



Tamil Nadu Agricultural University
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To
The Editor,
Sir,

Date: 24.05.2024

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

TNAU celebrates World Bee Day 2024

The World Bee Day, a global event for celebration, was organized in the Department of Agricultural Entomology, Centre for Plant Protection Studies, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore on 20th May, 2024. The theme for this year is “Bees Engaged with Youth”. As a part of this event, different competitions were conducted for school children and youth and there were around 100 participants. They were taken to Apiary unit of Department of Agricultural Entomology and awareness was created on different honey bee species, living ways and activities, their importance, and their conservational practice. Students enjoyed handling bee colonies, safety gadgets, and modern apiary and scientific bee keeping. Afterwards, competitions *viz.*, drawing, bee crafts, honey collection, nectar and pollen collection, pollination game and nest making were conducted to encourage the students on beekeeping.

Dr.V.Geethalakshmi, Vice Chancellor, TNAU was the chief guest for the function. Initially the “Comb Foundation Mill” installed in the Apiary unit was inaugurated by the Vice Chancellor and declared open for the benefit of the public. Later the exhibition stalls of progressive beekeepers were visited by the Vice Chancellor and interacted with the entrepreneurs. This was followed by the presidential address in which she elaborated the biology of honey bees, their castes, bee behaviour, mode of communication in bees through dances, the products obtained from beekeeping, its nutritive value and importance. She also emphasized that in its lifetime a bee collects 0.8 g nectar and 3.5 g of pollen. Then Dr. M. Shanthi, Director, Centre for Plant Protection Studies explained about the role of honey bees in agriculture and importance in crop pollination. The Controller of Examinations, Dr.V.Balasubramani and Director, Agri Business Development, Dr.E.Somasundaram felicitated the gathering.

Later, the progressive beekeepers from different districts of Tamil Nadu shared their challenges and achievements in beekeeping followed by the participants shared their experiences with bees. Vice Chancellor, TNAU awarded the winners of the competitions with prizes and certificates. The students belonging to different age groups, their parents, bee keepers, staff and students of the Entomology Department (around 300 persons) attended the function. The gathering was welcomed by Dr.M.Murugan, Professor and Head, Department of Agricultural Entomology and finally, Dr.M.R.Srinivasan, Professor (Agrl. Entomology) proposed vote of thanks. Dr.V.R.Saminathan, Dr.G.Preetha, Dr.V.Baskaran, staff, research fellows and students of the Department of Agricultural Entomology organized the event and the competitions.

Public Relations Officer