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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:

**Coimbatore Corporation Commissioner visits TNAU's
Black Soldier Fly Organic Waste Biovalorization Unit**

Thiru. Katta Ravi Teja, IAS, Commissioner of the Coimbatore City Municipal Corporation (CCMC), visited the Black Soldier Fly (BSF) organic waste biovalorization semi-automated unit at the Department of Agricultural Entomology, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), Coimbatore.

Dr. M. Raveendran, Vice-Chancellor of TNAU, emphasized the advantages of using black soldier fly, an insect scavenging decomposing organic waste in a eco-friendly manner and at the same time not-harmful to other lives including humans, animals and plants. The insect depletes the organic wastes at a faster rate with the least obnoxious odours released into the environment. The key benefits arising from the process is the end products of protein rich larvae- used as feed for pets, birds and fishes etc, by-products like larval-derived oils used in industries, besides the ultimate product is nutriently rich organic manures readily usable to raise plants. Considering the sizable amounts of biowastes generated at homes and other door steps everyday, the project has greater viability to adopt at urban waste management yards. He also discussed the feasibility and opportunity for scaling up the technology for municipal organic waste management. After the deliberations, Thiru. Teja, CCMC, opined that the prototype now developed should focus on processing a minimum of three tonnes of organic waste per day generated in each MCC unit for possible future adoption by CCMC. The Commissioner also envisioned that TNAU's technical knowledge and its graduates can be very well utilized for this eco-friendly strategy and also requested to trial run the prototype with the urban organic waste mixtures to study the technology adoption feasibility.

Dr. M. Shanthi, Director of the Centre for Plant Protection Studies, TNAU narrated the different stages of machinery used to pre-process the urban organic wastes and the components of the semi-automated unit currently established with the financial support received from the Pollution Control Board, Tamil Nadu State, Chennai. The Director also

projected the IoT strategies installed and additional automation activities being planned for implementation to reduce the labour requirements

Dr. M. Murugan, Professor and Head of the Department of Agricultural Entomology, provided the Commissioner with practical input on scaling up the process. Ms. S. Narmadha, Assistant Commissioner, West Zone, CCMC, and project scientists Dr. K. Senguttuvan and Dr. M. Alagar from the Department of Agricultural Entomology also participated in the visit.

Public Relations Officer