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To
The Editor,
Sir,

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

TNAU Sensitized ill effects of Parthenium with Different Stakeholders

To create awareness amongst the general public, farmers, school and college students and policy makers and planners about the impact of the obnoxious parthenium weed and how to manage this weed, ‘**Parthenium awareness week**’ was observed between 16th and 22nd August 2022 by the AICRP Weed Management Unit, Department of Agronomy, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore.

Parthenium hysterophorus L. (Asteraceae) a noxious plant, inhabits many parts of the world, in addition to its native range in North and South America and the West Indies. This is a weed of global significance responsible for severe human and animal health issues, such as dermatitis, asthma and bronchitis, and agricultural losses besides a great problem for biodiversity. A single Parthenium plant able to produce 10,000- 25,000 seeds and 1,54,000 seeds/m² area. The Parthenium seeds are viable for more than 10 years. This plant creating severe ill effects to the human being, livestock and crop yield losses.

A webinar on ill effects of Parthenium was given to farmers from different Farmers Producers Organizations located in and around Coimbatore which was coordinated by the Isha Outreach team. Subsequently, a series of Parthenium awareness programme was conducted with UG, PG and Ph.D., scholars of TNAU at Millet, Eastern block farms of the University. The students were actively participated and eradicated the Parthenium. The corporation school students were sensitized about the Parthenium and conducted Essay competition and distributed the prizes to the winning students. The famers of Thondamuthur were are sensitized about the Parthenium and distributed leaflet on Parthenium to the farmers and publics and released zygotogramma beetles in the Parthenium infested areas.

As a part of the “Parthenium Awareness Week 2022”, awareness meeting was organized at Sri Ranganathar Engineering College, Narasipuram. Wherein Dr.S.Panneerselvam, Professor and Head, Department of Agronomy, Dr.P.Murali Arthanari, Associate Professor (Agronomy) and PI, AICRP on Weed Management, TNAU explained about the ill effects of Parthenium and its Management. On the occasion, Mrs. Vijaipriya, Admin incharge of the college and Vice Principal were present. A sensitization programme about Parthenium was organized for farm labourers and elementary school students and the labourers and students have taken Oath that “they will remove the Parthenium in their farm and public utility areas”. The above programmes were organized and coordinated by Dr.P.Murali Arthanari, Associate Professor and Principal Investigator; AICRP Weed Management, Dr.C.Bharathi, Assistant Professor (Soil Science).

Public Relations Officer