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To
The Editor,
Sir,

Date: 20.12.2024

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

TNAU conducts Dissemination of seed quality enhancement techniques to the farmers

A TamilNadu State Council for Science and Technology (TNSCST) sponsored training on "Dissemination of seed quality enhancement techniques to the farmers" was organized by Seed Centre, TamilNadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore on 20.12.2024.

During inauguration, Dr. R. Umarani, Director, Seed Centre has explained the importance and role of the quality seeds in food production. She has emphasized the food security of the country in era of increasing population which can be ensured only through production and supply of required quantity of quality seeds. Food security is also essential for national security. India witnessed severe food scarcity due to several famines that ravaged the country between 1769 and 1943. Eventually, several policies and projects were implemented by the Government of India to increase the food production. In 1960, the All-India Coordinated project on Sorghum Improvement was implemented to develop high yielding varieties. Subsequently, in 1963, the National Seeds Corporation (1963) was established to take up organized quality seed production in high yielding varieties, followed by many such initiatives. As a result, a dramatic increase in seed production was witnessed from 14 lakh quintals (1962-63) to 398.8 lakh quintals (2008-19), with a corresponding increase in food production from 79.7 million tonnes to 3,284.9 million tonnes for the same period. Thus, quality seed production and supply is established as the fulcrum of food security of the country. While speaking, Dr. N. Senthil, Director, Centre for Plant Molecular Biology and Biotechnology has highlighted the use of quality seed for increase productivity in agriculture. Farmers can increase the farm revenue by taking up seed production as an

enterprise seed production as it helps to double the income. He requested the farmers to adopt the new seed enhancement technologies such as seed priming and coating developed by seed centre, TNAU, Coimbatore to increase crop productivity.

During the training programme, the scientists have explained the different technologies and demonstrated the advanced practices for seed quality enhancement to the farmers. About 50 farmers from different parts of Coimbatore district were participated in the training programme. Dr. V. Manonmani, Professor and Head, Department of Seed Science and Technology welcomed the gatherings and Dr. K. Raja, Professor proposed the vote of thanks.

Public Relations Officer