





Dr. M. Rajavel, Ph.D., Public Relations Officer Mobile: 94890 56730 Phone: 0422 - 6611302 Fax: 0422 - 2431821 E-mail: pro@tnau.ac.in

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The Editor,

Sir,

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

TNAU conducted State level farmers Awareness training programme

TNAU's Department of Crop Physiology organized a one-day State level Farmers Awareness Programme on "Nutrient deficiencies and remedies for agricultural and horticultural crops" on 31st August, 2023. Dr.A.Senthil, Professor and Head, Department of Crop Physiology, welcomed the delegates, faculty members, researchers and the farmers for the programme. Around 500 farmers and KVK scientists from the Coimbatore, Tirupur, Erode, Salem and Dharmapuri districts have participated in the awareness training.

The Awareness training programme was inaugurated by Dr.V.Geethalakshmi, Vice-Chancellor, TNAU, Coimbatore. In her presidential address, the Vice-Chancellor stressed the need of balanced nutrition in achieving the maximum crop growth and yield. In addition, she stated that the importance of acquiring knowledge on the roles of each nutrient on crop growth and development by the farmers so as to rectify the issues of deficiency of nutrients.

Dr.M.K.Kalarani, Director (Crop Management), TNAU, Coimbatore, in her felicitation address, highlighted the importance of balanced nutrition in achieving the Global food security in the changing climate scenario. She highlighted the ill effects of mono-cropping, imbalanced fertilizer application on crop and soil health. She also elaborated the benefits of this program to the farming community and how the farmers can reap high yield and profit by following simple and scientific nutrient management strategies.

Dr.V.Venkatasubramanian, Director, ICAR - Agricultural Technology Application Research Institute, Zone-XI, Bangalore, highlighted the benefits that the farmers can get by adopting the balanced and optimum nutrient management practices. Dr.P.P.Murugan, Director of Extension Education addressed the importance of protecting soil, water and environment for better crop yields.

In the technical session, Dr.R.Sivakumar, Professor, Dept. of Crop Physiology, briefed the importance and functions of various macro and micro nutrients on crop growth & yield and elucidated the role of different nutrients, their deficiency symptoms and their corrective measures in important Agricultural crops to the farmers. Dr.S.Srinivasan, Professor and Head, Dept. of Crop Physiology and Biochemistry, AC&RI, Killikulam, highlighted the nutrient deficiency symptoms in Horticultural crops of Tamil Nadu and their management strategies.

Dr.V.BabuRajendra Prasad, Assistant Professor, explained the importance of different TNAU Crop Boosters and application methods and their benefits on crop plants. Also, farmers and scientists' interaction session were conducted after the technical lectures and the farmers raised various questions on the nutrient deficiencies and toxicities in different crops and the suitable measures were given.

University Officers, Heads of the Departments, Scientists, students and staff members in the main campus attended and graced the programme. Dr.P.Boominathan, Professor (Crop Physiology) delivered the vote of thanks for the event.

Public Relations Officer