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To  
The Editor,  
Sir,

Date: 19.10.2022

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

### **TNAU Celebrates Centenary year of Cotton department**

Department of Cotton, Centre for Plant Breeding and Genetics and Indian Society of Plant Breeders, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), Coimbatore organized a National Symposium on “100 Glorious Years of Cotton Research and Way Forward” at Centre for Plant Breeding and Genetics on 18th and 19th October, 2022.

The main aim of conducting this National Symposium on Cotton is to celebrate the 100 years of cotton research at Department of Cotton, Coimbatore. The cotton department was established during 1922 and released 17 *Gossypium hirsutum* varieties, one *Gossypium barbadense* (CO 18) and one inter-specific hybrid (TCHB 213). The symposium was inaugurated in the Seminar Hall, CPBG in the presence of galaxy of cotton researchers from various research stations/central institutes of the country.

Dr.R.Ravikesavan, Director, Centre for Plant Breeding and Genetics welcomed the gathering. The national symposium was inaugurated with the release of the book of Abstracts on Cotton Research by Dr. R. Thamizh Vendan, Registrar, TNAU. In his inaugural address, he highlighted the importance of cotton crop and the role of high yielding varieties and inter-specific hybrids in cotton for yield improvement. He emphasized that cotton crop production can be increased by developing varieties/hybrids with more short sympodial branches with more number of bolls, genotypes suitable for mechanical harvesting and improved technologies like high density planting etc.

The presidential address was delivered by Dr. Y.G. Prasad, Director, CICR Nagpur. He highlighted the achievements made in cotton research and role of long staple varieties like MCU 5, Suvin, Surabhi, Sumangala and Suraj in textile industries/export market. He further detailed about the development of Bt varieties with early maturity and compact

plant type for high density planting and GWAS, Pre-breeding, tolerance to biotic stress are to be explored for further improvement in cotton research.

Dr. A.H. Prakash, Project Coordinator & Head, CICR-RS, Coimbatore delivered the special address and pointed out that the popular varieties released from the Department of Cotton for commercial cultivation, especially the variety CO17 released during 2020 which is highly suitable for both rainfed and irrigated conditions and for whole South Zone of India, has played a major role in increasing cotton area and production in Tamil Nadu.

Dr. N. Senthil, Director, Centre for Plant Molecular Biology and Biotechnology, Dr. M. Shanthi, Director, Centre for Plant Protection Studies and Dr. D. Suresh Kumar Director, Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development Studies felicitated and graced the function. They emphasized that research priority can be focused towards the development of herbicide tolerant varieties, organic cotton, IPM Model for plant protection technologies and economical studies to solve the technical constraints.

Dr. S. Rajeswari, Professor and Head, Department of Cotton, Coimbatore proposed the formal vote of thanks.

This symposium was attended by more than 110 participants from different disciplines and presented their research work in various theme areas viz., Crop Improvement and Biotechnology, Crop Production and Mechanization, Crop Protection and Policy Issues. This symposium would serve as a common platform to cotton scientists both from public and private sectors, extension functionaries and policy makers to share their experiences and expertise to deliberate upon various issues related to cotton research, production and processing technologies.

**Public Relations Officer**