

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University

Coimbatore - 641 003

Dr. M. Rajavel, Ph.D., Public Relations Officer Mobile: 97903 47444 Phone: 0422 - 6611302 Fax: 0422 - 2431821 E-mail: pro@tnau.ac.in

To

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The Editor,

Sir,

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

TNAU expands its international linkages to strengthen Agri Education and Research

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore aims to remain at the top among more than 70 Farm Universities in the country. TNAU's Vice Chancellor, Dr.V.Geethalakshmi takes strenuous efforts and introduces employee friendly, output oriented academic and administrative reforms to improve the education and research outcomes of the University. Recently, she was honoured by the prestigious World Food Prize Foundation, USA by inviting her to attend this year's award function during October 19-20, 2022 and deliver a talk in the Norman E Borlaug Lecture Series. While travelling abroad, Dr.V.Geethalakshmi had dialogues with scientists and administrators of reputed organizations like Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, USA (BMGF), International Food Policy Research Institute, USA (IFPRI), Michigan State University, Kansas State University (KSU), Manhattan, USA etc., During this trip, she inked an MoU with KSU to collaborate in skill development and exchange of students/faculty, sharing knowledge and infrastructure and joint research. This will help TNAU students to get trained in frontier areas of agricultural science and improve their employable skills.

Dr.V.Geethalakshmi also visited leading Universities in the Europe *viz.*, Cambridge University and Cranfield University in the United Kingdom, Technical University of Braunschweig, Germany and Faculty of Geo Information and Earth Observation, University of Twente (ITC, UT), Netherlands and explored the possibilities of expanding TNAU's capacity in plant sciences, soil and water conservation, drone applications and using Geo spatial technologies in Agricultural applications. She had successful dialogues for facilitating TNAU's Under Graduate

(UG) students to carry out their internship in foreign Universities so as to enhance their employable skills and entrepreneurial ability.

A tripartite MoU was signed between TNAU, ITC, UT and a Chennai based International start-up Farmwise AI to strengthen TNAU's capacity on using satellite and drone technologies in Agriculture. Procedures for signing MoU between TNAU and Cranfield University, UK on soil digital mapping, drone applications in agriculture and capacity building of students and faculty are initiated.

Public Relations Officer