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To

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The Editor,

Sir,

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

### **TNAU celebrated World Soil Day 2023**

To create awareness on “World Soil Day 2023” and the importance of soil and water, a “Rally by PG and Ph.D students of Directorate of Natural Resource Management” was organised by the Department of Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry, DNRM, TNAU. Commencing the celebrations of the World Soil Day, Dr.V.Geethalakshmi, Vice-Chancellor, TNAU, Coimbatore flagged off rally in the TNAU campus.

The 12<sup>th</sup> Dr.B.Ramamoorthy Memorial Lecture was organized by the Department of Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry in commemoration with “World Soil day 2023” on 05.12.2023 and presided over by Dr.R.ThamizhVendan, Registrar, TNAU. Dr.R. Santhi, Professor and Head, Department of SS&AC and President, ISSS Coimbatore Chapter welcomed the gathering.

Dr. M. Elayarajan, Professor (SS&AC) and Councillor of ISSS narrated about the endowment and the achievements of Dr.B.Ramamoorthy in the field of Soil Science and Plant Nutrition. Dr.P.Balasubramaniam, Director (DNRM) introduced the speaker Dr.C.Palaniswami, Principal Scientist and Former Head, Division of Crop Production, ICAR-Sugarcane Breeding Institute, Coimbatore and elucidated about the speaker’s commendable contribution towards advancement of different aspects of Soil Science specifically in the field of Remote Sensing and GIS, Precision Farming, Modelling for yield prediction of coconut and sugarcane.

Dr.R.ThamizhVendan, Registrar released the Booklet about the Department of Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry and distributed prizes to the winners of various events conducted for the students on the eve of World Soil Day 2023. In his presidential address, he pointed out the applicability of the technologies and products developed by the Department of Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry, TNAU. He mentioned about the theme for World Soil Day 2023 "Soil and Water: a Source of Life" and highlighted the importance of the soil and water with supporting quotes from ancient literatures and Thirukkural.

Dr.C.Palaniswami, Principal Scientist & Former Head, Division of Crop Production, ICAR-Sugarcane Breeding Institute, Coimbatore delivered 12<sup>th</sup> Dr.B.Ramamoorthy Memorial Lecture 2023 on “Application of Information Technologies and Artificial Intelligence in Crop and Soil Health Management”. He briefed about the use of Remote Sensing and Geographical Information System in land cover mapping, disease management and precision farming, usage of Artificial Intelligence powered solutions in Agriculture and Soil Health Monitoring. He also narrated about the Artificial Neural Network for prediction of soil properties and crop yield and insisted on the development of mobile applications for the dissemination of scientific information to the farming community. Finally, Dr.S.Maragatham, Professor (SS&AC) and Secretary, ISSS Coimbatore Chapter proposed the vote of thanks. The State Bank of India, Coimbatore has also joined in this programme. Altogether about 140 participants comprising scientists and students have been benefitted.

**Public Relations Officer**