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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:

### **Training to Tribal Farmers on Organic Cultivation of Samai**

Sixty tribal farmers (47 Men and 13 Women) of Nammiampattu Panchayat, Jawathu hills, Polur block, Tiruvannamalai district were trained on 19.01.2017 about the organic cultivation of samai and homestead cultivation of vegetables for enhancement of their livelihood and nutritional security.

The training programme was organized by the Department of Agri. Entomology, TNAU, Coimbatore with funds of ICAR AICRP on Biological control of crop pests under Tribal Sub Plan. Under the training programme the tribal farmers were enriched with knowledge on organic cultivation using biofertilizers, growth regulators, antagonists, biopesticides, entomofungal agents and entomophages and establishment of homestead vegetable cultivation.

Each tribal farmer was supplied (at free of cost) 5 kg of samai seeds, biofertilizers like *Azospirillum*, *Phosphobacteria* (1kg each), growth promoters like Panchakavya (1 lit) drought tolerance pink pigmented facultative methylotrap PPFM (350ml), antagonists like *Pseudomonas* (1 kg) to control diseases, *Beauveria bassiana* (250 g), and nimbidine (100 ml), yellow polythene sticky trap to control insect pests and vegetable seeds like, bhendi, amaranthus and snake gourd to raise homestead garden for nutritional security.

In addition, demonstrations on the use of nimbidine, egg parasitoid *Trichogramma* spp. predators like green lace wing, *Chrysoperla* and *Cryptolaemus* were

also conducted. Further an interactive session to exchange the ideas and to clarify the doubts was carried out. The training programme was organized by Dr.S.Sridharan, Professor and Dr P.A. Saravanan, Asst. Professor, Dept. of Agricultural Entomology, TNAU, Coimbatore and facilitated by Thiru. P. Vadamalai, ADA, Polur and Dr. N. Ramakrishnan, SCO, Polur block. At present the farmers are growing samai, ragi, horse gram, niger, chilly, tomato, brinjal, bhendi, papaya and banana. The tribal farmers opined that the training programme and the bioinputs provided are useful and timely.

Asst. Public Relations Officer