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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 conducts Tomato Integrated Pest and Disease Management Experiments, Validation by Farmers & Extension Officials

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University and World Vegetable Center, Taiwan jointly conducts research on “Integrated Pest and Disease Management in Tomato and Lablab bean”. As part of the research, “Tomato Integrated Pest and Disease Management” trials were laid out in farmers field at Mettubavi, Kinathukadavu, Coimbatore District. The ability of grafted tomato to tolerate the bacterial wilt during rainy season been proved by the WVC, Taiwan in other parts of the tomato growing regions in the world. The grafted tomato along with other IPM strategies were evaluated in the present investigation.

As per the technical programme, the field trials have to be evaluated by the farmers and extension officials at three critical stages. The first Participatory Evaluation was conducted on 06.11.2023 in Mettubavi. Dr. M. Shanthi, Director, Centre for Plant Protection Studies, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University presided the programme and explained impact of diseases during rainy season in tomato. She also emphasised that the farmers depends on fungicides to manage the diseases. The research on grafted tomato along with IPDM is being carried out to reduce the plant protection pesticides, she emphasised. The Participatory evaluation by extension personnel and farmers along with scientists give more insights about the performance of treatments.

The Assistant Director of Horticulture Mrs.M.Jamuna Devi explained the schemes operated by the Department and activities carried out along with University for the farmers benefit. The pest management components implemented in the trials were explained by the Professor & Head, Department of Agricultural Entomology Dr. M. Murugan. The use of bio-fungicides in disease management and ability of grafted tomato to tolerate the diseases were narrated by Dr. K. Angappan, Professor & Head, Department of Plant Pathology. The importance of managing viral diseases in tomato for higher yield was emphasised by Dr.G.Karthikeyan, Professor (Plant Pathology). The researches carried out in viral disease management was explained by Dr. Manikanda Boopath, Professor (Plant Biotechnology). Entomology Associate Professor(s) Dr. T. Eliayabharathi, Dr. P.S. Shanmugam and Dr.T.Srinivasan coordinated the farmers participatory evaluation along with technical research personnel. In this event 45 farmers and ten extension officials evaluated the treatment components and gave their feed back.

Public Relations Officer