



Tamil Nadu Agricultural University
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To
The Editor,
Sir,

Date: 23.01.2025

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

TNAU with World Vegetable Center, Taiwan organized Tomato Integrated Pest Management – Field Day

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore, and the World Vegetable Center, Taiwan, jointly conduct research on “Integrated Pest and Disease Management in Tomato and Lablab Bean” with financial assistance from Plant Health Initiative. WorldVeg standardized “Tomato Grafting Technology” using disease resistant brinjal root stocks. The grafting technology along with integrated pest and disease management practices were demonstrated in the farmers field at Sattakkalputhur, Kinathukadavu block, Coimbatore district. To showcase the technologies adopted in the demonstration field, a field day was organised in the demonstration field site on 22.01.2025.

The Director, Centre for Plant Protection Studies, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore reminded the audience that tomato farming has substantial yield loss during the rainy season owing to bacterial wilt. The farmers mostly notice this disease incidence at advance stage of infection. The application of fungicides will not yield the anticipated outcomes, in addition to elevating the expenses of plant protection. Tomato grafting technology provides an effective solution with minimum external inputs. The disease resistant brinjal root stock also offers protection against root knot nematodes.

Dr. M. Murugan, Professor and Head, Department of Agricultural Entomology narrated the importance of minimizing insecticide usage in the vegetable crops. He also highlighted that the farmers should use combination of technologies to minimise the insect pest incidence rather than depending on one method. Dr. K. Angappan, Professor & Head, Department of Plant Pathology explained the important diseases of tomato and its integrated management. He informed the gathering that the bacterial wilt can be effectively managed using the resistant brinjal root stocks. He also said that farmers should increase the use of biocontrol agents for crop protection.

Dr. N. Manikanadaboopathi, Professor (Plant Biotechnology) explained the roles played by the weeds in perpetuating viral diseases in plants. He stressed the importance of weed management in bunds to minimize the viral disease incidence in crops. The use of TNAU-Agrikart to purchase the TNAU inputs was explained by the Training division head Dr. N. Anandraja.

Mrs. Jamunadevi, Assistant Director of Horticulture explained about the schemes operated by the Department for the farmers welfare. He also briefed about the importance of drip irrigation and fertigation in horticultural crops.

The tomato grafting technology was demonstrated by Dr. P.S. Shanmugam, Associate Professor (Agricultural Entomology) to the farmers. Dr. M. Karthikeyan, Associate Professor (Plant Pathology) explained the integrated disease management practices practised in the demonstration field. The participatory farmer in the demonstration, Mr. K. Ratinasamy, shared his experience with the participating farmers. The progressive farmers Mr. Pattiyappan and senior research fellows made arrangements for the programme. The farmers visited the demonstration field and observed the IPDM practices and grafted plants performance. About 50 farmers participated in the event.

Public Relations Officer