



**Tamil Nadu Agricultural University**  
Coimbatore – 641 003



Dr. M. Rajavel, Ph.D.,  
Public Relations Officer  
Mobile: 97903 47444

Phone: 0422 - 6611302  
Fax: 0422 – 2431821  
E-mail: [pro@tnau.ac.in](mailto:pro@tnau.ac.in)

---

---

To  
The Editor,  
Sir,

Date: 19.06.2023

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

**TNAU conducted Short course on “Herbicide Resistance in Tolerant Crops and Weeds”**

A short course on “Herbicide Resistance in Tolerant Crops and Weeds” was conducted at the Centre for Plant Molecular Biology and Biotechnology, TNAU, Coimbatore from June 8 to 16, 2023. Fulbright scholar from Kansas State University, USA Prof. (Dr.) Mithila Jugulam, was leading the course. Initially, during the inauguration of the course on June 8, 2023, Dr.E.Kokiladevi, Professor & Head, Department of Plant Biotechnology welcomed the 42 participants who were selected from diverse groups of faculties and students. Dr. N. Senthil, Director (CPMB&B) and Dean (SPGS), in his special address, informed that the largest economy next to pesticide is the herbicide market but not much research has been taken up to identify newer molecules, as the crops and weeds are developing resistance to the often used herbicides.

Lectures by Prof. Mithila Jugulam were given during the morning session for two hours followed by practical sessions. The bioinformatics sessions complementing the molecule discovery and creation of herbicide resistance crops were explained by Dr.N.Saranya, Dr.M.Jayakanthan and Mrs.N.Bharathi of the Department of Molecular Biology and Bioinformatics. Soil residue analysis and instrumentation was outlined by Dr.Bharathi, Department of Soil Science. The concept of using the latest biotechnological approaches like Gene-Editing was explained by Dr.S.Varanavasiappan of the Department of Plant Biotechnology.

The valedictory session on June 16, 2023 was chaired by Dr.M.Raveendran, Director of Research, TNAU, Coimbatore. Dr.Raveendran, in his remarks, pointed out that TNAU was the first to develop an herbicide resistant rice genotype “Robin” in India which was introgressed into Pusa-Basmathi varieties released recently. He motivated the scientists to constitute a consortium and identify crops that need to be endowed with herbicide tolerance, as the manpower is diminishing and can increase crop productivity by 30%. Dr.B.Rajagopal, Associate Professor (Biotech), delivered the report on the short-course and the participants feed-back. Finally, Dr.Raghu, Assistant Professor (Microbiology) delivered the vote of thanks.

**Public Relations Officer**