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To

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The Editor,
Sir,

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

**TNAU inks MoU with FMC India Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai for
Long Term Research Collaboration**

The Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore and FMC India Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai have signed a Memorandum of Understanding for collaboration on research and FMC Science Leaders Scholarship Program. Under the research collaboration, TNAU would join hands with FMC for conducting basic and applied research on bioassay, field evaluation studies etc. for new pesticides, herbicides and biorational molecules for three years. Under the FMC Science Leadership Program, FMC sponsors fellowship for one post-graduate and one doctoral student of TNAU.

Dr. S.V. Krishnamoorthy, Professor and Head, Dept. of Agricultural Entomology welcomed the gathering and highlighted the long-term partnership between TNAU and FMC, the two, century old institutions.

Dr. V. Geethalakshmi, Vice-Chancellor, TNAU in her presidential address, acknowledged the collaboration between the signatories. She highlighted the need for green chemistries which is the need of the hour as the world is moving towards sustainable agriculture and non-chemical approaches. She thanked and appreciated FMC India Pvt. Ltd. for making the research collaboration with TNAU towards developing new product solutions for a better agriculture and sponsoring the students scholarships, while she also requested internships for post graduate scholars in the future.

The Director, Centre for Plant Protection Studies, Dr. K. Prabakar, appraised the gathering and informed that the MoU was planned initially with Department of Agricultural Entomology alone was expanded by including four departments into the MoU expecting better outcome through a multidisciplinary approach.

The Dean, SPGS Dr. J.S. Kennedy, highlighted TNAU has the distinction of romping in the highest number of post graduate scholars every year. Though the University is planning to offer scholarships in the near future, FMC's MoU will enhance scholarship opportunities for a few students every year.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Ravi Annavarapu, President, FMC, India Ltd. elaborated contribution of FMC for the betterment of farming community in India and the world at large. "We are an agricultural science company. We continue our endeavor to develop and introduce innovative science-based solutions to meet the growing needs of farmers, said Dr Ravi. He also provided details of the company's sustainability and CSR activities that included donation of 8 Oxygen Plants in six states to manage Covid crisis, installation of community RO plants benefiting 80,000 families in different states and company's efforts on diversity & inclusion.

Dr. Anandakrishnan Balaraman, Director -R&D shared to the gathering that FMC, with a world-class in-house R&D organization of more than 800 scientists and associates to guide one of the most robust discovery and development pipelines in the agricultural industry, is committed to strengthening collaboration among the scientific community and academia within the agriculture ecosystem.

Dr. Bakul Joshi, National Head of Corporate Programmes, FMC India Ltd. in his address mentioned that, the company had until now signed MoUs with 6 State Agricultural Universities including TNAU. Through its multi-year scholarship program FMC offers fellowships for basic and applied research to 10 M.S.c and 10 PhD's students every year from 8 agricultural universities in India in faculties like Agronomy, Entomology, Pathology, Soil Science and Horticulture. Under the scholarship program, awardees will also be accorded internship and industry mentorship for their overall development, in addition to getting preference in full-time employment opportunities in the company.

Dr. A. S. Krishnamoorthy, Registrar, TNAU and Dr. Ravi Annavarapu, President, FMC, India Ltd. signed the MoU in the presence of Vice Chancellor, TNAU. Dr. G. Karthikeyan, Professor and Head, Department of Plant Pathology offered the vote of thanks.

About 100 post graduate scholars and staff of Department of Agricultural Entomology and Department of Plant Pathology participated in the MoU signing programme.

Public Relations Officer