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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:

71st Republic Day celebrated in TNAU

The 71st Republic Day was celebrated in a grand and fitting manner at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore on 26-1-2020. The Vice-Chancellor Dr.N.Kumar was received by Dr. T. Raguchander, Dean (CSW) and Dr. M. Kalyanasundram, Dean (Agriculture), TNAU.

The Vice-Chancellor unfurled the National Flag at 8.00 am and delivered the Republic Day address. In his address, the Vice Chancellor celebrated that it is the special occasion to commemorate the values of our democracy and Republic. An occasion to reaffirm our commitment to liberty, fraternity and equality across our society and among all our citizens. Above all, this Republic Day is an occasion to celebrate the spirit of being an Indian. India being an agrarian based country, the role of farmers, farm scientists, farm education specialist besides policy makers is of paramount importance.

Tamil Nadu agriculture contributes nearly 19% of GDP, than other states, aiming to increase 170 lakh tonnes of food grain, 5 lakh bales of cotton, 545 lakh tonnes of sugarcane, 17 lakh tonnes of oilseeds. Scientific technologies and strong extension support empower our farmers for better living. TNAU is playing a vital role in uplifting the farmers income. The State is honoured to get the Krishi karman Award for the fifth time.

TNAU Technologies like; high yielding varieties and hybrids increased the productivity of crops. So far, we have released more than 800 varieties in agricultural, horticultural and forest trees besides, 1500 management technologies to face the challenges ahead. Our technologies revolutionised not only in Tamil Nadu but also across India.

To mention a few; high density mango planting techniques and some of the rice varieties like GEB 24, TKM 6, CO 51 and Moringa PKM 1 crossed the boundaries of the state and the country. Further the recent challenges posed by Fall Army Worm, Spiralling White fly in coconut have caused much concern to our scientific fraternity. New frontier areas of research such as Gene pgramiding, Magic Breeding, Drone application, Climate Smart Agriculture, drought besides other abiotic and biotic management techniques along with e-extension initiatives and ICT based technologies should capture the minds of our farm scientists to develop more sustainable and high value cropping systems.

TNAU's role in environmental protection by way of new initiative like one lakh native tree planting at FC&RI Mettupalayam, establishment of agro forestry woodlot and Bio oxygen park besides effective recycling of sewage water for crops after treatments have received good attention and appreciation from many stake holders. TNAU has made it mandatory to go for "Green Energy; Water harvesting' and STP in all our new buildings / campuses across Tamil Nadu. This kind of activity has prompted Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board to approach TNAU in preparing detailed project to tackle the polluted river systems in Tamil Nadu. Our society has shown great regard for those, individuals or institutions, who selflessly devote themselves to people's welfare and go beyond the call of duty. The concept of seva, or devotion to public service broaden the ambit of justice.

Finally he recollected the note of Mahatma Gandhi about the farmers- "Of course the farmer is the father of the world. But it is his greatness that he is not aware of the fact". He insisted the need to recognize the farmers as they are not conscious that they deserve any credit.

The students perfomed the cultural programmes. During the occasion, the book on Combating Climate Change in India" written by Dr. S. Raman, was released by Vice-Chancellor. Awards and prizes were distributed to the students excelled in various NCC activities.

NCC cadets and NSS volunteers participated in the Republic Day celebration. The Vice-Chancellor distributed sweets to the participants. All University Officers, Heads of Department, NCC Officer and NSS Coordinator, NSS Programme Officers, staff members, UG and PG Students of TNAU and school children are enthusiastically participated in the Republic Day celebrations.

Public Relations Officer