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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:

Soil Health Awareness Rally at TNAU

The Department of Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry, Indian Society of Soil Science Coimbatore Chapter and National Service Scheme of TNAU jointly organized a soil health awareness rally on 16-11-15 to commemorate the International Year of Soils 2015

United Nations assembly has announced the year 2015 as the International year of soils. Soil erosion, low soil organic matter and consequential impaired microbial activity and yield decline in crops, soil physical and chemical constraints, improper input management leading to soil problems, impairment of ground water quality, salinization of soil and irrigation water has raised hue and cry for protection of soil resources since it is not only a basic need for agriculture but also life as a whole. Food production has to be raised to 450 million metric tonnes in another decade for which soil health improvement is the imminent need.

Apart from transfer of technologies on soil management to farmers, the department of Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry planned to sensitize the school children, the future citizens on soil health. So far, five programmes in various districts of Tamil Nadu including Coimbatore, Trichy, Thanjavur, Perambalur has been organized.

An awareness rally on soil health was organized on 16-11-15 with 400 NSS volunteers raising slogans on protect the soil, protect the life, no soil, no food, plant trees, prevent soil erosion, integrate the use of manures and biofertilizers etc to sustain soil health.

The rally was inaugurated by Dr. S. Mahimairaja, Dean (Agriculture), TNAU and Dr. V.P. Duraisami, Special Officer (DNRM) and started at Department of soil Science and via Robertson road, Milk Company, Thadagam Road and Lawley Road terminated in the TNAU campus.

Dr. V.V. Krishnamurthi Professor and Head, Dept. of Soil Sciences, TNAU and Office bearers and Members of the Indian Society of Soil Science, Coimbatore chapter and Dr. K. Kumutha, NSS Coordinator and NSS Programme Officers participated. Law and order protection was given by Mr. Balachandhar & Mr. Radhakrishnan, Sub Inspector of Police and group of officials from B2 Police Station R.S. Puram and TNAU Security Officer Mr. Ilango. Programme arrangements were made by Asst. Professors Dr. M.R. Latha and Dr. M. Gopalakrishnan, Dr. A. Vadivel, Professor, Dept. of Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry (SS&AC), TNAU, Coimbatore and team of Soil Scientists and Mr. G. Surya Kumar, Student of B.Sc (Agriculture) and team.

The idea behind the rally is to sensitize citizens on soil health and also Students should be made part of sustainable natural resource management.

Asst. Public Relations Officer