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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:

**Nematode Awareness Campaign Conducted for the
Tribal Farmers of Talamalai Village**

An awareness campaign on “Diagnosis of nematode problems in crop plants and their management” was organised for the tribal farmers of Talamalai, Thalavadi, Satyamangalam forest range, Erode district by the Department of Nematology, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore under the All India Co-ordinated Research Project (AICRP-N) on Nematodes in Agriculture, ICAR, New Delhi (under the Tribal Sub Plan Scheme).

The campaign was started with a welcome speech by Dr. N. Swarnakumari, Assistant Professor (Nematology) who explained about the financial assistance provided by ICAR under Tribal Sub Plan Scheme. The role of bioagents and biofertilizers in maintaining soil health was explained by Dr. B. Anita, Professor, Department of Nematology.

Dr. G. Jothi, Associate Professor, Department of Nematology elaborated the symptoms and yield loss caused by nematode in crop plants. A total of 50 farmers participated in the meeting.

The campaign was organised to create awareness among tribal farmers on damage caused by plant parasitic nematodes and diagnosis. The farmers were exposed to microscopic observation of nematodes and ways to manage them using bio-agents.

Planting materials such as training kit and farm inputs viz. Slips of vetiver, lemongrass, mint, moringa seeds, *Purpureocillium lilacinum*, *Rhizobium* and maize maxim were distributed to all the tribal farmers who have attended the programme. Mr. Mariya Francis facilitated in organising the campaign successfully and Mr. Palanisamy Ranger, Talamalai forest range also participated in this programme. Finally, Dr. P. Kalaiarasan, Assistant Professor (Nematology) gave concluding remarks and vote of thanks.

Public Relations Officer