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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 to Sequence Crop and Microbial Genomes

Biotechnology is one of the breakthrough technologies of 21st Century which has potential applications in agriculture, health, industry and environmental protection. In agriculture, biotechnology helps to increase yield, resilience and quality of crops precisely through molecular breeding approaches. Among various biotech tools, Genomics and Bioinformatics help to accelerate development of improved crop varieties by identification of superior alleles through genome sequencing, assembly and annotation.

Realizing the potential applications in agriculture, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) has taken up several Genomics Assisted Crop Improvement Programs towards developing stress tolerant genotypes of major crops viz., rice, sorghum, maize, mung bean, banana, tomato, cotton etc., Dr. K. Ramasamy, Vice-Chancellor, TNAU said that to strengthen and accelerate the research activities in genomics and bioinformatics, TNAU aims to unlock genome complexity of agriculturally important crops and microorganisms for improving the grain and food production in the State. In this effort, TNAU will use next generation genome sequencing and bioinformatics technology platforms.

To facilitate this R&D effort, TNAU signed a MoU, in august presence of Dr. K. Ramasamy, Vice-Chancellor, TNAU with M/s Genome Life Sciences Pvt. Ltd. (GLS), Chennai, represented by Mr. Vinoth Sankaran, Chief Operating Officer. GLS is a provider of Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) services, biological content databases and data analysis products/services. Through this MoU, GLS aims to contribute its longstanding expertise in next generation sequencing and bioinformatics by working with TNAU in various collaborative research and skill development programs and training its young faculty and students in genomics and bioinformatics through workshops, trainings and short courses.

Asst. Public Relations Officer

