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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:

Calculate & Digitalize Farming System Models - Vice Chancellor, TNAU

The 31st Biennial Workshop on "Integrated Farming System" under All India Co-ordinated Research Project jointly organized by Tamil Nadu Agricultural University and Indian Institute of Farming System Research, Modipuram is being organized at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore from December 22-24th, 2014. The inaugural session of the workshop was held on 22nd December, 2014. About 100 Scientists involved in Farming System Research from all parts of the country are participating in the three days programme.

Dr. K. Ramasamy, Vice Chancellor, TNAU in his inaugural address stressed the need to address the difficulties of marginal farmers of the country through farming system approach. While focusing on strategies to enhance the food grains productivity, efforts to calculate precisely the inflow and out flow of the farm, through Farming System Research for upscaling. Youth in farming can be retained only if the farm income is in and around Rs,40,000/- per month, which is possible using advanced techniques like net cultivation, precision agriculture and by growing vegetables and flowers.

Manuring through traditional techniques such as cattle or sheeps penning followed by ploughing, green manuring etc., will improve soil fertility. And for an average of 3 acres of land area, identifying a suitable crop – animal – tree - bird components for system productivity and effective utilization of components such as draught and milch animals etc., are the need of the hour. Disaster management measures in IFS should be given priority in future research.

Utilizing the voids of pregnant animals, which contains immunity inducing factors (proteins), needs emphasis and there is an urgent need to promote bio based farming and economy through farming system research and extension, he added. He released two books and an action CD on Tribal Sub Plan activities of Integrated Farming System unit of TNAU.

Dr. B. Gangwar, Director, Indian Institute of Farming System Research, Modipuram in his presidential address highlighted the achievements. Lot of works in IFS have been done by TNAU and All India Co-ordinated Research Project - Integrated Farming System (IFS) for the past 16 years. Tamil Nadu Agricultural University is the pioneer in farming system research since 1984 and contributed significantly. Sustainability in production, income, employment, energy usage and quality of the produce are the expectation of the futuristic research on IFS, he added. Intensive discussions on On-station and On-farm research on IFS will be made during the Workshop and deliberated for the forthcoming years.

Dr. K. Velayudham, Director (Crop Management) TNAU, in his special address emphasized the need for effective utilization of natural resources for sustaining crop and animal productivity, which is possible only through integration of farm resources, recycling and reuse.

Dr. M. Maheswaran, Director of Research, TNAU in his special address, recollected the role of multidisciplinary team of scientists in developing economically stable models of IFS to suit Indian conditions.

Earlier Dr. N. Asoka Raja, Organizing Secretary and the Professor and Head, Department of Agronomy of the Biennial workshop welcomed the gathering. Dr. E. Somasundaram, Chief Agronomist, AICRP-IFS, TNAU, Coimbatore proposed a vote of thanks.

Public Relations Officer