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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:

Bioconcorrenza'16 & PG Biotechnology seminar in TNAU

Two days national level conference on “Bioconcorrenza’16 & PG Biotechnology seminar” is held on Tamil Nadu Agricultural University during 9-10 March 2016. The conference is organized by Third year B. Tech (Biotechnology) and Third year B. Tech (Bioinformatics) students of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) every year. During the event leading biotechnology company personals and scientists will deliver stimulating talk. Students from various Universities and educational Institutions participate in this event, and exhibit their research breakthroughs in poster display competition. In addition Post graduate students will deliver oral presentations of their research progress and achievements.

The first day of the function with homage to late Padmabushan Dr. S. Ramachandran who was one of the key persons in the development of biotechnology, the first day function was inaugurated. During inauguration felicitation address was delivered by former Director of Centre for plant molecular biology and biotechnology (CPMB&B) Dr. S. Sadhasivam, Dr. C.R. Anandhakumar, Registrar, Dr. M. Maheswaran, Director of research, Dr. R. Chandrababu, Director, CPMB&B, Dr. S. Mahimairaja, Dean, AC&RI, Coimbatore, Dr. S. Mohan, Dean, SPGS, Dr. N. Ragupathi, Director, Students welfare, TNAU, Coimbatore, and Dr. K. Ilamurugu, Controller of examination, TNAU, Coimbatore and the vice chancellor of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) Dr. K. Ramasamy.

Dr. S. Sadhasivam and Dr. Chandrababu elaborated the contributions of Dr. S. Ramachandran, and mentioned him as an architect of bioinformatics.

Dr. C.R. Anandha Kumar, Registrar, TNAU mentioned that the field of biotechnology is like a great ocean to explore a lot for human and environmental welfare. He mentioned that the day Feb'28 Raman Effect was discovered, and it was celebrated as Science day in India. Hence the Biotechnology and Bioinformatics students of TNAU are celebrating 'Bioconcorrenza' every year in the first week of March to celebrate Sir C V Raman's discovery.

Dr. M. Maheswaran encouraged students to involve in research and development. Dr. S. Mahimairaja appreciated B. Tech (Biotechnology) and B. Tech (Bioinformatics) students' achievements in obtaining research internships from reputed International Institutes like Khorana fellowship in USA. He mentioned that the biotechnology will play major role in eliminating heavy metal toxicity like chromium in soil and ground water.

Dr. S. Mohan encouraged students to develop or contribute to novel indigenous innovations. Dr. N. Ragupathi encouraged students to give preference to pursue higher studies and then obtaining jobs immediately after under graduation. Dr. K. Ilamurugu asked the students to do great achievements in their curriculum and research.

Dr. K. Ramasamy, Vice-Chancellor, TNAU, Coimbatore in his inaugural address said that our alumni are spread around the world in reputed companies and research institutes, and expressed strong and healthy bondage of the alumni with the institute, teachers and students. He said that the contribution of women in Tamil Nadu government and in Universities dramatically increased. Seventy-four percent of the students pursuing higher education in Tamil Nadu are women and fifty-two percent of the professor and heads of various departments in TNAU are women. He also emphasized and motivated the scholars to pursue their research in India citing the example of Sir. C. V. Raman, the Nobel laureate. Hence students should come up with novel innovations and ideas to develop indigenous technologies.

Special guests Dr. Aravind Kapur, CEO, Rasi seeds (P) Ltd., and Dr. Anupampaliwal, Eolva Biotech (P) Ltd, Chennai have delivered talks about recent trends in plant biotechnology for agriculture development. Dr. Aravind Kapur talked about the global and national scenario of plant biotechnology. He also elaborated the applications gene editing tools in recent days.

Shortlisted students from various Universities and educational Institutions delivered oral presentation about their research project aims, methodology and achievements of their undergraduate, post graduate or doctoral works. Dr. Anupam Paliwal elaborated in detail about the recent biotechnology tool 'CRISPR' in gene editing.

During poster presentation session shortlisted participants display their posters and explained their research objectives and achievements to the visitors. Finally Biotechnology quiz programme 'BIOWIZZ' preliminary round and a talent show program 'Shipwreck' were conducted, and participants from various institutions enthusiastically compete in the quiz.

The second day of national level technical symposium, BIOCONCORRENZA'16 was started with the final round of the quiz programme called 'biowizz' on 10th march, 2016. Followed by the technical speech was given by the invited guest speakers Dr. Shivendra Bajaj, executive director of the association of the biotech led enterprises-Agriculture focus group(ABLE-AG) and Dr. N. Bharathi, Director, Grow more biotech (P) Ltd., Hosur.

Dr. Shivendra Bajaj insisted that the students should have a strong foundation by reading basic text books. He discussed various topics regarding careers in agricultural biotechnology. He also mentioned biotechnological oriented researches are more expensive, and that is the main reason for biotechnology based crop improvement programmers are in lagging phase in India. Among the countries increased the productivity by adopting recent technologies, India are in a low rank. New solutions combined with biotechnology can address various environmental issues. He motivated the students to develop soft skills apart from their academic degrees because most of the students. He asked the students to keep their minds open to identify what they are really interested in, and pursue their dream goals in their mind. Time management is very important and "The more we manage time, the more we become the productive person".

Followed by Dr. N. Barathi, an alumnus of TNAU delivered inspiring talk on research innovation in plant tissue culture and applied biotechnology. He mentioned that biotechnology is a tremendously emerging field after information technology. He shared his success stories of bamboo cloning and his innovations in his company grow more (P)

Ltd., Hosur. He encouraged students to be involved in creative innovations and discoveries. He stated that India is still a developing country due to lack of technology and future young scientists to do more researches to pour technology. He also pointed out the need for biofuel since fuel scarcity is the major environmental issue. Then during PG student seminar session post graduate and PhD students presented their research findings.

Then valedictory function and price distribution session was started with the welcome address of 3rd B.Tech biotechnology student Miss. Vadivudainayaki. A brief report about bioconcorrenza'2016 was reported by Ms.S hanmugapriya 3rd B.Tech bioinformatics. The valedictory address was given by Dr. K. Ilamurgu controller of examination. He motivated students to achieve their dreams and goals by having courage. He also quoted to look back visionaries like Dr.APJ Abdul Kalam, Thomas Alva Edison, Abraham Lincoln.

In addition several competitive events were conducted during the Bioconcorrenza'16, and prizes were distributed for the winners and runners for the competitions namely biowizz, Poster presentation of students research project, Photography, Tech-talk, Just a minute talk, Flip side, Bio-marketing, Chems sketch, Fiction writing, Web designing, Pick a sick, Tool finder, Mock up model, and Post graduate student seminar. The prizes were awarded to the winners by Dr. R. Chandrababu, Director of CPMB and Dr. K. Ilamurgu, Controller of examination. The students of third year Biotechnology and Bioinformatics programme organized in to several committees and successfully organized the symposium.

Asst. Public Relations Officer