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To
The Editor,

Date: 8-6-2015

Sir,

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

Snake bite and snake safety awareness programme in Agri Varsity

In the event of observance of World environment day (05-06-2015), TNAU campus cleaning programme was carried out on 06-06-2015 by 600 NSS volunteers. Followed by this, snake bite and snake safety awareness programme was organised.

A lecture on snake safety was given by A. Selvaraju M.Sc., (Forestry) who is an alumnus of Forest College, TNAU, presently working as a Project Coordinator, National snake bite initiative, GREEN CROSS INDIA, an NGO based on wildlife conservation. The project was honoured with the prestigious YOUTH AWARD in Mumbai.

He mentioned that there are totally 3000 species of snakes in the world out of which 276 species in India, 62 are Poisonous (42 in land and water, 20 in Oceans) where other 171 are non-poisonous. According to the WHO record in India, 80,000 snake bite cases are recorded every year out of which 10,000 die due to improper first aid & medication. To protect people from snake bite and to protect snakes, “NATIONAL SNAKE BITE INITIATIVE” was started.

In Australia there are more poisonous snakes but only 10% die due to proper medication. The four major poisonous snakes are The Indian King Cobra, Russell Viper, The Common krait, The saw scaled viper. The common krait does not leave any biting symptoms. The venom of the snake is meant not for biting the victims, but to inactivate their prey and digest. The venom of King Cobra and Russell viper affects the nervous system and causes neurosis, while other two are haemotoxins and causes necrosis.

The symptoms of disease are death of tissue, teeth markings. By keeping our environment clean and spraying Bellary onion extract snakes can be avoided from entering. First aid is pressure immobilisation, tightening the muscle with cloth and taking to the nearby government hospital, self medications should be avoided.

The informative programme was organized by the NSS programme officers Latha, Hema, Sakthivel, Thanga Hemavathi, Valliammai, Paavendhan, Guru, JRF D. Arulkumar. The Dean (agriculture) Dr. S. Mahimairaja and Dr. K. Kumutha NSS Co-ordinator also participated in the programme.

Earlier, the welcome address was given by V.Shunmathi, II –Bio-Tech. and finally, Miss.Merlin Sara, II B.S.(ABM) proposed formal vote of thanks.

Assistant Public Relations Officer

