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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:

Swachta Pakhwada Programme in TNAU

ICAR - All India Coordinated Research Project on Integrated Farming System is being operated in Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore, under Department of Agronomy. Our prime minister's vision of a clean India drive, has made the cleanliness programme "Swachta Pakhwada" to be organized and executed in corporate sectors more effectively. As per the guidelines of IIFSR, Modipuram, AICRP – IFS unit of TNAU, Coimbatore organized cleanliness programme under "Swachta Pakhwada" during October 22 – 26th, 2016 to clean the office premises and IFS models, to create cleanliness awareness among the staff, students, labourers and general public

In the series of programmes conducted, awareness campaign was organized on 22-10-2016 to the under graduate students of TNAU. Ninety six I B.Sc.(Ag.) students (NSS volunteers) along with NSS Co-ordinator Dr. N. Sakthivel, Asst. Professor (Agronomy), Professor and Head, Department of Agronomy and AICRP-IFS staff members were actively participated in cleanliness programme.

The importance of self cleanliness and dirt less surroundings was sensitized to the students by Dr.P. Devasenapathy, Professor & Head, Department of Agronomy. Dr. V. Vasuki, Asst.Professor, Dr.S. Padmarani, Asst. Professor and Dr. K. Sathiya Bama, Asst.Professor gave awareness talks covering the importance of the programme and tips for cleanliness drive to the students. The students were motivated to spread the cleanliness programme to the people whom they meet. All the students, scientists and field staff have taken pledge on cleanliness. After the formal programme, the students and staff were involved in cleaning the different components of the Integrated Farming System model

area *viz.*, cattle shed, goat shed, horticultural and crop components, forage unit and the premises of field experiments.

The centre, a constituent organisation of the Indian Council for Agricultural Research, New Delhi, was started in 1968. The centre mainly focuses its research on Integrated Farming System in different Ecosystem. Under this On Farm Research is being operated at Sembukarai and Dhoomanur Tribal villages covering 45 nos. of tribal farmers. For them Clean India campaign was organized to create awareness about cleanliness by the Principal Investigator and Professor of Agronomy, Dr.K.R.Latha on 25th October, 2016 at Sembukaarai and Dhoomanur tribal villages. The campaign covered 100 nos of farmers which was headed by Dr.P. Devasenapathy, Professor and Head, Department of Agronomy,

The Professor and Head stated the aims of the 'Clean India mission' like eliminating the open defecation, eradicating manual scavenging, solid waste management, avoid polluting rivers and water bodies by village wastes, and cleaning the village common premises.

Dr.C.Chinnasamy, Professor (Agronomy) explained the importance of cleanliness to the tribal farmers. At the end of the programme the tribal farmers along with staff members have taken pledge to have personal hygiene, to clean their street, villages and farm and joined the chain of 'Clean India' mission.

As part of the programme on 26-10-2016, cleanliness awareness, cleaning of AICRP –IFS office and laboratory was organized at Department of Agronomy. Nearly seventy members, including staff, PG and Ph.D students participated in this event. The programme started with welcome address given by Professor Dr. K. R. Latha, Chief Agronomist of AICRP-IFS scheme. She briefed about self hygiene and also discussed about the importance of keeping our surroundings clean. Dr. V. Vasuki, Asst. Professor (Agronomy) organized the cleaning of office premises and AICRP-IFS laboratory by the students and staff members.

As part of the programme on 26-10-2016, cleanliness awareness programme was organized for TNAU farm labourers. Nearly sixty farm labourers participated in the programme. The farm managers of Central Farm, Eastern Block and Wet land also participated in this event. Dr. P. Devasenapathy, Professor and Head, Department of

Agronomy, briefed about self hygiene and also discussed about the importance of self cleanliness and our role in keeping the environment clean. The special address was delivered by Dr. S. Maragadham, Professor and Head, Department of Farm Management, and she explained the importance of cleanliness and the objectives of Swachta Pakhwada. Dr.K.Srinivasa, Professor (Agronomy), Dr.S.Padmarani, Asst. Professor (Ag. Economics) and Dr. K. Sathiya Bama, Asst. Professor (SS & AC) interacted with the farm labourers and motivated them towards cleanliness drive. They emphasized the importance of general cleaning of hands and legs after regular farm work and in particular after handling the pesticides and herbicides. All the participants pledged themselves towards Swachta Pakhwada.

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