

CLICK AND LEARN

TNAU moves course contents online

The portal has audio-visual content, slide shows

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COIMBATORE: Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, which works on acres and hectares, has ploughed bits and bytes on cyber land to plant its course contents.

In the first phase of 'Development of E-courses for B.Sc. Agriculture' project, the University had made available online all the modules of subjects in the graduate course.

"They can be accessed anywhere, even cyber cafe," says R. Venkatachalam, Co-ordinator, Information Technology, TNAU.

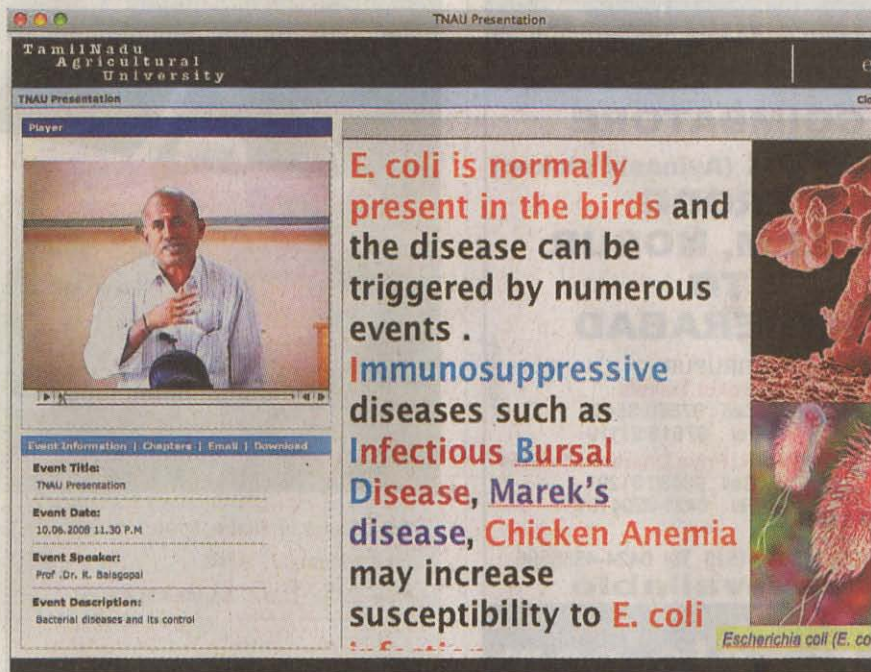
Indian Council for Agriculture Research granted Rs. 13.5 crore for the project under Component I of the National Agriculture Innovation Project.

The portal – <http://mms.tnau.ac.in> – has audio-visual content, module-wise and it goes with slide shows and text of the lesson taught.

"The videos were shot during class hours at classrooms to make it as real as possible," he says and adds 1,300 hours of videos have been uploaded.

Efforts are on to replicate the work for Horticulture, Forestry, Home Science, Biotechnology and other courses.

The planting has bore more than the anticipated number of fruits. "One of the benefits of posting the course contents



The screenshot shows a presentation slide from TNAU. On the left, there is a video player window titled 'Player' showing a man in a white shirt speaking. Below the video player is a navigation bar with 'Event Information | Chapters | Email | Download'. The main content area of the slide contains the following text:

E. coli is normally present in the birds and the disease can be triggered by numerous events .

Immunosuppressive diseases such as Infectious Bursal Disease, Marek's disease, Chicken Anemia may increase susceptibility to E. coli

On the right side of the slide, there is a microscopic image of a bacterium, with the caption 'Escherichia coli (E. coli)' at the bottom.

HASSLE-FREE: TNAU's portal carrying lessons online.

online is that students who are from Tamil medium schools use it to improve English and communication skills," says K. Ilamurugu, Professor, who is associated with the project.

"The other is that quality of teaching has improved in that faculty, conscious of recording, have made classes lively with interactions and demonstrations."

The response from other agriculture institutions has been good. Mr. Venkatachalam says faculty and students of institutions in Bangalore, Anand, Aurangabad, Bagalkot and other areas access the content on a periodical basis.

After the project is reviewed, it will be scaled-up to include content from other institutions as well, he adds.