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To
The Editor,
Sir,

Date: 11-8-2015

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

Peasants Exposed on Technical Know- Hows for Multifold Yield in Sugarcane

In a bid to inculcate the technical nuances of the sugarcane crop, and to unleash the technological updates, the recently evolved and popularly named Sustainable Sugarcane Initiatives (SSI), was espoused the Agricultural research station, Bhavanisagar to organize a purposeful and utility oriented training.

Interspersed with first hand exposure to the practicing farmers, a month long training on the package of technologies was conducted to cover the sugarcane farmers spread over in the 14 blocks of Erode district had gained a huge draw.

A two day training containing 17 batches of farmers with the total strength of 430 have been acquainted with the knowledge details of technologies and skill components through the field experience and video shows. The attempt as a whole, aspired to create a large scale awareness of the TNAU generated technologies in sugarcane, to be sensitized and gear up the farmers to economically handle the inputs with the available resources and owing to the declining water resources.

This initiative has been framed with the lofty goals of the National Agricultural Technological Project to impart the farmers to grow sugarcane with advanced methodology in farming and to optimally and precisely use the inputs and to become cost effective. Owing to the shrinking natural resources and under the constrained economical conditions, the farmers had to naturally inclined to the changing scenario, beholding the technologies by and large. For this to happen the NADP-RKVY has bestowed an amount of Rs 3.268 lakhs to organize a two day training programme for the benefit of sugarcane farmers of Erode District, in order to cover 430 farmers.

Accordingly, under the auspices of Director Extension Education the fund was allotted to Agricultural Research Station Bhavanisagar to carry out the training programmes, after the schedule of dates, place, time and duration of the programmes was received from the Joint director of Agriculture, Erode District.

The inauguration of the training was kickstarted on 25th June 2015, with the presence of the Dr.M.Maheswaran, Director of Research and Dr. S. Bhaskaran, the Special Officer (Seeds), who incentivize the farmers to adhere to the ruling technologies of TNAU for reaping more success through significant yield hike.

Every batch contained 25 farmers who all represented from Sathy Thalavadi, T.N.Palayam, Gobi, Bhavanisagar, Chennimalai, Nambiyur, Ammapettai, Anthiyur, Bhavani, Perundurai, Modakurichi and Erode block except Kodumudi block which had 30 farmers of the Erode District.

Hailed from the ICRISAT, as an origin of evolvement, the SSI has been regenerated and revalidated to suit to the Tamil Nadu Tract, and tried out in the adverse and diverse climatic conditions as the precious commodity, the water once used copiously has shrunkened due to its scarcity and related parameters triggering the yield.

In the interactive session, the feedback experienced was that those trainee farmers were adequately aware of the drip irrigation and its paramount significance to conserve water for a prolonged period, without compromising the yield and quality.

The sessional details were classified as lecture schedules on the topics like status of SSI, Drip Fertigation, protray method of nursery management, Crop management, Pest and Disease management, mechanization in sugarcane and the like. Tricke down effect was witnessed during the field visits at Sevur, Vellodu and certain pockets of Sathy, as the SSI adopted farmers had been motivated to popularize the technologies to their peer groups for huge benefits, showcasing the performance and yield of the crop due to the intervention of TNAU evolved technologies. More amount of gratification was seen amongst farmers as their percentage yield rose to 30 per cent taking to the tune of 62 tonnes per acre.

After a month long training, the valediction was arranged on 05.08.15, to conclude the training sessions and also to assess the opinion of the farmers on the quality, utility and scope of training and to render suggestions for further fine tuning and tailor making close to the regional specificity.

Earlier Dr. V.K. Duraisamy delineated that the trainings conducted over a period of time brought dramatic changes in the livelihood and capacity building of farmers, apart from elevating their income.

Dr. P. Karuppusamy, Professor, (Entomology) Dr. M. Marudachalam, Asst. Prof. (plant pathology), Dr. Sheelavenugopal Asst. Professor (Entomology) and

Dr. M. Manikandan, Asst. Professor (Agrl Engg) were the spokesperson for the training sessions.

Dr. J. Venkatapirabu, Professor, (Agrl Extension) has been the overall co-ordinator for the training programme. Dr. S.K. Natarajan, Asst Professor (Agronomy) shared his expertise as resource person and acted as the overall convener for the training programme. Dr. S. Viswanathan, Joint Director of Agriculture, Erode had been extending the patronage in farmer's identification and mobilization of the farmers across the blocks of the district.

Trainings of these kind the benefit the famers, the pooled response of the trainee farmers of sugarcane shared every possibility for doubling the production and tripling the income, the visionary zeal of the government of Tamil Nadu.

Asst. Public Relations Officer