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To
The Editor,
Sir,

Date: 17.12.2022

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

TNAU organized Field Day on Integrated Pest Management in Tomato

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University and World Vegetable Centre, Taiwan signed sub-grant agreement to undertake research on “**Integrated Pest Management in Tomato and Lablab bean**” in Tamil Nadu. As part of the project tomato grafted seedlings produced utilizing the resistant brinjal root stocks. The brinjal root stocks are resistant to bacterial wilt and to nematode infestation. The demonstration of grafted tomato along with integrated pest management practices are in progress at Vandikaranur and Karadimadai of Thondamuthur block. Application of neem cake @ 100kg/acre, seedlings treatment with bio-inoculants before planting, installation of yellow and blue sticky traps for sucking pest management, installation of pheromone traps for tomato pinworm and fruit borer management and application of botanicals and biopesticides based on the need are included in the IPM practices.

To showcase the potential of “Integrated Pest Management in Tomato demonstration” to the fellow farmers, field day was organized on 15.12.2022 at Vandikaranur village, Thondamuthur block by the Centre for Plant Protection Studies and Directorate of Extension Education, TNAU, Coimbatore in association with State Department of Horticulture, Coimbatore. Dr. K. Angappan, Professor (Plant Pathology) welcomed the farmers, input dealers and delegates and gave brief note about the importance of bio-inoculants for the management of diseases.

The Director, Centre for Plant Protection Studies Dr. M. Shanthi emphasised the need for continuous monitoring invasive pests and developing management strategies for the same. The role of TNAU in managing the invasive insect pests and new emerging insect pests in Tamil Nadu. Farmers Producer Organizations should play a major role along with State Departments and Tamil Nadu Agricultural University to disseminate the farm technologies, emphasized by Dr. P.P. Murugan, Director of Extension Education.

The World Vegetable Centre Lead Pathologist Dr. Ricardo Oliva explained about the role of grafted tomato plants to overcome the infestation of bacterial diseases and other soil borne pathogens. The activities of World Vegetable Centre, Taiwan around the globe to increase the vegetable productivity was explained by him during the event. The Assistant Director of Horticulture Mrs. Nandhini explained the different schemes operated by the Department of Horticulture for the farmers and the role played by the department in managing the invasive insect pests.

The Professor & Head incharge, Department of Agrl. Entomology, Dr. Y.S. Johnson Edward Thangaraj briefed about the tomato insect pest management, Dr. G. Karthikeyan, Professor & Head, Dept. of Plant Pathology explained about disease management and nematode management by Dr. A. Shanthi, Professor & Head, Dept. of Nematology. More than 200 farmers and Agriculture Input Dealers participated in the field day. Dr. M. Murugan, Professor (Agrl. Entomology) proposed vote of thanks for the participants.

Public Relations Officer