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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's Validation of Integrated Pest Management in
Tomato and Lablab bean**

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University and World Vegetable Center, Taiwan have been implementing a research project on “Integrated Pest and Disease Management in Tomato and Lablab bean” in Tamil Nadu. As part of the project, grafted tomato seedlings have been produced utilizing the resistant brinjal root stocks. The brinjal root stocks are resistant to bacterial wilt and to root knot nematode infestation besides providing tolerance to water logging.

The demonstrations of grafted tomato along with integrated pest and disease management practises in an innovation platform are in progress at Mettubavi, Kinathukadavu block and integrated pest and disease management on lablab bean at Kulathupalayam, Annur block of Coimbatore district during November 2023. Dr.Srinivasan Ramasamy, Lead Entomologist & Interim Deputy Director General, World Vegetable Center, Taiwan participated and validated the Tomato and Lablab IPDM plots and had discussion directly with tomato and lablab farmers about the performance of grafted tomato and following IPDM strategies in lablab on 20.11.2023 and 21.11.23.

Dr.M.Shanthi, Director, CPPS, has presided over meeting and emphasised the importance of eco-friendly IPM techniques for the management of invasive insects on horticultural crops. Dr.M.Murugan, Professor & Head, Department of Agrl. Entomology, briefed about the tomato and lablab bean insect pest management and Dr.K.Angappan, Professor & Head (Plant Pathology) discussed about the importance of the bacterial wilt diseases in tomato and Dolichos yellow mosaic virus in lablab and their management practices with farmers. Dr.G.Karthikeyan Professor (Plant Pathology) stressed the importance of IPDM practices in tomato and lablab bean. Dr.N.Manikandaboopathi, Professor (Biotechnology), has highlighted the role of plant viruses in horticulture crops.

Earlier, Dr.P.S.Shanmugam and Dr.T.Elaiyabharathi, Associate Professor (Agrl. Entomology) has narrated the experimental field layout at this village and treatments imposed during the demonstration. Dr.N.Anadharaja, Professor & Head (Training Division) also witnessed positively after conducting socio economic analysis on status of tomato and lablab farmer after implementing the IPDM at these villages. Thiru.Rajkumar, an IPM farmer has accepted and narrated with advantages of grafted tomato by not only in reducing plant protection cost but also increased the yield.

Farmer also opined that improved fruit lustre, appearance and increased fruit weight was observed in the IPM treated plots. Resistant tomato plants with biological control agents and foliar spray with eco-friendly chemicals has shown best results in terms of minimum incidence of pests and diseases and more yields. Farmers and extension officials of this block got benefitted through this demonstration and to follow the best practices based on field performance of the implemented IPDM strategies.

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