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To  
The Editor,  
Sir,

Date: 24.02.2025

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

### **Valedictory Function of International Conference on One Health Perspectives in Global Plant Protection Research Held at TNAU**

The Centre for Plant Protection Studies, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) successfully hosted the valedictory function of the International Conference on "One Health Perspectives in Global Plant Protection Research" (OHPGGR-2025). Organized by the Centre for Plant Protection Studies, the three-day event brought together over 466 delegates, researchers, and around 45 online and offline keynote and lead speakers. Participants included policymakers, industry professionals, and progressive farmers from India and across six continents, including Australia, Taiwan, France, Italy, Kenya, the United States, Colombia, Germany, the Philippines, and Malaysia. The conference focused on eleven key themes, covering topics such as biosystematics, invasive species, climate change impact, artificial intelligence in pest management, and policy regulations in plant protection.

Dr. P. Senthil Kumar, IAS, Principal Secretary, Health and Family Welfare Department, Government of Tamil Nadu, delivered the valedictory address, emphasizing the importance of a holistic "One Health" approach that integrates agriculture, veterinary sciences, and human health. He highlighted the advancements in disease diagnosis and the critical role played by agricultural and veterinary institutions during the COVID-19 pandemic. He further stressed the significance of blending traditional and modern technologies to minimize ecological disruptions and promote sustainable living. He discussed the emergence of antibiotic-resistant superbugs and the impact of climate change on human and animal disease spread, calling for robust quarantine measures to prevent epidemics.

Dr. P. K. Singh, Agricultural Commissioner, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India, underscored the importance of sustainable pest management practices, biodiversity conservation, and the use of bioinputs for food security. He assured government support for fast-tracking the registration and production of beneficial native microbiomes.

Shri P. Sivakumar, IFS, Member Secretary, Central Silk Board, Ministry of Textiles, advocated for pesticide-free sericulture and organic tea cultivation to sustain silkworm and muga silk production. He invited proposals for funding innovative initiatives in sericulture and agri-horticulture.

Thiru. C. Thirumala Rao, DDM, NABARD, Coimbatore, commended the research findings and assured financial backing for eco-friendly agricultural products, particularly those benefiting rural youth. Thiru. Nihar Ranjan, IFS, Dean (Forestry), Forest College and Research Institute, emphasized the role of botanical pesticides in maintaining ecosystem balance and the potential of carbon crediting in forestry-linked sericulture.

Dr. M. Shanthi, Director, Centre for Plant Protection Studies, summarized the key discussions and recommendations from the conference. Major topics included biodiversity digitalization, farmer advisory applications, drone technology, precision breeding, and quarantine protocols for cut-flower crops. Additionally, experts deliberated on genomic data utilization in pest management, climate-resilient microbiomes, AI-driven pest and disease diagnosis, and computational tools for data analysis. Research on nanopesticides, RNAi techniques, and climate-adaptive crop varieties was also emphasized.

### **Key Recommendations:**

- Digitalization of biodiversity in India for research and farmer advisories.
- Development of a "Farmers' Gateway App" for real-time agricultural guidance and climate-resilient farming.
- Utilization of molecular and genomic tools for pest and disease diagnosis.
- Selection of climate-resilient plant varieties through advanced phenomics.
- Implementation of country-specific pest management strategies.
- Promotion of pesticide residue-free vegetable cultivation.
- Expansion of market potential for bee products and therapeutic insect-based byproducts.
- Integration of black soldier flies for biomass conversion and waste management.
- Promotion of ericulture in castor/tapioca-growing regions of Tamil Nadu.
- Development of weather-based forewarning models for pest dynamics and pesticide dissipation.

The conference concluded with the presentation of awards for outstanding research contributions and the release of textbooks and digital study materials. Dr. K. Devrajan delivered the welcome address, and Dr. T. Chitdeshwari proposed the vote of thanks.

**Public Relations Officer**