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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:

ICAR Summer School to be held in TNAU

The ICAR (Indian Research Council of Agricultural Research) sponsored Summer School titled “Multi-pronged Extension Management Strategies for Dryland Agricultural Development with Special reference to promoting Climate Resilient Agriculture” is scheduled to be held for 21 days from Aug. 5-25, 2015 in the Department of Agricultural Extension & Rural Sociology of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), Coimbatore.

Dryland agriculture forms an important part of Indian agriculture as it occupies about 50% of the area under agriculture and contributing considerably to the agricultural GDP (Gross Domestic Product). The production, productivity and overall growth of dryland agriculture are challenged by several factors of which climate change has assumed great significance in recent years. TNAU has always been in the forefront in respect of dryland agricultural research and development, especially in evolving and demonstrating innovative extension strategies, specifically to usher in climate resilient agriculture. The present Summer School aims to expose the participants to a wide range of extension methodologies as follows:

- Land-based extension strategies to promote soil fertility management, rain water harvesting, common property resources, precision farming, millets pulses, oilseeds and fodder crops, integrated farming system, sericulture, medicinal crops and farm mechanization.

- Extension approaches such as participatory watershed management, market-led extension, entrepreneurial development, attracting rural youth, para extension workers, farmers-to-farmer extension, public-private partnership, building value chains, including ICT (Information & Communication Technology) initiatives viz., village knowledge centres, farm crop management system (FCMS), remote sensing application, etc.
- Role of organizations and associations viz., state department of agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, banks, NGOs, SHGs (Self Help Groups), FPOs (Farmer Producer Organizations), etc.
- Institutional arrangements viz., crop insurance, market intelligence, open and distance learning.

It is expected that around 25 agricultural scientists from across the country from 11 states viz., Tamil Nadu., Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Assam, Jammu & Kashmir, Gujarat, Bihar, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh will be participating in the Summer School.

Dr. Ravi Kumar Theodore, Professor (Agricultural Extension), Tamil Nadu Rice Research Institute, TNAU, Aduthurai, Thanjavur District is the Course Director. Dr. M. Ashokan, Professor & Head, Dept. of Agricultural Extension & Rural Sociology, TNAU, Coimbatore is the Associate Course Director of the Summer School.

Asst. Public Relations Officer