



**Tamil Nadu Agricultural University**

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To  
The Editor,

Date: 29.09.2021

Sir,

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

**TNAU Trains Agricultural officers on the Production Technologies of Biocontrol Agents**

Crop pests including Insect, diseases and nematodes are causing serious threats to the farmers than ever before and the situation is complicated due to overreliance on pesticides and non-availability of ecofriendly inputs in time in their management. This is considered as a major impediment in implementation of many Integrated Pest and Disease Management in agricultural and Horticultural Crops by Scientists and Administrators. Also, there are numerous challenges in production and distribution of quality assured biocontrol agents and biopesticides which form the fundamentals of the ecofriendly crop protection.

The Centre for Protection Studies of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University is actively involved in the ecofriendly management of both native and invasive pests, diseases and nematodes across the state with more emphasis on biological control agents. The constituent departments of the Centre are actively engaged in technology development in this segment. The production technologies generated by the Scientists are absorbed by the stakeholders including the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare which has 23 district level biocontrol and parasitoids breeding centers in the State. These centres cater to the needs of the farmers within the district in biological control of crop pests. To expose the Agricultural Officers who are directly involved in the production of biocontrol agents, the Centre for Plant Protection Studies is organizing a five days refresher course ‘**Hands on Training on the Production Technologies of Biocontrol Agents of Crop Pests, Diseases and Nematodes**’ to the officials involved in the biocontrol agents

production from 27.9.2021 to 1.10.2021 with the financial assistance from the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of Tamil Nadu. Twenty three Agricultural Officers across Tamil Nadu are participating in this programme. The trainees will learn many new technologies by practicing the methods and updated procedures at the Departments of Agricultural Entomology, Plant Pathology and Nematology during the period.

The training programme was inaugurated on 27.9.2021 at the Seminar Hall of the Department of Agricultural Entomology, TNAU, Coimbatore. Dr. G. Karthikeyan, Professor and Head, Department of Plant Pathology, TNAU, Coimbatore introduced the scope of the training.

Tmt. R. Chitradevi, Joint Director of Agriculture, TNAU, Coimbatore delivered the special address. Dr. K. Prabakar, Director, Centre for Plant Protection Studies delivered the presidential address and he stated the need for hands on training and the role to be played by the officials incharge of producing quality biocontrol agents.

Dr. M. Kalyanasundaram, Dean (Agriculture), TNAU, Coimbatore inaugurated the training programme and released the training manual. In his inaugural address, he emphasized the importance of biocontrol agents in managing the native and invasive pests. He also focused the need for biocontrol agents with examples of classical success in papaya and sugarcane woolly aphids.

Earlier, Dr. N. Sathiah, Professor and Head of the Department of Agricultural Entomology welcomed the gathering. Finally, Dr. A. Shanthi, Professor and Head, Department of Nematology proposed the formal vote of thanks. The programme was coordinated by Dr. S. Jeyarani, Professor of Entomology.

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Public Relations Officer