



Tamil Nadu Agricultural University
Coimbatore – 641 003

Dr. M. Jegadeesan, Ph.D.,
Assistant Public Relations Officer
Mobile: 94890 56730

Phone: 0422 - 6611302
Fax: 0422 – 2431821
E-mail: pro@tnau.ac.in

To
The Editor,

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Sir,

I request that the following matter may kindly be published in your esteemed daily:

**TNAU gets All India Coordinated Project for Special Research in
Food Quality and Nutrition**

Nutrition-sensitive agriculture is the new concept or the term that will soon be in the lime light, to address food security. This is the need of the hour, as more than half of the global population is not adequately nourished: hunger, micronutrient deficiencies, overweight, and obesity. The nature and causes of malnutrition is complex, and additional challenges such as changing demand for agricultural products as well as climate change and natural resource degradation complicate the situation even more.

Sustainability of food security is one of the important objectives that underlie the entire gamut of work of the university. The core of food security is nutritional security (i.e) access to healthy food and optimal nutrition for all. Even though this country has attained self sufficiency in food production, due improper handling we are losing about 30 per cent perishables and 10 per cent of durables.

TNAU has a mission to ensure food and nutrition security by minimizing post harvest losses and development of value added products through promotion of specific focused interventions, research and advocacy. As one its strategy, a new under graduate degree programme on B.Sc (Food Science and Nutrition) has been introduced from this academic year. This programme has a special emphasis on Food safety and quality control, that are going to be the key players in the future food

system and nutrition - sensitive agriculture. The students of this programme will be endowed to be the food safety and quality control analyst in any part of the globe.

To complement, this strategy of the University, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research has sanctioned a new All India Coordinated Project on Home Science to TNAU to brace the research work of TNAU in achieving the common goal of food and nutrition security. The funding is to a tune of Rs 67.00 lakhs per year, which will facilitate scientists to work in the area of Food and Nutrition.

Intensive research on value addition of millets, development of functional foods and nutraceutical foods, foods to address micro nutrient deficiency and lifestyle disorders with specific reference to food safety and quality will be taken up in this programme. The AICRP will be implemented from the current year at Home Science College & Research Institute, Madurai, a constituent college of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University.

Asst. Public Relations Officer