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To
The Editor,
Sir,

Date: 17.09.2026

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

International Workshop on “Advancing Low-Emission Rice through Climate-Smart Innovative Interventions” held at TNAU, Coimbatore

The Department of Environmental Sciences under the Directorate of Natural Resource Management (DNRM), Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), Coimbatore, in collaboration with Temasek Life Sciences Laboratory (TLL), Singapore, organised an International Workshop on “Advancing Low-Emission Rice through Climate-Smart Innovative Interventions” on 17 September 2026 at TNAU, Coimbatore. The workshop brought together scientists, researchers, agricultural experts and stakeholders to exchange knowledge and discuss innovative approaches for sustainable, climate-smart and low-emission rice production.

The inaugural session commenced with a welcome address by Dr. P. Murali Arthanari, Professor and Head, Nammazhvar Organic Farming Research Centre, TNAU, followed by the felicitation. Dr. A. Bharani, Professor and Head, Department of Environmental Sciences, TNAU, shared perspectives on advancing climate-smart and low-emission rice production. Dr. S. Karthikeyan, Director (NRM), TNAU, highlighted key aspects of sustainable rice production. Dr. S. Pazhanivelan, Director, Directorate of Crop Management, TNAU, shared insights on strengthening climate - smart approaches in rice cultivation. Dr. M. Raveendran, Acting Vice-Chancellor and Registrar, TNAU, delivered the opening remarks, emphasising the importance of low-emission and sustainable rice production systems.

The technical sessions focused on key scientific and field-level aspects of low-emission rice production. Dr. Srinivasan Ramachandran, Senior Project Lead, TLL, highlighted the vision for scaling climate-smart rice systems across Asia.

Dr. E. Parameswari, Professor, NOFRC, TNAU, presented outcomes from the 100-hectare wet- and dry-season trials at Paruthikottai, focusing on agronomic performance, methane mitigation and rice yield. Dr. V. Davamani, Professor, DNRM, TNAU, discussed soil microbiome interactions and their relevance to low-emission rice cultivation and Dr. Kins Varghese, Scientist and Principal Agronomist, TLL, presented comparative agro-climatic results and TLL’s package of practices, highlighting reduced input costs and enhanced farmers’ returns.

The workshop further addressed the pathways for taking promising innovations from research to wider field application and adoption. Dr. Goh Phuy Yee, Project Manager, TLL, highlighted implementation capacity, large scale adoption, institutional partnerships and TNAU's extension network. Under the Plan for Extension, Dr. P. Kalaiselvi and Dr. S. Paul Sebastian outlined proposed technologies, implementation locations and approval procedures, while Dr. Srivalli Krishnan, Deputy Director – Agricultural Development, Gates Foundation, shared perspectives on strengthening farmers' livelihoods and potential collaboration.

The round-table discussion addressed future research directions, scaling pathways, adoption challenges, institutional collaboration, future projects, responsibilities, funding opportunities and a roadmap for continued TNAU–TLL collaboration. The programme concluded with reflections by Dr. Srinivasan Ramachandran and Dr. Srivalli Krishnan, followed by the vote of thanks by Dr. S. Paul Sebastian. Field-scale results from 100 ha across two seasons, demonstrated the impact of TLL fertilizer cocktail, AWD and methanotroph consortium, delivering a 20% yield increase and 369.4 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent emission reduction compared to conventional farmers' practices, supporting their scale-up for climate-smart rice production. The workshop emphasised valuable suggestions for integrating scientific innovation with practical, economically feasible and farmer-friendly practices for low-emission rice production.

Public Relations Officer