



Tamil Nadu Agricultural University
Coimbatore – 641 003

Dr. E. Somasundaram, Ph.D.,
Public Relations Officer
Mobile: 94890 56730

Phone: 0422 - 6611302
Fax: 0422 – 2431821
E-mail: pro@tnau.ac.in

To
The Editor,

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Sir,

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

**Award for the Outstanding AICRP- Micronutrient Centre to TNAU,
Coimbatore Centre**

Among the twenty two centres of ICAR - All India Coordinated Micro, Secondary and Pollutant elements in Soils and Plants, the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University of Coimbatore Centre has been conferred with the outstanding ICAR-AICRP Micronutrients Centre Award in the recently held 28th National workshop of ICAR-AICRP Schemes during 21-23 March 2017 at Indian Institute of Soil Science, Bhopal.

The Coimbatore centre of TNAU has been recognized for its excellence in micronutrient research and overall performance in the field of delineating the micro and secondary nutrients status in the soils of Tamil Nadu, fixing critical limits to make fertilizer recommendations, developing management strategies to increase the crop yield and soil health. The studies on Zn nutrition in soil- plant - animal continuum further strengthened the activities of the centre. The team has also demonstrated the impact of various micronutrient management strategies in the farmer's holdings and also created considerable awareness among them through field days, interaction meetings, spot advices, etc.

The team is lead by Dr. T. Chitdeshwari, Professor and supported by Dr. D. Jegadeeswari, and Dr. P. Malathi, Assistant Professors, Department of Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry, TNAU, Coimbatore. The centre has also made publications for the benefit of farmers in Tamil and developed micronutrient mixtures specifically for 11 major crops.

In the same event, the S N Ranade Memorial Award for excellence in micronutrients research in the field of agriculture has been awarded to Dr. T. Chitdeshwari, Professor, Department of Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore. A silver medal and a certificate has been given to the scientist for her contribution in diagnosing and management of micronutrient deficiencies in soils and crops, investigating the dynamics of micronutrients in soil ecosystem, besides developing strategies to improve the crop yield and maintain soil health.

Public Relations Officer