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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:

**Millets and Pulses are the harbingers of Food and Nutritional Security" –
Says Crop Management Specialists**

The inaugural function of the 21 days training programme on "Advances in Production Technology of Millets" and Pulses to orient the newer methodologies for the participants, intersecting from various parts of India, held at TNAU on 10-9-2014.

Earlier Dr. K. Ashok Raja, Professor & Head, Dept. of Agronomy, TNAU welcome the gathering. While recollecting the genesis of Centre of Advanced Faculty in Agronomy (CAFTA) the funds pumped have been utilized for infrastructure development, thanks to ICAR's bestowal of sanctioning of funds.

Dr. K. Velayudham, Director, Crop Management, TNAU, Coimbatore in his special address, designated the structure of the course which involves genetic improvement, crop protection, by-product utilization, social economic development and policy issues apart from processing technologies of millets and pulses implements, outdoor visits, field exposures which also form the part of the course for strengthening teaching and research, he added. He further stressed more challenges are to be faced for improving the yield increase owing in shrinking natural resources and feed the burgeoning population, the logistics of millet cultivation which to the shrinking areas. More so, millets can in a big way for bringing down the glycemic content and to increase the amino acids and methionine which are instrumental for food security, nutrition security and fetch good price in the market and for the social and knowledge empowerment. While speaking on the Pulses technology, he lamented that the import of pulses is a major issue to be addressed by the policy makers. Other factors like unfavourable climatic conditions, Research on transgenic

plants, bringing climate resilient agriculture, synchronized maturity, indeterminate growth and expansion of pulses area and refinement of existing technologies are the niche areas for enhancing the potential of crop yield. He also further emphasized the course would provide lot of information from various sources which need to be converted into technologies for utility as practiced by Japanese / Mexican Scientist who have been unraveling to produce IR-8 and other semi-dwarf wheat varieties and contribution of veteran Scientist of Agronomy, Dr. S.P. Palniappan and his associates for inter crop technology looking into the spacial and temperorial dimensions of the cropping systems.

Dr. P. Devasenapathy, Professor, Dept. of Agronomy, TNAU proposed a formal vote of thanks.

Public Relations Officer