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To
The Editor,
Sir,

Date: 25.06.2025

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

TNAU conducted brainstorming session for AGRI HACKATHON 2025

Centre for Plant Molecular Biology and Biotechnology (CPMB&B), Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), successfully hosted a brainstorming session - Agri Hackathon 2025 on June 25, 2025. The Agri Hackathon 2025 is an initiative by the Tamil Nadu government, in the name “Dr. M.S. Swaminathan Research Grant for New Findings in Agriculture”. Its goal is to foster innovative solutions for the redressal of most pressing problems faced by farmers. The event focuses on finding research driven solutions to address these critical issues.

The Agri Hackathon 2025, announced in Tamil Nadu Agriculture budget 2025-26, focuses on shortlisting region specific agricultural issues and finding sustainable solutions with the potential for impactful research and funding. The event saw participation of officials from various Tamil Nadu State Agricultural and Horticultural departments, technical directors and senior officials of TNAU, senior scientists from national research institutions in Coimbatore *viz.*, ICAR Sugarcane Breeding Institute, ICFRE Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, ICAR Central Institute for Cotton Research – regional station.

Dr. N. Senthil, Director, CPMB&B, TNAU outlined the event's structure, emphasizing the importance of identifying key problems in agriculture through surveys, feedback and discussions. The brainstorming sessions, conducted by various technical directors, *viz.*, Dr. R. Ravikesavan, Director, CPBG, Dr. M. Shanthi, Director, CPPS, Dr. M. K. Kalarani, Director, DCM, Dr. K. Venkatesan, Dean_{i/c}, HC&RI, Dr. A. Raviraj, Dean, AEC&RI, Dr. C. Karthikeyan, Professor and Head, Dept. of AE&RS, focused on enlisting and prioritization of problem statements in the areas of crop improvement, crop protection, crop management, horticulture, agricultural engineering and agricultural marketing.

Dr. E. Kokiladevi, Professor and Head, Department of Plant Biotechnology, TNAU, emphasized the importance of aligning agricultural research with real world problems faced by farmers. She pointed out the need for a multi-disciplinary approach to address the diverse problems faced within the agricultural sector.

Dr. M. Raveendran, Director of Research, TNAU highlighted that interdisciplinary collaboration among scientists and researchers is the key to find successful practical and scalable solutions. He emphasized the need for innovation and integration across various agricultural domains to foster an environment where research translates into actionable results for farmers.

Dr. R. Thamizh Vendan, Registrar and acting Vice Chancellor, highlighted how the events like agri hackathon could contribute to the betterment of farmer community beyond sustenance. The key themes for discussion included climate change impacts, agri mechanization, water conservation, agricultural marketing and biotic and abiotic stresses.

The goal of this event is to identify problems, prioritize them and call for proposals to offer viable, effective solutions. The funding allocated by the Tamil Nadu government for this Agri Hackathon 2025 will be used to implement the best solutions ensuring tangible improvements for farmers. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. L. Arul, Professor and Head, Department of Plant Molecular Biology and Bioinformatics, acknowledging the support of all Department university officers and state department officials involved in organizing the event. Hackathons are evolving as another method of problem solving within a defined time frame

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