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To
The Editor,
Sir,

Date: 03.07.2025

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

TNAU inks MoU with Nehru Arts and Science College (NASC)

In a significant step toward promoting digital innovation in agricultural research, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Nehru Arts and Science College (NASC), Coimbatore on July 2, 2025. This collaboration aims to develop artificial intelligence (AI)-based solutions for nematode detection and management in major horticultural crops.

The MoU was formalized in the presence of Dr.R.Thamizh Vendan, Acting Vice Chancellor, TNAU, Dr.M.Shanthi, Director (CPPS), Dr.K.Devrajan, Deputy Registrar and key officials from NASC including Dr. V. Vijayakumar, Principal, Dr. N. Saranya, Professor and Head, and Dr. D. Suryaprabha, Assistant Professor.

Following the signing, a technical discussion was held between NASC faculties and TNAU scientists viz., Dr. M. Shanthi, Director (CPPS), Dr. B. Anita, Professor and Head (Nematology) and Dr. N. Seenivasan, Professor of Nematology. The conversation focused on collaborative research in the development of AI-based mobile applications for:

- Fast and accurate detection and identification of nematodes,
- Diagnosis of root-knot nematode infections in guava, and
- Damage assessment of lesion-forming nematodes in banana roots.

This partnership brings together computer science and nematology to develop easy-to-use tools that farmers can use directly in the field. By combining knowledge from agriculture and artificial intelligence, this collaboration helps to develop smart and sustainable ways for protection of crops from harmful nematodes.

The MoU reflects both institutions' commitment to improving research, working together in academics, and using digital tools to solve real-world farming problems.

Public Relations Officer