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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:

TNAU Trains Agricultural Officers on ‘Quality Biofertilizer Production’

A training programme on “Recent trends in quality control of biofertilizers” is being organized by the Department of Agricultural Microbiology, Directorate of Natural Resource Management, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), Coimbatore between 23/9/2021 and 24/9/2021 to 28 agricultural officers involved in Production and Quality control of Biofertilizers in the Department of Agriculture, Tamil Nadu.

Dr. N. Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, TNAU, Coimbatore in his inaugural cum presidential speech mentioned about the importance of biofertilizers in supplementing chemical fertilizers which is around 6% in Tamil Nadu. He addressed the major issues concerned with quality of biofertilizers like viable cell count and efficient strains. He stated that the current biofertilizers requirement of the state (40,000MT) and emphasized the need for production of quality biofertilizers by the laboratories of Department of Agriculture to meet the demand. He has also narrated about recent developments in biofertilizers technology like drought mitigating inoculant (PPFM-pink pigmented facultative methylo-troph), stage specific and zinc solubilizing bacteria for rice and microbial consortia.

Dr. R. Santhi, Director (NRM) in her key note address stressed the importance of microorganisms in soil health management and the role of biofertilizers in integrated nutrient management (INM) and soil test crop response (STCR) based nutrient management. Mrs. R. Chitra Devi, Joint Director of Agriculture felicitated the training programme and highlighted the importance of biofertilizers for organic farming strategy of Tamil Nadu.

Dr. S. Marimuthu, Associate Vice-President, T-Stanes Company in his special address briefed about the current scenario of biofertilizers production and regulation at national and international level. He also mentioned about the new products of mycorrhizal biofertilizer (VAM) and microbial consortia (NPK-Zn).

Earlier, Dr. V. Gomathi, Professor & Head, Department of Agrl. Microbiology, welcomed the gathering. Finally, Dr. N.O. Gopal, Professor (Agrl. Microbiology) proposed a vote of thanks.

Public Relations Officer