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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:

Posthumous Award to TNAU Rice Scientist

Dr. S Robin, a renowned rice breeder and former Dean, Post Graduate Studies, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), has been posthumously awarded the first Prof EA Siddiq Biennial Award (2015-16) by the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi.

Dr. S. Robin, who was instrumental in developing several high yielding varieties of rice, was chosen for the award for his outstanding contribution to rice breeding. His work on Genetic Improvement of rice resulted in the release of eleven high yielding varieties and two hybrids (CORH 3 and CORH 4) in rice. He was the scientist behind the development of drought tolerant rice varieties viz., PMK2, PMK3, MDU 5, DRR Dhan 40 and saline resistant rice variety TRY 2, a submergence tolerant rice variety, CR1009 *Sub1* and high yielding varieties, CO48, CO49, CO 50, CO51 and CO52. He took lots of efforts to popularize CO51 which led to the notification of this variety in thirteen states of the country. One of the farmers cultivated this variety received an award of Rupees five lakh from the Chief Minister during the republic day function held this year for achieving 18 tonnes of yield.

Prof EA Siddiq Biennial Award was presented by Division of Genetics, IARI on February 9, 2018 in New Delhi. During the Award function, Padmashree

Dr. R.P.Sharma a distinguished agricultural scientist, recollected the achievements of Dr. Robin and Dr. K.V. Prabhu, Chairman, Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority (PPVFRI), New Delhi presented the Award and cash prize to Mrs. Salomi Robin, wife of late Dr. S. Robin.

Public Relations Officer