



Tamil Nadu Agricultural University
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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:

Students of Cornell University visit TNAU for experiential learning

Students and faculty members of Cornell University, USA, University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad and Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat visited Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore on 11-1-2016 on cross country learning as a part of International Agriculture and Rural Development programme of Cornell University, USA. TNAU provided the visiting students an opportunity to see agricultural development in India, particularly Tamil Nadu and to promote interdisciplinary exchange among faculty, students and their Indian counterpart. A total of 50 students and faculty members from 3 different study groups namely agricultural systems, rural infrastructure and value addition visited different research centres of TNAU and orchard. Students also went round the campus on bicycle.

Cornell students had an interactive session with TNAU students regarding the major areas of agricultural research in India and USA and challenges faced by Indian farmers. The students were exposed to the major initiatives of TNAU with regard to transfer of technology in the e-Extension, Kisan call centres and Community Radio station. Students were explained various food processing techniques to avoid post harvest losses in agricultural and horticultural crops. The students also visited the Directorate of Agribusiness development to know how TNAU helps to commercial product and support given to upcoming entrepreneurs. Research in the area of Nanotechnology impressed the visitors. The help extended to farming community by

informing them the price of produces on time by DEMIC cell of TNAU was also appreciated.

The visiting students and faculty members had interaction with the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. K. Ramasamy and shared their impression about their visit. The Vice-chancellor suggested them that to learn through practical experience. He highlighted that the Indian farming was dominated by small-holding farmers and 60% of rural population depend on farming and allied activities which was in contrast to USA or Europe. He emphasized the importance of food safety and he indicated that India could tap the vast potential available for exporting processed food to European market once the Indian producers meet the food safety standards.

Asst. Public Relations Officer