

Workshop on Water and Agricultural Productivity Enhancement through Technological Solutions

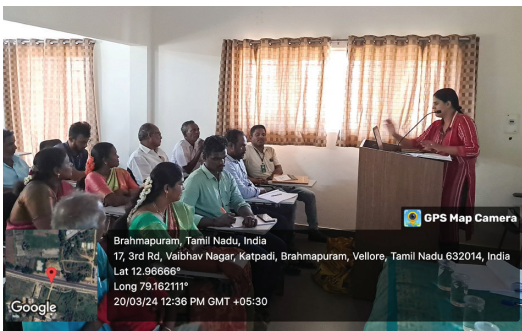
// Date: 20.03.2024 - Venue: VIT Agri Clinic //

At Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT) on the eve of TNWW 2024, the workshop on productivity enhancement through technological solutions was successfully conducted with active participation of members from DHAN Rainfed Agriculture Development Programme's farmers, VIT contact farmers, VIT students, Water scientists and professors.

Mr.U.Vellaiappan and Mr. N. Venkatesan have facilitated the workshop along with VIT professor and gave lead and technical presentations respectively to the workshop.

Dr.M.Annie Jenifer, Professor has presented that importance of water and its availability from different sources for different usages. She also highlighted that water utilization in different purposes shall be budgeted annually by the village community. Water budgeting could emerge as a pattern and culture in farming community as like expenditure being made by the family against their income annually.

Followed to that Dr.Nisha, Professor has presented about the comparative impact on Drip irrigation based crop productivity and non-drip irrigation based crop productivity through experimental learning in local farmers under PMKSY Scheme. She also emphasized that all possible field with farmers shall be followed micro irrigation techniques.



She also shown different crops (Sugarcane, Banana, Paddy and cotton) yield as part of a trial conducted by using drip system at different farmers' fields.

Dr.Paul Man Singh, Professor expressed that the present challenges in conserving water sources could be handled through different development program offered by the government. The community can be empowered and involved in development projects by engaging themselves in planning and execution along with local governance system.

The post lunch session was mainly focused on group discussion and facilitated by VIT water and Agriculture experts. The Student and farmer community have raised valuable questions related to water and agriculture productivity enhancement and got clarified. The professors of VIT and water scientists have appreciated DHAN works in water sector and expressed willingness for collaborative endeavours with DHAN.

The following are the way forward as declarations from the workshop

1. The forum declared that the importance of water management through micro irrigation system such as drip, sprinkler and Rain gun etc. can be shared to all farmers through the social capital created by the NGOs. The VIT can extend support to the NGOs working in Vellore district.
2. The forum recognized that the creation of farm ponds as one of the suitable technology for drought prone district in TamilNadu based on the experience realized from the Ramnad district.
3. The VIT's Agriculture college and agri clinic has committed to extend its cooperation to have partnership with DHAN Foundation for water and agriculture related discussion and advancement in future.
4. The VIT's student community shall work on Agriculture and livestock development intensively
5. Land based Water harvesting structure shall be facilitated by academic and NGO sectors through Government program.

6. Evaporation and percolation loss study shall be done by VIT like academic institutions while using farm pond as irrigation source to the crops.
7. Integrated Farming system and its knowledge can be disseminated with community for doubling the productivity
8. Preservation of traditional seeds and dissemination of organic agriculture concept for ensuring the sustainable and climate smart agriculture
9. Soil and water quality shall be tested in farm lands and crop choices can be decided based on the soil nutrient and water test.