

Report on World soil day 2018

- At global level Agriculture is facing a challenge of persistent decline in soil fertility which very often caused by the poor agronomic practices of the farming community. One third (33%) of our global soils are already degraded. 815 million people are food insecure and 2 billion people are nutritionally insecure, but we can mitigate this through soil. To high light the importance of Soil to the people on earth, every year December 5th is being celebrated as World Soil Day. In continuation of this ICAR Krishi Vigyan Kendra and Department of Agriculture, Thoothukudi jointly organized the World Soil Day at Kendra premises. In the programme, 125 farmers from all 12 blocks of Thoothukudi district attended and benefitted from the programme
- The function was presided over by Smt. Tamil Malar, Joint Director of Agriculture. In her presidential address she highlighted about the importance of having soil health card to minimize the chemical fertilizer usage. She along with Chief dignitaries, distributed Soil health cards to the farmers attended the function. Dr. Prema, Regional Joint Director, Animal Husbandry department highlighted the various schemes offered to the farmers through the Animal husbandry department. She emphasized the importance of livestock in improving the soil health. Dr. Hemalatha, Associate Professor Agronomy, briefed about the various measures to improve the soil fertility.
- A short video film on soil sample collection was shown to the farmers. Earlier Dr.Srinivasan, Head of the Kendra highlighted the various services offered through KVK to the farming communities of Thoothukudi district and requested the farmers to make use of the services fully to improve the soil fertility level.
- During the programme Mr. Saravanan, Director, Perunthalaivar Vazhai farmer producer company advised farmers to install drip and sprinkler system to minimize the water wastage and maximize the production. He also requested the farmers to approach their company to install drip and sprinkler unit system. Mr. Murugan, Scientist (Agronomy) of KVK highlighted the various agronomic measures to increase the soil fertility status and suggested the farmers to analyze the soil samples either at soil testing lab, kovilpatti or KVK. Mr. Velmurugan, Scientist (Horticulture) of KVK briefed about the mixed farming, mulching with crop residues. Bio fertilizer usage and Vermicompost to the farmers through pictures and slides.
- An exhibition was arranged and various organic inputs were displayed for the benefit of visiting. SPIC Agro Centre, Thoothukudi, Perunthalaivar Farmer producer Company, Soil

Testing Lab, Koilpatty and KVK displayed their products and the Scientist of KVK explained the usage methods to the farmers. The farmers were facilitated by the experts to see the vermicompost unit, mushroom production, nursery and poultry unit. They also purchased the inputs like bio fertilizers, vermicompost, fruit seedlings, nutri mix powder etc from the Kendra.

- Finally a farmer Expert interaction session was held to clarify the doubts of farmers. Finally Mrs. Sumathi Balamurugan, Scientist (Home science) thanked all the dignitaries and the farmers for their participation in the event. The programme ended with National Anthem



**Presidential address by Mrs. Tamil Malar
Joint Director of Agriculture, Thoothukudi**



**Felicitation address by Dr. G. Prama
Regional Joint Director of Animal Husbandry,
Thoothukudi**



**Felicitation address by Dr. M. Hemalatha
Associate Professor (Agronomy), AC&RI, Killikulam**



Sharing of Experience by FPC Director Mr. Saravanan



**Technical lecture by Mr. Murugan (Agronomy)
ICAR SCAD KVK, Thoothukudi**



Soil Health Card Distribution



Farmers Participation view



Video on Soil sample collection techniques



Mobile Soil Testing Lab



Technical Exhibition visit by Chief Guests and Farmers



