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Date: 16-2-2017

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To The Editor,

Sir,

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

National Conference on Agrotechnology and Profitable Marketing of Tropical Medicinal and Aromatic Plants in TNAU

The Society for Conservation and Resource Development of Medicinal plants, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi in association with Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), Coimbatore is organizing two days National Conference on Agrotechnology and Profitable marketing of tropical Medicinal and Aromatic plants on 16th and 17th February 2017 at TNAU, Coimbatore.

The conference is organized to facilitate scientists and research scholars to deliberate on technological interventions required to meet the growing demand for medicinal and aromatic plants. Research papers covering genetic resources, conservation, improved production technology, post harvest techniques, value addition, biotechnological approaches for production of secondary metabolites, integrated disease management and marketing are to be presented. About 250 delegates are participating in this conference which is sponsored by National Medicinal Plants Board, New Delhi.

During the inaugural function, Dr. K. Ramasamy, Vice Chancellor, TNAU, Coimbatore lauded the scientific achievements of Dr. G.P. Dubey, Emeritus Professor, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi who has unveiled the bioactivity of molecules for management of metabolic disorders including type II diabetes. The Vice Chancellor made a citation on his IPR achievements with A Life Time Achievement Award on his name. Padmashri Dr. P. Krishnakumar, Managing Director of Arya Vaidy Pharmacy and the Chancellor, Avinashilingam University, Coimbatore offered his special address highlighting the growth of AYUSH sector in the recent past.

Dr. G.P. Dubey elaborated on the significance of AYUSH and the need for validation of traditional knowledge to keep pace with the growth of the world market for medicinal plants. His specific mention was for a few medicinal plants grown in Tamil Nadu which were proven to be efficacious for the management of management of type 2 diabetes and also the need to introduce commercial cultivation to meet the world market.

Dr. M. Jawaharlal, Dean (Horticulture), Horticultural College and Research Institute, Coimbatore and Dr. Lalit Narayan, Deputy Director, (Medicinal plants) National Medicinal Plants Board, New Delhi felicitated the conference. Dr. G.P. Rao, Secretary, SMP, New Delhi proposed a formal vote of thanks.

In part of this conference India Vetiver Network (INVN) is launched at TNAU, Coimbatore on today (16-2-2017). India Vetiver Network (INVN) is a nonprofit scientific network to promote vetiver in India. Vetiver has worldwide application to tackle many environmental issues like soil erosion, mitigation of soil and water pollution. The mission of INVN is Environmental protection using vetiver. Promotion of research in vetiver - identification of varieties, improved production technologies and distillation techniques. Promotion of value addition. Conduct of workshops, seminars and publication of periodicals on vetiver.

INVN has advisory panel and core group consisted of president, Secretary, Joint secretary and Treasurer. The core committee will explore to strength the membership for INVN.

Annual membership		
Farmers & Students	:	Rs 100 /=
Scientists & Others	:	Rs.250/=
Life membership		
Individual	:	Rs.3000/10 years
Corporate/NGO/Institutes:	:	Rs.5000/10 years

The membership detail of the INVN is as follows:

Membership can also be paid by any one of the following mode:

1. DD in favour of "Secretary, India Vetiver Network

Internet Banking- Account Number: 36100130359; IFSC: SBIN0002274; State Bank of India - TNAU Branch (or)

3. On line payment to the following link https://www.onlinesbi.com/prelogin/icollecthome.htm?corpID=763905

Contact details

Secretary, India Vetiver Network (INVN), Department of Medicinal & Aromatic Crops, HC & RI, TNAU, Coimbatore – 641 003. Contact: <u>med@tnau.ac.in</u> / 0422 – 6611365

Asst. Public Relations Officer