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To  
The Editor,

Date: 10-2-2016

Sir,

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

**Flowering and fruiting of rare Calabash tree at Botanical Gardens, TNAU**

Calabash tree is commonly called as Beggar's Bowl tree. Botanically it is *Crescentia cujete*, belongs to the family Bignoniaceae. It is native of tropical and subtropical regions of South America. Totally seven species are available in the genus *Crescentia*, in which *Crescentia cujete* is introduced in India and get its popularity due to its ornamental value.

It is a small, evergreen tree which grows up to 10m with a straight trunk and open crown. The bark is light gray and relatively smooth in appearance. Leaves are narrow at the base, flaring towards the apex. Flowers are stalked, tubular and they will bear throughout the year as solitarily or in clusters on older parts of the trunk or larger branches. Fruits also referred to as gourds and they appear very attractive which mature slowly, remaining on the tree for up to seven months. This gourd is used as storage containers, bowls, scoops, ladles, ornamental boxes and musical instruments. The fruit pulp is used in folk medicine for respiratory problems such as asthma, laxative, expectorant, anthelmintic, analgesic and anti-inflammatory.

**For further details, contact**

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