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To  
The Editor,  
Sir,

Date: 05.07.2022

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

### **TNAU Scientist receives NAAS Fellow**

Prof. Senthil Natesan, a faculty at TNAU has been recognized by National Academy of Agricultural Sciences for the prestigious honor as a Fellow of National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (FNAAS), India 2021. It is notable that the distinguished alumni of TNAU Dr.M.S.Swaminathan was the first person to be recognized as NASS fellow in 1990. Dr. Senthil is the 6th person from TNAU to receive the award ever since. He has released several new varieties and addressed a fundamental question of how a crop plant is domesticated by studying the evolutionary genes. This NAAS Fellow is accorded to Prof. Senthil Natesan in the category of Crop Science, with a special focus in Molecular Breeding.

Prof Senthil Natesan has published over 200 research articles and 4 books. He is one of the most-cited authors in the research gate (35.35 score), Google scholar (H index of 26 and i10 index of 67). He is also actively involved in the development and release of eight high-yielding millet varieties. Further, he was involved in the development of three tropical wheat varieties for cultivation in Tamil Nadu and mapping Pseudo back chaf in wheat through association mapping. His contribution in the development of Finger millet, Foxtail millet, Proso millet, little millet, and Barnyard millet varieties had created an impact in the expansion of area under minor millets cultivation in Tamil Nadu. Notably he has developed high beta carotene maize inbreds through Marker Assisted Breeding. For the first time, he elucidated the genetic basis of grain dispersal mechanisms in Barley and published it in the Journal “CELL” (2015). He developed an interspecific SNP based Mungbean linkage map for mapping MYMV and bruchid resistance and also contributed development of a mungbean variety ‘Vamban 3’ and black gram varieties viz., ‘Vamban (Bg) 6& ‘Vamban 7 for commercial cultivation in

Tamil Nadu. As the founding Project Director of the Centre of Innovation at the TNAU AC&RI, Madurai, Senthil Natesan established a long-term research initiative by establishing the new Department of Biotechnology that is focused on minor millet research addressing the micronutrient deficiencies in India and identifying genes and markers that can create transformative change. He is currently working as Director, Centre for Plant Molecular Biology and Biotechnology, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore

**Public Relations Officer**