



Tamil Nadu Agricultural University

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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:

Valedictory Function on CAFT Training in TNAU

The Department of Agricultural Entomology, Centre for Plant Protection Studies (CPPS), Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), Coimbatore organized a twenty one days training programme in its Centre of Advanced Faculty Training for the Scientists of Agricultural Universities and ICAR Institutions in the country. The training was on Ecological and Molecular Approaches for Host Plant Resistance to Insect Pests conducted from 5th to 25th November, 2019. Eighteen Scientists from eleven States underwent the training in the Department.

The training covered various aspects of host plant resistance, screening techniques against insect pests of agricultural and horticultural crops, breeding techniques including identification of molecular markers, wide hybridisation, Bt Technology, gene transfer and CRISPR Cas9 technology etc.

The participants had field sessions and outstation visits. Special invitees as resource persons from National Institute of Plant genome Research (NIPGR), New Delhi, Indian Institute of Millet Research, (IIMR), Indian Institute of Oilseed Research, Hyderabad, Sugarcane Breeding Institute, Coimbatore have interacted with the participants and shared the vision of the country in improving crop productivity through advanced techniques besides the Scientists of the University.

The valedictory session was held on 25th November. Dr. A. S. Krishnamoorthy, Registrar of the TNAU, Coimbatore presided over the function. He said that on the plant protection front the country is addressing the challenges posed by pests and diseases very

critically and host plant resistance formed the foundation for all the pest management methods. He gave away the certificates to the participants.

Dr. S. Uthamasamy former Director of Extension Education and a noted Scientists in the area of Host Plant Resistance, delivered the keynote address. He traced the history of plant resistance to insects in India and emphasized the need for advanced studies in bringing out the benefits in an era of pollution and climate change.

Dr. S. Mohan, former Dean School of Post Graduate Studies, while addressing the gathering said that training the mind, skill development, practice, technology transfer and commerce in this area of research and development by Scientists could significantly be useful for the country.

Dr. T. Raguchander, Dean, Centre for Students Welfare advised the gathering to pursue research aggressively and publish the findings in high rated journals which could create visibility for the subject as a whole.

Dr. N. Sathiah, Professor and Head, Department of Entomology read the Training Report and said that there were 69 sessions in the 21 days programme covering conventional to the specialized areas of research in host plant resistance. He also stated that the programme contained 22 practical sessions involving field and industry visits and 40 on campus programmes.

Dr. S. Suresh, Professor of Entomology and Coordinator of the Training welcomed the gathering earlier and said that the training was rated as outstanding by the participants as a whole. Dr. M. Murugan, Professor of Entomology proposed vote of thanks. The Scientists of the Department made the arrangements for the 21 days programme.

Public Relations Officer