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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 Mobile Air Quality Monitoring Lab Launched at TNAU

Forest College and Research Institute, Mettupalayam, was organized one day policy workshop, entitled, "Policy Workshop on Urban forestry" at Library Conference Hall, Forest College and Research Institute, Mettupalayam on 28-04-2017.

An increase in the growth of urban population leading to higher demand for natural resources has resulted in adverse effects on the environment. Due to this ongoing urbanization trend in India and worldwide, the gap between city inhabitants and nature is getting widened. Urban forestry is one of the way to bridge this gap between people and nature. Urban forests have environmental, social, aesthetic, and economic value. The main theme of this workshop is to sensitize the significance and the need of greenery for controlling several health and environmental issues faced by urban dwellers. Green areas have a vital role in urban biodiversity, extending green areas networks in urban areas will improve biological biodiversity.

This workshop was intended for discussing the policy issues related to urban pollution monitoring and management, urban greening, landscaping and urban pollution abatement. Over 120 participants comprising scientists, faculty from educational institutions, civic bodies, government officials, NGO's and other stakeholders attended this workshop.

Eminent experts, namely, G. Chandrasekaran, Deputy Conservator of Forest (Retd.), TNFA, Coimbatore, C.Buvaneshwaran, Senior Scientist, Forest and Land Use Division, Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Dr. P.T. Umashankar, Principal consultant,

Centre for Ecology and Environment, Chennai, Forest Campus, Coimbatore, Thiru. G. Ravi Kumar, International consultant for Forestry Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, BCI India had discussed the policy issues pertaining to urban greenery.

Dr. K. Ramasamy, Vice-Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University delivered the presidential address and the Chief Guest, Shri. Dr.Rajeev K.Srivastava, I.F.S. Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forest & Director TNFA Tamil Nadu Forest Department, Coimbatore presided over the function.

Th. R. Anandakumar, I.A.S. Executive Director, Tamil Nadu Watershed Development Agency, Chennai inaugurated the workshop and launched the Advanced Mobile Environmental air quality monitoring lab first of its kind in India specially designed to monitor the real time urban air quality.

This workshop was organized by Dr. K.K. Suresh, Dean (Forestry) i/c, and the scientists of Forest College and Research Institute, Mettupalayam. Dr. A. Balasubramanian, Professor & Head, Department of Silviculture, is the organizing secretary of the workshop which is part of the NADP research project funded by the Government of Tamil Nadu.

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