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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:

Bioconcorrenza 2019, a ‘National Level Technical Symposium and PG Biotechnology Seminar’

Bioconcorrenza 2019, a ‘National level Technical Symposium and PG Biotechnology Seminar’ was organized in Tamil Nadu Agricultural University on March 01 and 02, 2019, in connection with the National Science Day celebrated on Feb.28, every year.

The National level symposium is being organized every year since 2005 by the B.Tech. students of the Center for Plant Molecular Biology and Biotechnology, Dr. S. Mohankumar, Director CPMB in his introductory remarks, explained the origin of Bioconcorrenza, which was derived from the Italian word concorrenza meaning competition.

The Dean, School of Post Graduate Studies, Dr. J. S. Kennedy in his felicitation address stressed the importance of hard-work, and narrated the legacies of the two time Nobel Laurate Madam Marie Curie and her untiring hard-work. Dr. T. Raguchander, Dean Students’ welfare in his felicitation address, stressed the students to ask the right questions and nature will show the way. Science is the fusion of aesthetics and creative art which transforms life and thinking.

History has showed us that science always had a humble beginning. Scientific temperament can be inculcated only with seminars and not overnight. Yesterday the Central Government has announced a scheme for young minds for funding translational

research called “Science Translation and Advanced Research (STAR)” to the tune of Rs.250 crores.

In his presidential address, Prof. N. Kumar, Vice Chancellor Tamil Nadu Agricultural University urged the students to publish their research; even it may be a small note. Such type of scientific events inculcates communication and leadership skills at the early stage. Students need to develop entrepreneurial skills and gave specific examples of Dr. N. Barathi, Director, GrowMore Biotech, Hosur, an alumni of CPMB, TNAU who acquired necessary technical skills after his graduation and started his own leading biotech industry.

In his keynote address, Prof. R. Chandrababu, Vice-Chancellor, Kerala Agricultural University, pointed out that the food production scenario in India has changed from calorific needs to sensible nutritious foods. The current challenges in food production and the hostile environments prevailing now such as degraded soil and depleted ground water shortage of manpower can be tackled only through Biotechnological interventions. The changing climate scenario is causing uncertainties in agriculture recent natural disasters such as Floods in Kerala and storms in Tamil Nadu. Only through science these challenges can be changed into opportunities.

Now India has attained self-sufficiency in food grain production and we are exporting many agricultural commodities. India is the centre for many land races with good qualities which are being transferred into cultivated varieties. Advanced biotechnological tools such as CRISPR-Cas are utilized in TNAU to improve yield and nutritional quality in food crops, he added.

There were around 475 participants including 42 students from various states in India.

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