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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:

### **TNAU Scientist bagged Tamil Nadu Young Women Scientist Award-2013**

Dr. P. Latha pursued her Bachelor of Science (B.Sc) in Agriculture, Master of Science (M.Sc) in Plant Pathology and Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) in Plant Pathology at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), Coimbatore.

She started her career as a Junior Research Fellow in the Department of Plant Pathology, TNAU, Coimbatore. She worked as a Senior Research Fellow in the Department of Plant Pathology, TNAU, Coimbatore. She also served as Assistant Professor in the Department of Plant Pathology at the Agricultural Research Station, Pattukkottai. Currently, she is working as Assistant Professor in the Department of Plant Pathology, TNAU, Coimbatore.

Dr. P. Latha specialize in the field of Plant Pathology with interest in Biocontrol. She reported “Root Knot Nematode” (*Meloidogyne graminicola*) in rice at the Agricultural Research Station, Pattukkottai. She also reported collar and root rot disease (*Lasioidiplodia theobromae*) in *Jatropha curcas* for the first time in India.

She has attended plant clinic activities and suitable control measures were given in the Agricultural Research Station, Pattukkottai and also in the Department of Plant Pathology, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore.

Dr. P. Latha has published 20 national and 8 international research articles. She has also attended 9 national and 8 international symposiums / seminars.

She has conducted many training programmes for the Department of Plant Pathology, TNAU, Coimbatore. She has also organized mass production of biocontrol agents and self-help group programmes for farmers. She has provided training to farmers/farm women under IAMWARM, ATMA, ISOPOM and NADP schemes at the Agricultural Research Station, Pattukkottai. She has also conducted programmes on plant

protection in rice, pulses, sugarcane, oilseeds and cotton crops and production technology of biocontrol agents for farm high school and college students. She was also involved in different outreach activities in the Department of Plant Pathology such as explaining the activities of the department to school and college students in Tamil Nadu and other states.

Her research projects on biological control, applied soil ecology, the effect of culture media and environmental factors on mycelia growth and pycnidial production of *Lasiodiplodia theobromae* in physic nut (*Jatropha curcas*) biological control of stem rot of groundnut caused by *Sclerotium rolfsii* sacc. with actinomycetes, molecular variability in *Lasiodiplodia theobromae* causing collar and root rot in physic nut, efficacy of biocontrol agents and organic amendment against collar rot disease in groundnut were published in several journals and books.

Dr. P. Latha's research paper, "Induction of Systemic Resistance by the combination of biocontrol agents and botanicals against the early blight disease of tomato" was awarded the Best Paper in poster presentation by the Department of Plant Pathology, TNAU, Coimbatore and by the Indian Phytopathological Society.

The National Seminar on "Convergence of Technologies for Organic Horticulture", HC&RI, TNAU, Coimbatore awarded Dr. P. Latha with the Best Paper in poster session for her research paper, "Effect of biocontrol agents and botanicals against early blight of tomato under in vitro conditions".

For her contributions and in recognition of her performance, she was awarded the "Prof. K. Ramakrishnan Award" for the best student in Plant Pathology by TNAU, Coimbatore.

In recognition of her research work, Science city confers on Dr. P.Latha the prestigious Tamil Nadu Young Women Scientist Award for the year 2013 in the field of Agricultural Sciences.

Public Relations Officer