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To  
The Editor,

Date: 27-10-2016

Sir,

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

### **Field day on Nematode management in Tuberose**

Tuberose is one of the highly profitable flower crop cultivated in and around Sathyamangalam of Erode district. In recent days tuberose farmers are incurring heavy losses due to the infestation of root knot nematodes.

A field day and a demonstration of use of ecofriendly bio agents *Purpureocillium lilacinum* (= *Paecilomyces lilacinus*) and *Pochonia chlamydosporia* for the management of the root knot nematodes was conducted on 24.10.2016 at Varatham Palayam village near Sathyamangalam, Erode District.

Dr. Raman K. Walia, Project Coordinator of All India Coordinated Research Project on Nematodes, New Delhi participated in the group discussion with farmers as the chief guest and obtained the first hand informations from the farmers on the extent of damage and losses they incur in tuberose due to the nematodes. He also explained about the nematodes on various crops and the ways and means of their management. Dr. M. Sivakumar, Professor, Department of Nematology spoke on various measures being taken by the Department of Nematology to solve nematode problems on various crops.

Dr. K. Poornima, Professor and Scheme Officer, All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP-N) interacted with farmers on the nematode problems they face and explained various ecofriendly ways of managing nematodes by quoting success stories.

Dr. N. Swarnakumari and Dr. P. Kalaiarasan, Assistant Professors of the AICRP-N scheme explained to farmers on the use of bioagents like *Purpureocillium lilacinum* (= *Paecilomyces lilacinus*) and *Pochonia chlamydosporia* and their mode of action on root knot nematodes. About 30 farmers participated in the field day and they had a chance to see the live nematodes under

microscope. Later the scientists of the Department of Nematology, TNAU demonstrated the incorporation of the inocula of the bioagents on decomposed Farm yard manure, incubation (for about 10 days) after sprinkling water and application to soil. Dr. Raman K. Walia and the nematologists inspected the nematode infested tuberose fields.

About 10 final B.Sc (Ag.) students undergoing Rural Agricultural Works Experience which is a part of their curricula also participated in the function and method demonstration.

Public Relations Officer