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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 Young Woman Entrepreneur

In an effort to transfer TNAU developed technology on “Bacterial cellulose gel”, TNAU has inked technology transfer agreement with a young woman entrepreneur Ms. Anitra Viswanathan of M/s. Lakshmi Carbon, Coimbatore. The worldwide market for bacterial cellulose (BC) is expected to grow at compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of roughly 14.8% over the next five years, will reach 570 million USD in 2024, from 250 million USD in 2019.

Bacterial cellulose (BC), is a purified form of cellulose that has excellent biological affinity, biocompatibility, biodegradability, high porosity, excellent flexibility, high water holding capacity, high purity, high resistant degradation, excellent crystallinity, with high polymerization degree. These characteristic features, along with its biocompatibility, make it an attractive candidate for wide of range of applications, particularly those associated with biomedical and biotechnology. Application of BC in other fields include food and food packaging, water purification, cosmetics, paper making, biomedical, drug delivery, etc. Among them, the well-known industrial applications of BC is the “nata de coco”, a traditional food consumed in the Philippines and other countries in Southeast Asia. In food industries, BC has range of applications from traditional dessert, low cholesterol diet, vegetarian meat, etc. BC is also used in the field of cosmetics including the preparation of facial masks, facial scrubs, personal cleansing formulations, and contact lenses. Some of the major applications in drug delivery are transdermal drug delivery, dental drug delivery, protein delivery, tissue engineering drug delivery, and macromolecular pro-drug delivery.

The Vice-chancellor of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Dr. V. Geethalakshmi said that university is extremely happy and proud of giving a way the technology to an young student woman entrepreneur Ms. Anitra Viswanathan. The Director ABD Dr. E. Somasundram, greeted the buyer of the technology assured all kind of technical and project assistance would be extended from the University. "It is one of the mandate of university to generate revenue by the way of transferring technologies to various stakeholders more particularly microbial technologies" said by Dr. R. Tamil Vendhan, Registrar of TNAU, Coimbatore. The technology developer, Dr. U. Sivakumar, said the bacterial cellulose production using coconut waste water would not only prevent the release of coconut water into the environment from various sources such as coconut oil industry and temple, but also very good substrate for bacterial cellulose (BC) production that can be feedstocks for various other industries such as food, pharma, cosmetics etc., The Director of Natural Resource Management Dr. P. Balasubramaniam, Director of Research, Dr. N. Raveendran were present during the technology transfer agreement meeting.

Public Relations Officer