrol units in the department entomology and learned about the production of bio-agents which can be commercially produced for large scale distribution to the farmers in control of insect pests. Students also visited TNAU Insect Museum and observed the different arrangements of the insects affecting the crops. The exhibition of the symptoms of different insect bites were also studied by them.

Dr. S. Harish, Associate Professor (Plant Pathology), Department of Plant Pathology explained about the biological plant disease management practices, the production technique of biocontrol agents and various formulations available in TNAU. In the Centre for Agricultural Nanotechnology, Dr. Raj Kishore, Asst. Prof. and Dr. D. Jeya Sundara Sharmila, Asst. Prof. (Biophysics) briefed the activities of the Centre for Agricultural Nanotechnology by focusing on the activities on synthesis of nanoparticles and its application in agriculture. Students also visited instrumentation hub equipped with various instruments used to synthesis and characterize various nanoparticles.



## II Diploma in Agriculture (2021 batch)

### Study Tour

In the fourth semester, 37 Diploma in Agriculture students (2021 batch) have registered for the course AEX A 201 – Exposure Visit (0+1). In this course, students were taken on a state-wide exposure visit from 30<sup>th</sup> Oct to 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov, 2023 exploring Research Station activities, Krishi Vigyan Kendras, Agricultural Colleges and acquired practical knowledge. The list of institutes students visited during the tour programme are listed below.

1.	Regional Research Station, Aruppukottai
2.	Agricultural Research Station, Kovilpatti
3.	V.O. Chidambaranar Agricultural College & Research Institute, Killikulam
4.	Floriculture Research Station, Thovalai
5.	Agricultural College & Research Institute, Madurai
6.	Institute of Agriculture, Kumulur
7.	Anbil Dharmalingam Agricultural College & Research Institute, Trichy
8.	Anna Science Planetarium Center, Trichy
9.	M.S. Swaminathan Agricultural College & Research Institute, Echangottai, Thanjavur.
10.	Irrigation Management Training Institute, Trichy
11.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Sirugamani



### Visit to input shop, Pollachi

The students of II Diploma in Agriculture (2021 Batch) were taken on an exposure visit to Sri Kumaran Agro Services, Pollachi for the course AEC X 201 Agricultural Economics, Marketing and Finance (0+1) on 28<sup>th</sup> December 2023. The visit provided practical insights into the agricultural retail business, covering various aspects including licensing, product knowledge, business operations and growth opportunities.

### Guest lectures organized

#### III B.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture (2020 batch)

As a part of the curriculum, a guest lecture was organized for the students (118 Nos.) of III B. Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture (2020 batch) on 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 2023 under the course COM 311 Agro Informatics (1+1). The lecture entitled 'Expert Systems and Decision Support Systems' was delivered by Er. G. Vanitha, Technical and Personal Officer to the Vice Chancellor, TNAU, Coimbatore. The students acquired insights into the application of ICT tools in agriculture and also received information about potential opportunities available for higher studies.

An online guest lecture was organized for 30 students of III Year B.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture who enrolled for the course AGM 354 Plant Microbe Interaction (1+1) as optional course on 28<sup>th</sup> December, 2023. Dr. T. Kalaiselvi, Professor, Department of Agricultural Microbiology, TNAU, Coimbatore delivered a lecture on 'Plant Microbiome and their significance'. The speaker explained about importance of plant microbiome in gauging soil fertility and plant growth status. She also explained on the current research going on plant microbiome and its applications. Students clarified their doubts at the end of the presentation.



#### Crop production – II Diploma (Agriculture)

The students of II Diploma in Agriculture (37 students) (2021 batch) are undergoing the course AGR A 203 - Crop production – III (Dryland crops) during IV semester. Under this course, sesame variety TMV (Sv) 7 with a duration of 85- 90 days was chosen and sowing was taken up on 11<sup>th</sup> Oct, 2023. All the recommended package of practices were followed by the students. Now the crop is in harvest stage.



## NSS Activities

In line with World Food Day celebration, NSS volunteers donated food to the 30 homeless people near to Anaimalai region on 16<sup>th</sup> Oct, 2023.

As a part of vigilance awareness week observed from 30<sup>th</sup> Oct to 5<sup>th</sup> Nov, 2023 throughout the country, NSS Volunteers of VIA have taken online pledge against corruption on 31<sup>st</sup> Oct, 2023.

Voters' awareness programme was conducted at VIA on 21<sup>st</sup> Nov, 2023 for the new voters. In this programme, Deputy Tahsildar, VAO and other officials participated and explained the importance of voting and selection of good leaders. They also explained how to apply for new voter Id and carryout corrections using online portal (<https://voters.eci.gov.in/>).

As part of the celebration of World Soil Day observed on 5<sup>th</sup> Dec, 2022, photography competition was conducted on the theme 'Soil and Water'. A total of 26 NSS volunteers took part in the competition.





## Flood relief material distribution

Sakthi Group of Institutions and industries in collaboration with Rotary Clubs of Coimbatore proactively engaged in distributing flood relief materials to the flood affected districts of Tirunelveli, Tuticorin and Virudhunagar. The students of Vanavarayar Institute of Agriculture played a vital role in packing essential materials including groceries, spices, toiletries and essential materials under the supervision of the faculty members from 20<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 2023. A total of 3350 boxes, worth of Rs. 65 lakhs were meticulously packed and dispatched for distribution to the flood-affected people under the guidance of Mrs. Karpakavalli Rajkumar, the Correspondent, VIA, Director, Dr. N. Kempu Chetty and Principal Dr. K. Prabakar. The relief materials were distributed the needy people in-person by the volunteers of Kumaraguru Institute of Technology.



## VIAOSA Club Inauguration – 2023

The inauguration of Vanavarayar Institute of Agriculture Office of Students' Affairs (VIAOSA) for the academic year 2023-24 was held at VIA on 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2023. Dr. N. Maragatham, Dean of Students' Welfare of TNAU, Coimbatore graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. The event begins with lighting of lamp by the chief guest and welcome remarks by Dr. S. K. Sankri, Asst. Staff Advisor. Dr. K. Prabakar, VIA Principal presided over the function and Director Dr. N. Kempu Chetty felicitated the function with his words of experience and knowledge. The chief guest delivered a special address advising students to consider their parents as heroes. Followed by this, VIAOSA 2023-24 was officially inaugurated with the theme of 'Elevate and Innovate: Student Leaders on a Quest for



Excellence'. The elected Office Bearers received their badges and took oath to lead the events during the year in an efficient manner. Mr. S Akilesh, President of VIAOSA, outlined club activities, whereas Treasurer Mr. V. Veeragowtham expressed his gratitude to the participants for successful conduct of the event. As the remembrance of the function, the chief guest, Dr. Maragatham planted a tree sapling in the main building in the presence of Director and Principal.



## Wildlife week celebration

Wildlife week was jointly organized by Eco club of VIAOSA and the Tamil Nadu Forest Department at VIA on 7<sup>th</sup> Oct, 2023. The event was graced by the chief guest Mr. V. Selvam, Assistant Conservator of Forest and Mr. R. Ravi, Forest Ranger. Mr. V. Selvam, ACF delivered an insightful lecture on biodiversity management and conservation. His address emphasized the significance of preserving biodiversity to enhance and protect wildlife habitats. Dr. N. Kempuchetty, Director of VIA delivered felicitation address. As a symbolic gesture of commitment to wildlife conservation, a pledge was administered by Dr. N. Shiva, Asst. Professor (Plant Pathology) and Eco Club Coordinator to the students.



A cultural team which accompanied the conservator of forest presented an informative stage act focusing on "Mitigating human-wildlife conflicts" in the Pollachi forest area. Their performance shed light on the importance of coexistence and the need for peaceful interactions between the local communities and the diverse wildlife inhabiting the region. As a part of the celebration, nearly 80 pungam trees headed by Mr. Selvam, ACF were planted in the D block of VIA campus.



## ASPIRE 23

'ASPIRE - unleash the entrepreneur within' was a programme conducted by the Entrepreneurship Club of VIAOSA on 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2023. The chief guest of the programme was Dr. E. Somasundaram, Director, Directorate of Agribusiness Management, TNAU. The program featured a range of on-stage and off-stage events that motivated students to demonstrate their entrepreneurial skills. Among these activities, five outstanding innovative ideas were chosen and the selected students were invited to present their concepts to the chief guest. The highlight of the day was that a student Mr. J. Balatharani of II Diploma in (Agriculture) secured immediate funding approval from TNAU for his exceptional idea on soil compost preparation. The chief guest commended all the students for their remarkable abilities and distributed prizes to the winners of both on-stage and off-stage events.



## Faculty Development Programme (FDP)

VIA in collaboration with Dee-biotech Academic Research Services (DARS), Erode organized a two-day workshop on 'Write Right: A Workshop on Effective Scientific Communication from Proposals to Publications' on 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> Oct, 2023 to the teaching faculties. FDP covered thrust areas namely, fundamental of research, preparation of research proposal, collaboration, research publication and advanced academic writing tools. Eminent speakers from various national institutes like International Crop Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Hyderabad, International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), Hyderabad, Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR), Bangalore and Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore handled the session and give an insight on the above-mentioned areas. During the workshop, faculties were divided into groups and hands on activities were given to them to experience the use of advanced technologies in writing technical articles.

As part of the programme, a hands-on training on DRONE Technology was conducted at Kumaraguru College of Technology (KCT), Coimbatore on 28<sup>th</sup> Oct, 2023. Dr. J Darshan Kumar Jayaram, Aeromodelling Expert at KCT, led a comprehensive session on DRONE Technology. He provided an insightful introduction to aerospace devices, focusing on DRONES and their trends. The session featured assembling of DRONE parts and signal transmission flow charts. The second session delved

into Drone Rule 2022 for licensing, commercialization and classifications of drones based on payload. Subsequent sessions covered case studies, image processing and spraying using DRONES, facilitated by an external expert from BOSCH. At the end, flying practice session was arranged in which participants were allowed to operate DRONES, capturing photos and videos. The event concluded with feedback from the participants.



### Orientation program for CAT and Bank Coaching

The T.I.M.E. orientation program for III B.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture students numbering 118 (2020 Batch) was held at VIA on 18<sup>th</sup> December, 2023. Resource persons from T.I.M.E. Institute Mr. Subramaniam and Mr. Siddharth provided insights into Common Admission Test (CAT) and IBPS banking careers. They emphasized CAT's role in prestigious institution admissions, guiding students on exam patterns and preparation strategies.



Mr. Siddharth explored IBPS opportunities, detailing roles and career paths. The interactive session facilitated student queries, offering practical tips and success stories. Overall, the program proved invaluable, providing a comprehensive understanding of CAT and unveiling banking sector prospects.

### Performance at Inter college Tournament 2023

Zonal TNAU Inter-Collegiate Tournament was conducted for 5 days from 27<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> Oct, 2023. Following this event, inter zone tournament was conducted for 5 days from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> Nov, 2023 at TNAU, Coimbatore. Colleges were categorized into four zones, with VIA coming under Zone A with 10 colleges in this group. Approximately 120 students of VIA participated in the variety of sports and games conducted at the zonal level. The notable achievements of our students in both the zone and inter-zone tournaments are given below.

### Achievements at zone level

S. No.	Game / Event	Position
1	Football (Men)	Runner-up
2	Basket Ball (Men & Women)	
3	Throw ball (Women)	
4	Hockey (Men & Women)	
5	Table Tennis (Women)	
6	Badminton (Women)	
<b>Women's team won Overall Runner-up in games</b>		
7	Javelin Throw (Men);	Gold Medal
8	Javelin Throw (Women),	Silver Medal
9	400 mts Hurdles (Women)	Silver Medal
10	High jump (Men)	Silver Medal
11	Long jump (Men)	Bronze Medal
12	Javelin Throw (Women)	Bronze Medal
13	Long jump (Women)	Bronze Medal
14	Triple jump (Women)	Bronze Medal
15	1500 mts (Women)	Bronze Medal
16	3000 mts (Women)	Bronze Medal
17	High jump (Women)	Bronze Medal
18	400 mts Hurdles (Women)	Bronze Medal

### Achievements at inter-zone

S. No.	Game / Event	Position
1	Badminton (Women)	Runner-up
2	Basket Ball (Women)	
3	Throw ball (Women)	
<b>Women's team won Overall Runner-up in games</b>		
7	Javelin Throw (Men)	Gold Medal
8	Swimming (Men)	Bronze Medal
9	400 mts Hurdles (Women)	Bronze Medal



## National Farmers Day 2023

National Farmers Day – 2023 was celebrated at VIA on December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023. As part of the celebration, a one-day seminar was conducted for farmers in the Pollachi region. Dr. Subramaniam, Principal Scientist at CPCRI, Kasaragod, delivered a special lecture on Good Agricultural Practices in Coconut Cultivation & during the event. A total of 123 farmers from Poorna Producer Company Limited, Pollachi, along with all the faculty members actively participated in the program. Following the seminar, the farmers had the opportunity to visit various units of VIA, including the Agri Business Incubation Centre, Mushroom unit, IFS unit and Sericulture unit where they were provided with detailed insights into the activities of each unit.



## Farmers Training



Southern Petrochemical Industries Corporation Ltd. (SPIC) organized a farmers meeting at Erisinampatti village of Udumalpet on 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec, 2023. In the training programme, Dr. C. Krishnamoorthy, Associate Professor & Head (Horticulture) delivered a lecture on 'Advanced Package of Practices in Coconut and Pandal Vegetables' for 125 farmers. Followed by the training, farmers were taken to coconut fields to learn more about cutting-edge techniques including drip irrigation, root feeding and application of micronutrients etc.

## Participation in Food Expo 2023

Our Faculty Dr. M. Ramya, Asst. Prof. (FSN) and Ms. Abinaya, SRF participated in Food Expo held at the Chennai Trade Centre on 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> Nov, 2023. The expo showcased a diverse range of stalls focusing on food machinery with a particular emphasis on food packaging labelling and new innovative technologies such as freeze-drying technology and machinery for the processing of bread and other bakery products. In addition, cutting-edge labelling technologies were on displayed, particularly showcasing innovations in printing, shrink wrapping and barcoding.

## Participation in Mentor Training Programme

Niral Thiruvizha was a state level annual event conducted for college students aiming to foster an innovative mindset and cultivate their skills across diverse fields. In this regard, a one-day mentor training programme was organised by the Entrepreneurship Development and Innovation Institute (EDII-TN) and the Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation for the students' mentors of various colleges at the collectorate office, Coimbatore on 6<sup>th</sup> Dec, 2023. The district collector, Mr. Kranthi Kumar Pati, IAS inaugurated the training workshop 'Naan Mudhalvan - Niral Thiruvizha'. Mrs. Radhika Meenakshi, the resource person for the workshop, gave an overall idea of the event and the concept of innovation, schemes and subsidies that are available government level to promote entrepreneurship among the student community. On behalf of VIA, Dr. T. S. Senthil Nathan, Assistant Professor (ARM) participated in this training programme.

## Star Education Award 2023

Vanavarayar Institute of Agriculture has been conferred with the 'Best College Award - 2023' by ESPE in collaboration with Education Department of Maharashtra on 05<sup>th</sup> Dec, 2023. Principal, Dr. K. Prabakar, received the Best College Award given based on the outstanding efforts and achievements of the institution in teaching, research and extension. Additionally, Dr. C. Krishnamoorthy, Associate Professor and Head (Horticulture) of the College received the 'Best Teacher Award'.



## Participation of faculty in international conference

Our faculty Dr. M. Packialakshmi, Asst. Prof. (Forestry) participated and presented a paper entitled 'Exploring Wild Tree Fodder Diversity for Mega Herbivore (Elephas maximus) in the Foothills of the Western Ghats' at International Conference on Feeding through Sustainable Eco-Friendly Innovations in Rangelands, Forages and Animal Sciences, organized at UAS, Bangalore from 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Dec, 2023.



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