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To
The Editor,

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Sir,

I request that the following matter may kindly be published in your esteemed daily:

Experts rush to the succor of Ayakudi guava growers

Ayakudi and the surrounding villages being the hub of guava production, have been facing a complex situation of nematode and wilt disease causing sudden death of the trees.

Investigations taken up by the Department of Nematology, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore has revealed that the propagating materials themselves were the carriers of the root knot nematodes which further pave way to the entry of wilt causing fungi.

The situation of late has turned severe and a team of experts that included Dr. K. Poornima, Professor (Nematology) from TNAU, Coimbatore, Dr. T.N. Balamohan, Dean of Horticultural college and Research institute, Periyakulam, Dr. M. Theradimani, Professor (Pathology), Dr. Irulandi, Assistant Professor (Entomology) and Dr. A. Vijayasamundeeshwari, Assistant Professor (Pathology) visited the spot.

Dr. Raman K. Walia, Project Coordinator, All India Coordinated Research Project on Nematodes in Cropping Systems, ICAR, New Delhi was also present in the monitoring team. Based on his experience on the scenario of this nematode wilt problem across the country, he suggested several interventions to bring the situation under control.

The experts visited the infested orchards and gave remedial tips to assuage the situation. The growers were alerted to purchase nematode free healthy planting materials and use integrated approaches involving chemicals, plant products, biopesticides and growing of nematode antagonistic plants to bring the situation under control.

Asst. Public Relations Officer