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To  
The Editor,

Date: 6-3-2017

Sir,

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

### **TNAU Institutes A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Post-Doc Fellowship**

Government of Tamil Nadu, in recognition of the contribution of ‘Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam towards scientific excellence and students’ welfare, has institutionalized a Post Doctoral Fellowship (PDF) at the School of Post Graduate Studies in Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), named after the Former President of India (2002-2007) for innovative research work in the field of Agriculture / Horticulture / Engineering.

The fellowship was to offer motivation, encouragement and financial support to one of the best scientific idea that would culminate into new knowledge for the betterment of the society. The fellowship is for a period of three years and is offered once in three years. In the inaugural year of 2017, Dr. S. Rajamanickam has achieved this Prestigious Award of “**Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Fellowship**”. Dr. S. Rajamanickam will pursue his Post Doctoral Programme on “Induction of Microbial Associated Molecular Pattern (MAMP) triggered immunity, mediated through endophytic PGPR for the management of virus diseases complex in Chillies (*Capsicum annuum* L.)” at Department of Plant Pathology, Centre for Plant Protection Studies, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore.

The association of rhizosphere microbes with the root system and their potential to enhance the crop health to ward off pests and diseases is internationally well-studied and proven fact. However the molecular mechanism behind this

phenomenon, the role of biochemical molecules and metagenomic interactions are still under investigation. Considering the novelty, the research project to study the biochemical and translational influence from the plant growth promoting *rhizobacteria* on the management of virus disease complex in Chillies was selected based on the peer-review process and presentations, explained Professor S. Robin, Dean (Post Graduate Studies), TNAU. This project has enormous scope to decipher eco-sensitive knowledge on the viral disease management in the most vital spice crop, Chillies.

Dr. K. Ramasamy, Vice-Chancellor, TNAU, Coimbatore congratulated and presented the award to Dr. S. Rajamanickam on 1-3-2017 in the presence of Dr. S. Nakkeeran, the mentor of this project, Dr. A.S. Krishnamurthy, Professor and Head, Dept. of Plant Pathology, TNAU and Dr. K. Ramaraju, Director, Centre for Plant Protection Studies, TNAU, Coimbatore.

Public Relations Officer