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To
The Editor,

Date: 7-12-2016

Sir,

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

5th Dr.B.Ramamoorthy Memorial Lecture

All over the World, World Soil Day is celebrated to make aware of the importance of soil. Soil is a critical component of natural system and through its contribution to food, water and energy security it acts as a mitigator of biodiversity loss and climate change. On the eve of World Soil Day the Dept. of Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry, TNAU, Coimbatore has organized fifth Dr. B. Ramamoorthy memorial lecture.

Dr. B.Ramamoorthy memorial lecture was delivered on 05.12.2015 by Dr.M.Velayutham, Former Director, National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning, Nagpur at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore. In his welcome address, he pointed out that Dr.B.Ramamoorthy was one of stalwarts among the Soil Scientists of this country during 20th century in Soil Fertility and Fertilizer Use Research. Dr.B.Ramamoorthy has evolved the inductive cum targeted yield concept suited to our Indian soils and climatic conditions.

Dr. K. Kumar , Special Officer, Directorate of Natural Resource Management, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore in his speech on introduction of the speaker brought out laudable contribution of Dr. M. Velayutham towards various fields of Soil Science with special reference to Soil Survey, Remote Sensing and Natural Resource Management. He emphasized the crucial role of Soil Scientists towards soil sustainability at this juncture.

Dr. M. Vealyutham , Former Director, National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning, Nagpur while delivering the 5th Dr.B.Ramamoorthy Memorial Lecture on “Soil Test Crop Response Relationships in Farmer’s fields – Key to Fertiliser Use and Soil Fertility Management ” - gave an overview about soil and fertilizer nutrients, Soil Testing and Crop Response to Fertilisers, different response types and fluctuations of soil fertility. He also emphasized about soil testing in future.

While stressing the importance of soil testing, he remembered it was Dr. Ramanmoorthy who brought out the quantitative interpretation of soil testing and fertilizer recommendation for different yield targets. For sustaining soil fertility and for getting higher yields, there is a need to diagnose the native properties, potential and problems of each piece of land. The basic and applied research should be centred on this. The fundamental values of soil testing lies in contact with farmers for disseminating best management practices ; realizing targeted yield of crops and profitability from fertilizer use ; maintaining soil health and productivity; ensuring sustainable agriculture and soil quality and enhancing agricultural production at farm, state and national level.

Software based Decision Support System for Integrated Fertiliser Recommendation (DSSIFER) and web based Remote Sensing & Geographic Information System of crop management helps in fertilizer recommendations based on soil fertility. Also, the speaker mentioned that development of soil fertility maps at different spatial level will help in area wise soil fertility interpretation for scientific fertilizer distribution and use promotion for correcting the net negative balance between crop removal and fertilizer added which has been around 8- 10 million tonnes/ year.

Earlier, Dr.K.Arulmozhiselvan, Professor and Head, Department of Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry welcomed the gathering. Dr. P. P. Mahendran, Professor (SS&AC) and ISSS councillor proposed the vote of thanks.

Public Relations Officer