



Tamil Nadu Agricultural University
Coimbatore – 641 003

Dr. M. Jegadeesan, Ph.D.,
Asst. Public Relations Officer
Mobile: 94890 56730

Phone: 0422 - 6611302
Fax: 0422 – 2431821
E-mail: pro@tnau.ac.in

To
The Editor,

Date: 16-2-2017

Sir,

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

National Symposium on “Applications of Radioisotopes and Tracer Techniques in Agriculture and Environment”

A Two day (16-17 February 2017) National Symposium on “Applications of Radioisotopes and Tracer Techniques in Agriculture and Environment” organized by the Department of Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry (SS&AC), Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), Coimbatore was inaugurated on 16-2-2017.

The gathering of Scientists includes representation from various Institutes, BARC, Mumbai, IGCAR, Kalpakkam, IARI, New Delhi and ICAR – SBIRC, Kannur and research scholars were welcomed by Dr. K. Arulmozhiselvan, Organizing secretary of the Symposium & Professor and Head, Department of SS&AC, TNAU and emphasized the importance of radioisotopes and tracer techniques as a tool to assess soil fertility. One hundred and fifty delegates from different parts of India are participating in the Symposium.

Dr. K. Kumar, Special Officer, Directorate of Natural Resource Management, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore in his introductory speech, introduced the chief guests of the programme Shri. C. Devakumar, Former Assistant Director General (Education), ICAR, New Delhi and Shri. Mervin Alexander, Joint Secretary, Department of Atomic Energy, Mumbai. He requested the soil scientists to further strengthen the research in radioisotopes and also to have collaborations with the scientists working in these lines. He mentioned the applications of radiotracer techniques in various fields of Agriculture.

Shri. C. Devakumar, Former Assistant Director General (Education) in his inaugural address, discussed on various fields in which the tracer techniques is found to have better utility namely,

- Isotopic hydrology which could assess the amount of water removed for producing an economic crop as well as the import of water from the ground for producing an economic yield. By using these tracer techniques the amount of ground water can also be assessed, he added.
- The role of isotopes in climate change.
- Mutation breeding and molecular breeding.
- Balance sheet approach for nitrogen and phosphorus through ^{15}N and ^{32}P , respectively.
- An integrated approach through integrated nutrient management, cropping system and water management to assess the flows and pools to draw a balance sheet.

Shri. Mervin Alexander, Joint Secretary, Department of Atomic Energy who is an alumini of TNAU in his inaugural address, briefed the activities of isotopes in various fields viz., medicine, agriculture, water management etc. He mentioned that India is the largest exploiter of water through various high water demanding crops. Radiotracer techniques have a great role in post harvest technology, Mervin was mentioning. He was also mentioning about destructive technology which operating today in every field and agriculture is not an exception, where radiotracer techniques can also be utilized as an effective tool.

Dr. K. Ramasamy, Vice Chancellor, TNAU released the symposium publication and delivered the Presidential address. He stated 82% of vegetables and fruits in the world are derived by mutation breeding. Quantification of nutrients added to soil like transformation, plant uptake, losses can be done through radiotracer techniques. Sulphur which is a critical element in oilseed and crucifer crops can better be managed with radiotracer techniques. Establishment of Gamma radiation chamber at Kanniyakumari and Periyakulam could be possible with external funding based on the proximity of port at Tuticorin and airport at Madurai.

Dr. S. Meena, Professor (SS&AC) and Co Organizing Secretary of the Symposium proposed a formal vote of thanks.