



Tamil Nadu Agricultural University
Coimbatore – 641 003

Dr. M. Rajavel, Ph.D.,
Public Relations Officer
Mobile: 94890 56730

Phone: 0422 - 6611302
Fax: 0422 – 2431821
E-mail: pro@tnau.ac.in

To
The Editor,
Sir,

Date: 23.09.2026

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

**Century-Old Permanent Manurial Experiment and Long Term Fertilizer
Experiment at TNAU**

Dr.S.Karthikeyan, Director, Directorate of Natural Resource Management, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore, visited the century-old Permanent Manurial Experiment (PME) and Long Term Fertilizer Experiment (LTFE) Fields at TNAU and reviewed the ongoing long-term research activities being carried out under the semi-arid tropical agro-ecosystem. Established in 1909, the PME at Coimbatore is one of the world's longest-running continuous field experiments. The LTFE, established in 1972, has been continuously maintained by the Department of Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore. These experiments provide a unique long-term research platform for assessing the effects of nutrient-management practices on crop productivity, soil fertility, soil organic carbon dynamics, microbial properties and overall soil quality under continuous cropping.

During the visit, the Director inspected the experimental plots and reviewed the progress of the long-term studies. Dr. R.K.Kaleeswari, Professor and Head, Department of SS&AC, TNAU, briefed him on the objectives of the experiment, long-term nutrient treatments, crop performance, ongoing research activities and the scientific significance of the PME and LTFE in understanding the long-term impacts of nutrient-management practices on crop productivity, soil fertility, carbon sequestration, soil biological properties and soil quality.

Dr.D.Jayanthi, Professor (SS&AC) and Dr.G.Sridevi, Assistant Professor (SS&AC), explained the importance of balanced fertilization and highlighted that integrated nutrient management (INM) contributes to sustained crop productivity while maintaining favourable

soil physical properties and enhancing soil organic carbon storage and overall soil quality. They also emphasized the importance of the soil-test-based targeted-yield approach for optimizing fertilizer application. The approach has the potential to reduce fertilizer requirements by about 40 per cent for potassium in maize and more than 40 per cent for phosphorus and potassium in sunflower, thereby helping to reduce the cost of cultivation. Dr. B. Gokila, Research Associate, and Th.S.Rajesh Kumar, Laboratory Technician, TNAU, who are associated with the experiment, were also present during the visit. Dr.V.Davamani, Professor (ENS), Directorate of DNRM co-ordinated this technical programme.

Dr.S. Karthikeyan, Director (DNRM) emphasized the importance of integrated nutrient management, balanced fertilization and soil-test-based fertilizer recommendations for sustaining crop productivity, maintaining soil health and improving soil quality under intensive agricultural systems. He also underscored the significance of long-term field experiments such as the PME/LTFE in generating scientific evidence for developing and promoting sustainable nutrient-management practices for farmers.

Public Relations Officer