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To
The Editor,
Sir,

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

CSB–TNAU sign MoU to Promote Sericulture Research and Skill Development

Shri P. Sivakumar, IFS, Member-Secretary, Central Silk Board (CSB), visited Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), Coimbatore, and the Forest College and Research Institute (FC&RI), Mettupalayam, as part of efforts to promote collaborative initiatives in sericulture research, training, skill development and technology transfer.

The visit began at TNAU with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Central Silk Board and TNAU in the presence of Dr. M. Raveendran, Acting Vice-Chancellor, TNAU; Dr. A. Balasubramanian, Dean, FC&RI, Mettupalayam; and Dr. K. A. Murugesh, Professor and Head, Department of Sericulture, FC&RI.

CSB has identified FC&RI as one of the four main institutes in India for establishing Incubation Centre for promoting entrepreneurship among the college students and unemployed youths, in textile and non-textile applications of silk under Next Generation Silk Innovation Network (NGSIN) programme. In this context, the signing MoU will facilitate collaborative activities in sericulture research, mulberry germplasm evaluation, technology development, capacity building and skill-oriented programmes.

As part of the visit, Shri P. Sivakumar, IFS participated in the planting of promising mulberry fruit-yielding accessions at the Mulberry Garden, TNAU. He appreciated the university's efforts in conserving and evaluating mulberry genetic resources and emphasized the need for practical, farmer-oriented technologies for the sustainable development of sericulture.

He subsequently visited Sirumugai and inspected the training facilities under the SAMARTH scheme at the silk weaving cluster. He reviewed the skill-development arrangements for beneficiaries and stressed the importance of hands-on training, technical skill enhancement and employment-oriented capacity building for improving the competencies of silk artisans.

While interacting with faculty members, the Member-Secretary discussed the future prospects of sericulture education, research and extension. He emphasized the importance of need-based research, innovation, entrepreneurship, skill development and technology dissemination, and encouraged the faculty and students to pursue applied research addressing the emerging needs of the sericulture sector.

The visit provided a platform for closer coordination among research, education, skill development and field-level initiatives, with the objective of benefiting farmers, students, artisans and other stakeholders associated with the sericulture industry.

Public Relations Officer