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To
The Editor,

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Sir,

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

Drip Irrigation in Rice – An Innovative Practice by Farmer got Award

Thiru. M. Parthasarathy, Farmer from Govindapuram village, Dharapuram Taluk, Tiruppur District was selected for “**Innovative Rice Farmer Award**” for the year 2015 by Indian Institute of Rice Research, Hyderabad. Totally 30 farmers from sixteen states across India were nominated for this award. The Rice innovative farmer award is being given to the farmer who has developed innovative product/practice which has potential for wider adoption in rice cultivation. The award was given to him for the large scale adoption of Drip Irrigation in Rice in Amaravathy Sub –Basin in Tamil Nadu.

The award was presented to his son in the “**Innovative Rice Farmers Meet - 2015**” on August 29, 2015 at Indian Institute of Rice Research, Hyderabad by the Hon’ble Union Minister for Labour and Employment Th. Bandara Dattatreya in the presence of Dr. B.J. Padian, Director, Water Technology Centre, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore, Dr. I.S. Solanki, Assistant Director General, Indian Council of Agriculture Research, New Delhi, Dr. V. Ravindra Babu, Director, Indian Institute of Rice Research, Hyderabad.

The award was given to him for the contribution made by Th. M. Parthasarathy in cultivating rice under drip irrigation. He was guided by Dr. B.J. Pandian, Director, Water Technology Centre, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University and converted Govindapuram village under Micro Irrigation in a World Bank funded Project – Tamil Nadu Irrigated Agriculture Modernization and Water Bodies Restoration and Management Project (TN-IAMWARM). Growing rice under drip irrigation is one of the new concept tested by Water Technology Centre, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University and promoted for adoption. But

the adoption of the drip system for rice crop alone may be uneconomical. Th.M.Parthasarathy introduced the drip irrigation for rice in a cropping system approach. He has got support for drip system by Tamil Nadu Agricultural University for onion and cultivated Onion in April – June, raised Maize July- September and cultivated Rice by using the same drip system in October – February. He along with eleven farmers cultivated CR1009 under direct sowing under drip in 2013. During 2014 totally 23 farmers cultivated COR51 in Drip system. On an average the farmers achieved 6 -7.5 tonns / ha yield under drip irrigation. Dr. B.J.Pandian further explained introduction of drip for rice is more economical under cropping system approach and this concept could be widely propagated wherever rice is being cultivated under well irrigation sources where ground water categories classified as over exploited and exploited categories.

He is of the opinion that Govindapuram village farmers have proved to the nation that under limited water condition three crops in a year including rice (Onion- Maize- Rice) could be grown more successfully under drip irrigation. For more details Th. M.Parthasarathy could be contracted through his **Mobile No: 99650 20000**.

Asst. Public Relations Offcier