



Tamil Nadu Agricultural University
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To
The Editor,

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Sir,

I request that the following message may kindly be published in your esteemed daily:

**TNAU organized International conference on
“Future Challenges and Prospects in Plant Breeding”**

An international conference on “Future Challenges and Prospects in Plant Breeding” is being organised by the Indian Society of Plant Breeders and Centre for Plant Breeding and Genetics, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore from 6th to 7th October, 2021.

The conference was inaugurated on 06.10.2021, by Dr.N.Kumar, Vice Chancellor, TNAU. In his inaugural address, dwelt upon the various achievements made by TNAU in releasing several improved varieties of crops which have played a vital role in changing the livelihood of farmers of the state and he complemented the breeders for this achievement. He further emphasised the need to develop crops with better nutritional qualities and biotic and abiotic stress tolerance. He also suggested to hasten the breeding cycle of crops by practicing speed breeding.

Dr.T.R.Sharma, DDG (Crop Science), ICAR, New Delhi in his key note address suggested the importance of directed pre-breeding for exploitation, characterisation and conservation of wild species and land races. He emphasised the need to develop crop varieties suitable for changing biotic and abiotic stress scenarios, mechanised cultivation, intercropping and high-density cultivation. He expressed that for better prospects, the plant breeders need to develop good understanding of the tools of genomics and high throughput plant breeding. The guest of honour, Dr. Arvind Kumar, DDG (Research), ICARISAT, Hyderabad suggested to have a brain storming among breeders to find ways to break the yield plateau. He stressed on the need to do increase genetic gain, product profile breeding and breeding industrial value crops and capacity building.

Dr.A.S.Krishnamoorthy, Registrar, TNAU recalled the rich heritage of Plant Breeding in TNAU and recollected the contributions made by renowned Plant Breeders of the university. He also stressed on the importance to breed for improved varieties in Pulses and Oil seeds, which contribute to the national exchequer. Dr.Sanjeev Gupta, ADG (O&P), ICAR, New Delhi in his special address highlighted the focus areas for future crop breeding, viz., Speed breeding, development of perfect phenotype based on data generated through genomics, exploitation of QTLs, wild genetic resources, functional genomics and gene editing.

On this occasion, two books viz., Book of abstracts of the conference and Manual on Nucleus and Breeder seed production were released by the Vice Chancellor. A total of 26 lead papers from scientists of national and international repute, 24 oral presentations by researchers from across the country and 321 research posters by scholars and researchers will be presented during the two days deliberations. Earlier Dr. S. Geetha Director, Centre for Plant Breeding and Genetics, welcomed the gathering and finally Dr. N. Meenakshi ganesan, Professor and Head, Department of Genetics and Plant Breeding, TNAU, Coimbatore proposed the vote of thanks.

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