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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 Observed Parthenium Awareness Week 2016

Parthenium hysterophorus L. (Asteraceae), a noxious plant, inhabits many parts of the world, in addition to its native range in North and South America and the West Indies. This is a weed of global significance responsible for severe human and animal health issues, such as dermatitis, asthma and bronchitis, and agricultural losses besides a great problem for biodiversity.

To create awareness amongst the general public, farmers, school and college students and policy makers and planners about the impact of the obnoxious parthenium weed and how to manage this weed, 'Parthenium awareness week' was observed between 16th and 22nd August 2016 by the AICRP Weed Management Unit, Department of Agronomy, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore. In this connection a series of programmes viz., Parthenium Quiz and Essay competition among the Under Graduate Students of TNAU Main campus, Parthenium awareness demonstrations, exhibitions and awareness meetings were conducted with wide publicity about Parthenium, its ill effects and control.

As a first programme of “Parthenium Awareness Week” (16th August, 2016), Essay competition was organized at the Department of Agronomy, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore for the under graduate students of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University.

The Quiz competition (17th August, 2016), was organized at Department of Agronomy, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore with Under Graduate students of different UG degree programmes at TNAU Main campus. On 20th August, 2016, a demonstration on parthenium management was organized for NSS volunteers of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University.

In this programme, Dr.C.R.Anandakumar, Registrar, Dr.M.Jawaharlal, Dean (Horticulture), Dr.C.Jayanthi, Director (Crop Management), Dr.P.Devasenapathy, Professor and Head, Department of Agronomy, NSS Programme officers, faculties of TNAU were participated. All the participated members were involved in uprooting of Parthenium at the campus area. The activities initiated by the Weed Control Unit, Department of Agronomy for the control of Parthenium were highlighted to participants and management of parthenium was demonstrated.

Subsequently, a meeting was organized with displays and chemical kits for managing Parthenium. This programme was presided over by Dr. C.R.Anandakumar, Registrar, TNAU and stressed the importance of weeds and their survival mechanism in the ecosystem. Further, he added that Parthenium has higher biomass production capacity; this can be effectively utilized for manure preparation.

Dr.C.Jayanthi, Director, Crop Management, TNAU, in her address, she indicated the seed production capacity of the Parthenium and its cyclic management for complete removal in the environment.

Dr.C.Chinnusamy, Professor and Principal Investigator; AICRP Weed Management explained the ill-effects of Parthenium and its management. The winners of Essay and Quiz competition have received the prizes.

Earlier, Dr. P.Devasenapathy, Professor and Head, Department of Agronomy welcomed the gathering and Dr.P.Murali Arthanari; Assistant Professor (Agronomy) proposed the vote of thanks and explained about the different aspects of Parthenium through display boards.

Asst. Public Relations Officer