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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:

**Quality Consciousness and coordinated efforts would promote Spices
Production – Says VC**

The inaugural function of Two day State Level Seminar on Hi-Tech Production of Important Production jointly organized by Dept. of Spices & Plantation Crops, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), Coimbatore and Directorate of Arica nut & Spices Development, Calicut was held here at TNAU on Mar. 19, 2015.

Earlier Dr. Rajamani, Professor and Head, Dept. of Medicinal Plants and Aromatic Crops, TNAU, Coimbatore welcomed the gathering and insisted on the production potential of all sorts of aromatic crops for boosting economy.

Th. Mukesh Shankar, Deputy Director, (Development), Spices Board, Coimbatore while felicitating, though there are 52 spices being cultivated all over the country cardamom plays a crucial role in augmenting the export marketing and post harvesting improvement and value addition. Around 3.17 million hectares were brought under cardamom cultivation, he said, More over he highlighted the Karnataka & Tamil Nadu will be the key player in increasing the area under cardamom clove, nutmeg, turmeric, chillies and pepper. He also projected the efforts and initiatives taken by the scientists and farmers to promote the spices cultivation at Yercaud and lower Palani hills. He furthermore, underscored the need for a branded spices and how regional centre of Erode in a position to promote branded turmeric. He puts a glimmer of hope to the farming community, that in the near future, lot of subsidies, concessions will be given for the farmers, for monitoring quality consciousness and grading processes.

Subsequently Dr. D. Kumaresan, Scientist (Rtd.), Spices Board while felicitating, stressed the need for increased production for all the spices. He also said that the seminars of this kind makes a differentiate as because the symptomatic sharing of knowledge and skills and experiences of scientists and farmers in a two days would bring out a positive repercuioin. He also exhorted the need for enthusiasm and cooperation for promoting and implementing various technologies in augmenting the production potential of coffee, pepper and nutmeg.

Dr. K. Ramasamy, Vice-Chancellor, TNAU, Coimbatore in his presidential note underscored that women partake men folk in the performance of farming and also traced back the literature and transcription of ancient, days where the cultural heritage of the cultivation of pepper was realized. He insisted that the scientists should come forward to stream line the cultivation processing, bar-coding and labeling, to enable a good market and how the technical knowhow must be impregnated for importing high amount of confidence among the farming community to cultivate the spices.

Moreover, he said that the shrinking area under production and the lessons learnt from Kerala must be rectified, for triggering production. He further reiterated, that the Green pepper and white pepper due to its high price in the market should be cultivated adopting proper methodology, technology backup, quality upgradation and grading along with other parameters, He also vehemently told unless the framers succeed, the technological nuances cannot be implemented. Owing to the Governments, civil supplies expansion and dire need for at least 5 tonnes of ginger per day would give a positive signal for increased production. He appealed to everyone for a, coordinated effort with lot of measures and efforts for a realizing, the mission document 2023, doubling the production and tripling the income.

Nearly 250 farmers participated in this seminar. A small exhibition was arranged to depict the cultivation details of various spices. A special issue on the cultivation aspects of 2 days seminar is also released.

Later, Dr. J. Suresh, Professor and Head, Dept. of Spices and Plantation Crops, TNAU, proposed a formal vote of thanks.

Public Relations Officer