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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:

Advanced Faculty Training on Innovative Approaches and Methods in Insect Biodiversity Conservation

Advanced faculty training on “Innovative approaches and methods in Insect Biodiversity Conservation” is being organized by the Dept. of Agrl. Entomology, Centre for Plant Protection Studies, TNAU, Coimbatore in collaboration with Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) at the Department of the Agrl. Entomology from November 30th to December 20th, 2017. Fifteen agricultural scientists from various State Agricultural Universities and national Institutes under Indian council of Agricultural Research are the participants of the training programme. The scientists represented 11 states and one union territory. The inaugural function of the training programme was organized on 30.11.2017 at the Seminar Hall, Dept. of Agrl. Entomology, Directorate of Centre for Plant Protection Studies, TNAU, Coimbatore.

Dr. K. Ramaraju, Director, Centre for Plant Protection Studies, TNAU, Coimbatore delivered the welcome address. In his address he opined, that our knowledge of insect biodiversity needs full complement and should be holistic. Further, he insisted the urgent need to explore the diversity in insects in order to understand the biology and ecology of insects which can be used for effective management of pests. He also added that estimation and prediction of anthropogenic extinctions in global biodiversity scenario is the great challenge to be addressed.

The content of the training was briefed by Dr. Y.S. Johnson Thangaraj, Professor of Agricultural Entomology besides highlighting the genesis of the centre that was established in 1995 with the achievement of training 540 scientists from SAUs and ICAR Institutes in the recent developments in the field of Entomology.

The inaugural address was delivered by Dr. M. Maheswaran, Director of Research. In his inaugural address the genetic diversity apart from ecosystem diversity has been stressed. He also added that the modern tools has to be utilized for studying the biodiversity of particular area. He further elaborated that India is one of the 17 "megadiverse" countries, composed of a diversity of ecological habitats like forests, grasslands, wetlands, coastal and marine ecosystems and desert ecosystems. He also pointed that India is known to have nearly 89,500 species, of which insect alone contributes 59,353 species.

Dr. S. Sridharan , Professor and Head, Department of the Agrl. Entomology proposed vote of thanks.

Public Relations Officer