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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:

Staff Training Programme on Biogas Technology in TNAU

Four days staff training programme on “Biogas Technology” was organized by Biogas Development Training Centre (BDTC), Department of Bioenergy, Agricultural Engineering College and Research Institute, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore jointly with Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, New Delhi between 19-1-2015 and 22-1-2015. The centre will cater the needs for waste recycling through biogas plants in Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry, Kerala, Andaman Nicobar and Lakshadweep islands.

Twenty participants from Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Lakshadweep islands which include Biogas Technicians from DRDA, Deputy Directors of Agriculture, Scientists of DST, officials/technical staff of Electrical Department and Energy Development Agency attended the programme. The training was inaugurated by Dr. C. Divaker Durairaj, Dean, AEC&RI, TNAU, Coimbatore on 19-1-2016. During his inaugural address he stated that TNAU is the pioneer in biogas technology formed by Prof. K.R. Swaminathan in the year 1982. Our institute takes the credit to spread biogas technology throughout the country and also he requested the participants to utilize the training to know about all renewable energy systems for developing susitanable energy in future and to meet the energy needs particularly in the rural areas of our country.

The valedictory session was held on 22-1-2016 and the chief guest address was delivered by Dr. G.Giridhar, Deputy Director General/Head, SRRA and Biomass Division, National Institute of Wind Energy, Chennai. He emphasized that the BDTC, TNAU is a key to Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) in spreading Biogas Technology. The scientists/officers joined in the Ministry, have been trained from this TNAU centre during 1987 to 1990. Likely I had been trained from this institute and now I am serving MNRE for more than 25 years in various aspects of renewable energy. Biogas and Solar energy are two important energy areas; have to develop massive scale to reach the rural areas. He quoted the example of biogas plant linked with milk production and by product development as well as organic agriculture in Idukki district of Kerala state. Recently, the cost of solar based electricity has come down to 4.35 Rs/kWh from 6 to 7 Rs per unit earlier.

Earlier he delivered an expert lecture on Biomass Energy and interacted with participants to set up community based biogas plant in concerned region thereby we can promote the growth of biogas technology among farming community and for the benefit of maintaining sanitation with villages.

Dr. S. Pugalendhi, Professor and Head Cum Coordinator, BDTC, Department of Bioenergy, TNAU, Coimbatore proposed the Vote of Thanks with the assurance that biogas system will regain its strength with the transfer of technology to the farmers as LPG subsidy will be cancelled in near future. He quoted the importance of this training centre and catering the needs of other states apart from TamilNadu, first time we received the participants from Kerala and Lakshadweep islands.

The programme was covered with various lectures and demonstrations in the field of biogas and also other renewable energy technologies. As a part of the training, the participants were taken to field visits to gain practical exposure about the construction of Dheenabandhu biogas plants in Muthur Village of Kinathukadavu Union and toilet lined biogas plant at Nehru Nagar, kitchen and dining waste community biogas plant at Kurudampalayam Panchayat, Coimbatore district.

Asst. Public Relations officer