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To
The Editor,
Sir,

Date: 22.11.2024

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

**International Conference on "Unleashing the Power of Seed & Crop Health
Innovations for a Food Secured World"**

The International Conference on "Unleashing the Power of Seed & Crop Health Innovations for a Food Secured World" has been organized at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore on 21-22 November, 2024 by the Directorate of Seed Centre and Centre for Plant Protection Studies, TNAU, Coimbatore in collaboration with Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute. The inaugural function was conducted on 21.11.2024. The gathering was welcomed by Dr. R. Umarani, Director, Seed Centre, TNAU, Coimbatore. In her Inaugural address she denoted at present, the global population continues to increase and it is estimated to reach 9.7 billion by 2050. Therefore, we have to keep exploring the advancement in agricultural science to develop new technologies, so as to ensure a food secure world. In this, background the 'Seed Centre' and 'Centre for Plant Protection Studies' feel immensely happy to organize this International Conference to Unleash the potential of quality seed and crop health management so as to ensure continuous increase in agricultural productivity of the country she added.

Dr. V. Geethalakshmi, Vice-Chancellor, TNAU, Coimbatore presided over the function and delivered the presidential address in which she has emphasized the importance of quality seeds in food security concerns. In addition she appreciated the efforts taken by the scientists and students in the release of important technologies viz., *Vithai Amirtham* seed coating polymer, seed pelleting, seed cubes and seed stock web portal.

The contributions made on pest monitoring system, management strategies developed for invasive pests, diseases and nematodes, production and distribution of biocontrol agents were also highly appreciated. She also highlighted the Insect Museum, NABL accredited Pesticide Toxicology Laboratory and public private partnership among different firms. Dr. Prachi Kaul, Director, Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute, New Delhi elaborated the working pattern of her institute and requested the participants to exploit the best out of the conference.

The key note address was delivered by Dr. R. Viswanathan, Director, ICAR-Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research, Lucknow in which he insisted the applications of advanced technologies in seed health monitoring. Mr. S. Senthilnathan, Chairman & Managing Director, ACSEN Agriscience during his felicitation narrated the journey in the seed sector and innovations for improvement of soil health. Dr.Srinivasulu Rajendran from International Potato Research Centre, Uganda was the Guest of Honour who emphasized the role of private seed companies in seed delivery systems. He also encouraged the students for collaborative research at their centre.

The chief guest, Dr. Allen Britten, Professor of Chemistry, Cape Breton University, Canada in his inaugural address outlined the importance of conference and motivated the participants to interact with the experts for gathering maximum knowledge. The book of abstracts of the conference was released by Dr.Srinivasulu Rajendran and the dignitaries on the dias also joined the occasion. The formal vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. M. Shanthi, Director, Centre for Plant Protection Studies, TNAU, Coimbatore. Around 400 participants across the globe has participated in the International Conference.

Public Relations Officer