Skill Training of Rural Youth (STRY) was conducted at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Madurai (Tamil Nadu) during 19.02.2018 to 24.02.2018 by the Assistant Director of Agriculture, Madurai West with an aim to improve the skills of rural youth on repair and maintenance of farm implements and equipments.

Dr. S. Suresh, Dean, Agricultural College and Research Institute, Madurai inaugurated the programme and Mr. A. Selvapandi, Joint Director of Agriculture, Madurai delivered a special address.

Dr. ChelviRamesh, Programme Coordinator, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Madurai delivered a special address on safe use and handling of plant protection equipments. Further, technical session and workshop on repair of power tiller, rotavator, conoweeder, power weeder, harvesters and plant protection equipments were organized among 35 farmers representing 13 blocks of Madurai District. Technical lectures and demonstrations were conducted by leading private farm equipment dealers of Madurai. Dr. K. P. Vanetha, SMS (Ag. Extn.) made the logistic arrangements for the programme.

The participants were very much impressed with the practical sessions on repair and maintenance of farm equipments and implements.
Field day

Field day on showcasing the efficacy of liquid formulation of *Pseudomonas fluorescens* in managing major diseases of Paddy crop was organized by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Madurai (Tamil Nadu) on 14.02.2018. This programme was organized as a part of front line demonstration undertaken in paddy crop during *Rabi*, 2017 at Kulamangalam village of Madurai West block, Tamil Nadu.

In this regard, liquid formulation of *Pseudomonas fluorescens* (P.f) was distributed to ten progressive farmers of Kulamangalam village. Seeds of paddy crop (var. JGL - 1798) were treated with the liquid formulation of *Pseudomonas fluorescens* @ 10ml per kg of the seeds. After 21 days, the seedlings were dipped in liquid formulation @ 200 ml per acre of seedlings and transplanted in the main field. Incidence of major diseases infecting paddy crop was recorded from sowing to harvesting and compared with the farmers’ practice. During boot leaf stage prophylactic foliar spray with TNAU Pf1 liquid formulation @ 5ml/lit was given. Sheath rot disease incidence was severe in that area and grain discoloration was also observed during grain filling stage. Treatment impact was significant and it has been observed that the sheath rot incidence percentage was 9.0 in treated plots and 27.0 in untreated plots. Similarly grain discoloration incidence was only 11 % in treated plots and 32% in untreated plots. Yield parameters were also recorded.

The participants of the programme observed the significant difference between the recommended technology and the farmers’ practice.

Dr. ChelviRamessh, Programme Coordinator, Dr.B.Usha Rani SMS (Ag. Ento.), Dr. K. Manikandan SMS (SS&AC), Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Madurai, progressive farmers (23) of that area and press reporters from leading dailies were attended the programme. Dr. K. Manonmani SMS (Pl. Path.) coordinated the programme.