



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:

TNAU Conference on “Nutritional Security”

The conference on “New vistas in Vegetable Research towards Nutritional Security under Changing Climate Scenario” was held at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), Coimbatore On Dec. 6, 2017. The conference was started with prayer and lighting lamp by the dignitaries.

Dr. James George, Project Co-ordinator, Tuber Crops, Trivandrum indicated that the vegetable production has direct influence with climate change and the adverse effects can be overcome by protected cultivation.

Dr. Major Singh, Project Co ordinator, DOGR, Pune also stated that the over and under production and price hike of the three major vegetables including tomato, onion and potato need to be stabilized.

The Director of T Stanes and Company, Coimbatore, Mrs. Lakshminarayanan, also addressed the gathering.

Mr. S.Nagoor Ali Jinnah, Chief General Manager, NABARD, Chennai stated that concentration is needed on the thrust areas of economic, ecological, equity for sustainable agriculture. He also emphasized to take up research on value addition of moringa and amaranthus which is fetching high demand. Farmers Producers Organization (FPO) should be strengthened to improve the farmers income.

The Vice Chancellor of TNAU Dr. K. Ramasamy also indicated that seeds of aggregatum onion is being produced by TNAU and distributed to the farmers. The Students

Farmers Participatory approach and Earn While you Learn programme are successfully being implemented by the colleges of TNAU, Coimbatore. Research centers for citrus at Sankarankoil, Mango at Paiyur and Grapes at Theni were also started by TNAU recently.

Dr. N.K Krishnakumar, Chairman, International Bioversity Authority, New Delhi emphasized that research should be oriented towards the nutrition for older people as well as for the development of varieties and hybrids for pest, disease and flood tolerance. Underutilized vegetables can be exploited suitably for vegetable improvement programme. The research on promotion of food safety against aflotoxin and heavy metals may be initiated. Around 13 publications including souvenir, research abstarts and books related to vegetable crops were released during the inaugural session of the conference.

Earlier, Dr. M. Jawaharlal, Dean (Hort.) Coimbatore, welcomed the gathering. Dr. T. Arumugam, Organizing secretary, NCVR, TNAU, Coimbatore proposed a formal vote of thanks.

Public Relations Officer