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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:

More Crops per Drop of Water Mantra to increase water use efficiency – TNAU VC Says

Water Technology Centre (WTC), Tamil Nadu Agricultural university (TNAU), Coimbatore is organizing three days National Congress on “New Challenges and Advances in Sustainable Micro Irrigation” in TNAU from Mar. 1-3, 2017. Around 350 participants from all over India attended this congress.

Mr. C.V. Theivendran, Chief Engineer, Dept. of Agricultural Engineering, Govt. of Tamil Nadu in his felicitation address said that water is becoming scarce commodity. Hence he requested the delegates to promote adoption of micro irrigation techniques among the farming community and create awareness about water should be used at quantity at right time in the right place. Designing appropriate equipments with specific to crop is more important, he added.

Shri. Naresh Modi, Project Director, National Committee on Plasticulture Applications in Horticulture (NCPAH), New Delhi in his felicitation address said that due to land fragmentation, adoption of farm implements for irrigation is becoming a challenge. It is the opportunity for the scientific fraternity to provide appropriate technology, which is suitable for our land holdings.

Dr. S. Bhaskar, Assistant Director of General (Agro Forestry), ICAR, New Delhi in his special address told that it is the time to take up micro irrigation at next level that “Tissue irrigation”. Irrigation shall be given directly to ‘Xylem’ tissues. This technology already tested in coconut and need testing for crops and other trees.

Dr. K. Ramasamy, Vice-chancellor, TNAU, Coimbatore in his presidential address asserted that, irrigation is an inter disciplinary team work. Before we expect the farmers to adopted our technology, the government should provide necessary infrastructure facilities to them. He requested that Government should invest in creating infrastructure for farmers, which is the foremost need of the farming community.

Farmers did not want subsidy but they expected us to deliver good quality seed, inputs and assured water supply for at least three months. If government is dedicated to provide these three ingredients then farmers definitely surprise us with good yield, he added.

Textiles, spices, leather food processing industries are all supported by agriculture. So, agriculture not only needed to meet the food demand of the country but also raw material demand of many industries. If farmers are provided with adequate infrastructure for processing, value adding, then they can sustain their life, he added.

Dr. A.K. Singh, Vice-Chancellor, RVSKVV, Gwalior, MP in his inaugural address emphasized the research priorities on measures to increase the water use efficiency. Subsurface irrigation system long term effect of poor quality water usage sensor based variable rate of irrigation water application developing water solute micronutrient fertilizers use of organic inputs for drip fertigation etc., he added.

In this congress, two farmers namely, Shri. M.Parthsarathy of Govindapuram Village in Dharapuram and Shri. P.Vetrivelan of Thondamuthur in Coimbatore district were presented with Best Micro Irrigation Farmers Award. Also four scientists Dr. K. Palanisamy, Former Director, WTC, TNAU, Dr.S.Raman, Advisor, Gujarat Green Revolution Company, Vadodara, Dr. R. Sakthi Vadivel, Emeritus Professor, Centre for Water Resources, Anna University, Dr. Goel, Retd. Professor, USA were given distinguished scientist award for their outstanding work in the field of water.

Dr. R.K. Sivanappan, Founder Director of Water Technology Centre, TNAU has been given with “Life time achievement award” for his contribution in the field of “Micro Irrigation”

Earlier, Dr. B.J. Pandian, Organizing Chairman NCMI2017 and Director, WTC, TNAU, Coimbatore welcomed the gathering. Finally, Dr. S.P. Ramanathan, Organizing Secretary NCMI 2017 and Professor (Agronomy), WTC, TNAU, Coimbatore proposed a formal vote of thanks.

Public Relations Officer