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To
The Editor,
Sir,

Date: 30.06.2023

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

TNAU observed an awareness campaign on “Diagnosis and Management of Plant Parasitic Nematodes in Plantation Crops”

An awareness campaign on “Diagnosis and Management of Plant Parasitic Nematodes in Plantation Crops” was conducted on 27.06.2023 at Jagneri tribal village, Kunjapanai hamlet, Kothagiri Taluk, Nilgiris District. The training was conducted under Tribal Sub-plan scheme funded by AICRP (N), ICAR, New Delhi. Around 50 farmers participated in the campaign. These farmers belong to Irular tribe group. They cultivate plantation crops such as Tea, Coffee and Pepper. The campaign was organized to educate the tribal farmers on yield losses caused by nematode infestation by showing live specimens and management techniques to overcome the same. The gathering was welcomed by Mr. Bagalan, Panchayat Head who has explained about the crops grown in the village and inputs required for the same. The activities of Tribal Sub-plan, AICRP (N), ICAR, New Delhi and role of ICAR in uplifting the livelihood of tribal farmers were detailed by Dr.A.Shanthi, Professor and Head, Department of Nematology, TNAU, Coimbatore. Benefits and application methods of bioagents were explained by Dr.N. Swarnakumari, Associate Professor. Nematode management methods were dealt in detail by Dr. S. Prabhu, Associate Professor. One power sprayer was handed over to the panchayat head for common usage. Farm tool, spade and bioagents viz., *Pochonia chlamydosporia* and *Trichoderma asperellum* were also distributed to farmers. The meeting was concluded with vote of thanks by Mr. Burman, a progressive tribal farmer who has helped us in mobilizing of the participants and facilitated in organising the campaign successfully. Financial support provided by the Project Coordinator, AICRP (N), ICAR, New Delhi and administrative support provided by Dr. M. Shanthi, Director, Centre for Plant Protection Studies, TNAU as well Dr. A. Shanthi, Professor and Head, Department of Nematology, Coimbatore were also acknowledged.

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