

Field Visit

Students of III B.Sc., Zoology visited the Southern Regional Research Centre (SRRC) at Mannavanur, Kodaikannal on 29.8.2019. The SRRC was established in 1965 in sub-temperate region at Mannavanur in Tamilnadu. It has an area of 1346 acre. An elite Bharat Merino Sheep station is located here. . The priorities of Institute is to undertake research, training and extension programme for improving meat and wool production of sheep and to develop processing technology of sheep products. The activities currently going on are: Sheep genetic resource improvement, conservation and introgression of *Fec B* gene for enhancing mutton and wool production, Feed resource improvement and rehabilitation of common property resources, sloppy lands by establishment of agro-forestry, horti pasture, Identification of newer feed resources and their utilization in animal feeding, Nutritional manipulation for enhancing pre- and post- weaning growth in lambs for enhancing mutton production, Accelerated lambing system to achieve target of three crops in two years and higher life time production, Estrus synchronization, semen preservation and artificial insemination in sheep, Health technologies for sheep flock, Modified worm management technology for sheep, Diagnostic technologies for sheep diseases, Biotechnological intervention for enhancing mutton and wool production, Aesthetic and durable carpet and blankets from indigenous wool and its blends, Improved quality Bharat Merino wool blended shawl, Natural colours on wool and specialty hair fibres, Value addition, product development and processing of meat, Skin processing and value addition, Sheep manure, vermi compost in agriculture farming, Marketing of live animal, wool and mutton, Fine wool production in temperate climate, Carpet wool production in northwestern region of the country. The students found the trip very informative and they gained a thorough understanding of sheep rearing using modern technology. Dr.V.Gokula, Dr. P.K.Ramasamy and Mrs.S.Vigneshwari accompanied the students.