



**Tamil Nadu Agricultural University**  
Coimbatore – 641 003



Dr. M. Rajavel, Ph.D.,  
Public Relations Officer  
Mobile: 94890 56730

Phone: 0422 - 6611302  
Fax: 0422 – 2431821  
E-mail: [pro@tnau.ac.in](mailto: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:

### **Design patent granted for Food Colour Extraction Machine**

A national design patent for a food colour extraction machine was awarded to Bala snehitha Shridar, P. Sudha, M. Balakrishnan and K. Kumaran of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University. The Office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trademarks of the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry has granted this design. In today's global market, the use of natural colourants in the food industry has attracted a lot of attention due to their harmlessness. Bixin (E 160b) is the second largest approved natural food colourant by the FDA which provides red-yellow tonality and could be an alternative to the use of synthetic colourants such as sunset yellow FCF, allura red or tartrazine colourants. Annatto seed coats are coated with a thin pulpy, bright orange-red resinous colouring matter. This newly developed food colour extraction machine works on the leaching mechanism without the application of chemical solvents and can be employed for the removal of colour pigments from annatto seeds which can be directly infused to foods for colouring purposes. This patent signifies TNAU's commitment in offering an innovative sustainable natural food colour extraction machine for the benefit of the food industries.

**Public Relations Officer**