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To
The Editor,

Date: 10-7-2015

Sir,

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

Signing of MoU for Developing Safer Pest Control Technologies

Presently the farming community in Tamil Nadu is well geared towards shifting away from the use of chemical pesticides there by making the farming systems more sustainable and ensuring that the crop produce are safe to the consumers. They are also aware of the profitability of market oriented cultivation especially for growing of horticultural crops which require use of safer pest control products and practices. Organic farming is also gaining importance as an alternative means of sustaining the natural resources at farm level. In this context, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) is undertaking multi-dimensional R&D towards evolving more of eco-friendly and consumer safe pest control technologies for adoption by farmers. Towards augmenting the impact of these initiatives, TNAU has also invited collaboration in eco-friendly pest management R&D with Sun-Agro Biotech Research Centre (SABRC) which is an autonomous scientific society, recognized by Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR), Govt. of India, which is also focused on R&D of eco-friendly crop protection technologies like bio pesticides, bio control agents and insect trapping systems, besides environment impact assessment, with internationally experienced experts as scientific faculty.

This R&D collaboration has now completed three years and has resulted in several promising leads towards evolving safer and widely adoptable eco-safe pest management technologies. These include extended shelf life of the bio-control agent *Trichogramma*, enhanced potency of botanical bio-pesticides based on sweet flag, more efficient trap designs and pheromone / attractant lure dispensers for attracting important pests like fruit flies and crop borers.

This collaboration agreement was renewed today by the signing of fresh MoU for the next three years period with the Registrar – Dr. C.R. Anandakumar representing TNAU and Dr. S. Sithanantham representing SABRC in the presence of senior crop protection scientists with the blessing of the Vice chancellor Dr. K. Ramasamy. It is expected that many more useful and safer pest management technologies could be jointly evolved by these two institutions in the near future which will help the farming community with wider choice of safer pest control technologies.

Asst. Public Relations Officer