



Tamil Nadu Agricultural University
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To
The Editor,
Sir,

Date: 21.05.2026

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

TNAU Celebrated World Honey Bee Day – 2026

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), Coimbatore, celebrated World Honey Bee Day at the Department of Agricultural Entomology on 20.05.2026, with the participation of beekeepers, farmers, students and children from various districts of Tamil Nadu. During the celebration, Dr. K. Subrahmaniyan, Acting Vice-Chancellor and Registrar of TNAU, delivered an inaugural address and explained to the public and student gathering that the World Honey Bee Day is observed in honor of Anton Jansa, a pioneer of modern apiculture from Slovenia. He highlighted the importance of honey bees for pollination, including in self-pollinated crops. He encouraged greater public consumption of honey, noting that per capita consumption in India remains very low. He also emphasized the medicinal importance of bee products, such as bee venom, and stressed the need to actively conserve honey bees. Dr. M. Shanthi, Director (CPPS), in her keynote address, stated that nearly 40 per cent of the honey bee population has declined, affecting crop production, and emphasized the need to conserve honey bees by growing flowering plants around farms and homes and by avoiding insecticide application during bee foraging periods. She also stressed the importance of conserving solitary bees living in the soil. Dr. V. Balasubramani, Controller of Examinations, in his felicitation address, highlighted the disciplined work culture and dedication of honey bees and stated that humans should learn from them. Dr. C. Babu, Dean, School of Post Graduate Studies, pointed out that although India is a major exporter and importer of honey, environmental pollution has affected honey exports in many countries, including India, and stressed the importance of identifying reliable methods to detect adulterated honey to ensure food safety for the benefit of consumers. Dr. N. Venkatesa Palanichamy, Dean, Agricultural College & Research Institute, TNAU, explained the importance of honey in Ayurveda since ancient times and encouraged participants to spread

awareness about honey bees and honey among the public. Mr. Anand and Mr. Santhosh, successful beekeepers and entrepreneurs of value-added bee products, shared their experiences in beekeeping and the training they received from the Department of Agricultural Entomology, TNAU, Coimbatore, and encouraged the public to purchase honey from locally known beekeepers for mutual benefit. Ms. Bakiyalakshmi, a final-year B.Sc. (Agri.) student, demonstrated casting a live bee beard on her face to showcase the friendly nature of honey bees once we befriended the species. The B. Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture students undertaking an experiential learning course, a part of the curriculum, have exhibited various value-added products they prepared, including infused/flavored honey focused on human health prospects, lip balm, honey soap, crack cream, and colored candles. Dr. M. Murugan, Professor and Head of the Department of Agricultural Entomology, welcomed the gathering and emphasized the significance of Honey Bees on Human and Plant perpetuation. Finally, Dr. V. R. Saminathan, Professor (Entomology), delivered the vote of thanks, thanking the scientists, students, participants, and children for making the celebration successful. Various honey bee-related gaming and creative activities with a focus on creating awareness on honey bees and their products were arranged for College and School students, and also for children, and prizes were distributed to the winners.

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