



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

Date: 14.03.2025

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

**TNAU grant disbursement function of  
RKVY-RAFTAAR-R-ABI and NIDHI-PRAYAS**

Agribusiness Incubation Society (ABIS), DST supported Technology Business Incubator (TBI) functioning in TNAU, Coimbatore is a platform for supporting agripreneurs, farmers, student entrepreneurs and other stake holders from 2011.

The grant disbursement function of RKVY-RAFTAAR-R-ABI and NIDHI-PRAYAS was held at ABIS-TBI, TNAU, Coimbatore on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2025. Prof.Dr.V.Geethalakshmi, Vice-Chancellor, TNAU and President (ABIS) presided over the function and distributed the grant.

A grant amount of Rs.81.60 lakhs from the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, RKVY Division, New Delhi for 10 SAIP Cohort IV Grantees were disbursed as second instalment.

Five start-ups were selected for the GoI-DST supported NIDHI PRAYAS grant of Rs. 10.00 lakhs each. The first installment Grant of Rs.6.0 lakhs (Rupees Six Lakhs only) was disbursed to the selected NIDHI-PRAYASEES.

Dr.R.Thamizh Vendan, Registrar, TNAU and Vice President (ABIS), Dr.E.Somasundaram, Director, ABD, Mr.A.V.Gnansambandam, ED & CEO, ABIS, TBI and ABIS EC members were present.

Prof.Dr.V.Geethalakshmi, Vice-Chancellor, TNAU in her presidential speech emphasized the need for retaining the youth in agriculture and to support agri based startups to innovate and implement new technologies for sustainable and profitable agribusiness.

The disbursed grant will be used by the grantees for the development of products and upscaling of their startups in agri and allied ventures.

**Public Relations Officer**