



**Tamil Nadu Agricultural University**  
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To  
The Editor,  
Sir,

Date: 31.10.2022

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

**TNAU conducts capacity building training to Horticulture officials on Invasive insects in Tomato: Diagnosis & Management**

One day capacity building training to extension functionaries of the State on Invasive insects in Tomato: Diagnosis & Management through the World Vegetable Centre, Taiwan funded project operated in the Centre for Plant Protection Studies, TNAU was held on 27.10.2022 at the Department of Entomology, TNAU, Coimbatore.

Dr. M. Shanthi, Director, CPPS, has presided over the inaugural function and emphasised the importance of eco-friendly IPM techniques for the management of invasive insects on horticultural crops and also highlighted on Tomato pinworm, *Tuta absoluta* a real threat to tomato cultivation in Tamil Nadu. Dr. V. Balasubramani, Controller of Examinations, TNAU has given special note on invasive insects and their impacts in horticultural ecosystem. Dr. Paola Sotelo-Cardona, Scientist (Entomology) from World Vegetable Centre, Taiwan has given key note address on Development of IPM modules for the management of invasive Tomato pinworm and also taught about the ill effects of pesticides on horticultural crops especially in Tomato and lab lab. Dr. S.V. Krishnamoorthy, Professor & Head (Entomology), Dr. G. Karthikeyan, Professor & Head, Plant Pathology and Dr. A. Shanthi, Professor and Head, Dept. of Nematology felicitated the occasion, at the outset, Dr. M. Murugan Professor (Entomology) welcomed the gathering. Dr. N. Anandharaja, Professor and Head (Training Division) evaluated the participant's cognizant capacity about the subject. Dr. N. Manikandaboopathi, Professor (Biotechnology) has envisaged the role of plant viruses in horticulture crops.

An exhibit on life stages and damage symptoms of tomato pinworm was placed for easy understanding. A technical bulletin enumerating detailed facts on the biology and rational management of this key pest was also released for field reference by the extension officers. Around fifty state Department of Horticulture officials from State Department of Horticulture and Plantation Crops officers, Asst. Director of Horticulture from all over Tamil Nadu attended the training and got benefited. In the afternoon session, field level diagnostics study was demonstrated in the Vandikaranur pirivu village, Thondamuthur block, Coimbatore. Horticultural officers were also explained about the benefits of grafting in tomato as a strategy in pest and disease management. Dr. P.S. Shanmugam, Associate Professor (Entomology), Dept. of Agrl.Entomology has proposed vote of thanks.

**Public Relations Officer**