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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:

Awareness Programme on Schemes of Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA) – Organised by NABARD

A one-day Awareness Programme for farmers on Schemes of the Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority was organized by NABARD in Coimbatore on the programme was inaugurated by Shri Dinesh Rai, Chairman, WDRA, New Delhi.

In his inaugural address, Shri Rai, Chairman, stressed on the necessity of making available to the farmers scientific storage facilities to enable them to avoid distress sale and realize better price for their produce. He further indicated that WDRA is organizing a series of awareness programmes for farmers as well as other stakeholders including banks aimed at popularizing the procedures for accreditation of warehouses and promote pledge financing against Negotiable warehouse receipts (NWRs) issued by such warehouses. The mission of WDRA is to promote scientific warehousing across the country and reduce wastage of foodgrains.

Dr. R. Rabindran, Registrar, TNAU highlighted the steps taken by the University in popularizing improved rodent and pest management practices in the state. He called upon the farmers to actively utilize the scientific warehouse facilities for storage of their produce and said warehouses adopt modern warehouse management practices.

Shri R Inigo Arul Selvan, AGM NABARD while speaking on the occasion indicated that construction of large number of warehouses in the State are being supported through the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund and the Warehousing Infrastructure Fund operated through NABARD. Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies, Cooperative

Marketing Societies, TN Civil Supplies Corporation, State Agricultural Marketing Board and State Warehousing Corporation have constructed warehouses and increased their storage capacity during the last two-three years with the support of NABARD.

Shri Ramakrishnan, Managing Director, Coimbatore District Central Cooperative Bank informed that through NABARD's Rural Infrastructure Development Fund, the state has constructed a number of small godowns maintained by the Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies. Steps are being taken in association with NABARD for accrediting these warehouses so that these godowns can issue Negotiable warehouse receipts. He further pointed out that, pledge financing for Small / Marginal Farmers against these the NWRs can be issued at 7%.

Shri Krishnamoorthy, Lead District Manager, said that the banks are willing to extend credit both for construction of warehouses as well as for pledge financing against NWRs.

The Farmers were also taken to the Warehouse of Central Warehousing Corporation to acquaint them with the practices followed by a scientific warehouse in storage of foodgrains as well as issue of NWRs.

Public Relations Officer