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To

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The Editor,

Sir,

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

TNAU Conducted Training on Cotton Variety Suitable for Mechanization

A training on an improved cotton variety CO 17, suitable for mechanization, was jointly organized by scientists from the Department of Cotton, Directorate of Crop Breeding and Genetics, and the Training Division of the Directorate of Agricultural Extension Education, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), Coimbatore, for farmers from Coimbatore and Tiruppur districts on 20th January 2026.

During the inaugural session of the programme, Dr. A. Subramanian, Professor and Head, Department of Cotton, delivered the welcome address. He highlighted the declining area under cotton cultivation and emphasized that mechanization has become essential to arrest this decline. Following this, Dr. R. Ravikesavan, Director, Centre for Crop Breeding and Genetics, in his special address elaborated on the antiquity of cotton cultivation in India, the historical richness of cotton cultivation in Tamil Nadu and the Coimbatore region, the present decline in cotton acreage, and the strategies that need to be adopted to increase the area under cotton cultivation.

Dr. P. P. Murugan, Director, Directorate of Agricultural Extension Education, in his special address spoke on the changing trends in agriculture, emerging approaches such as natural and organic farming, the importance of agricultural marketing, and the advantages of adopting mechanization in cotton cultivation. Dr. N. Anandaraja, Professor and Head, Training Division, delivered the vote of thanks. The inaugural programme was followed by field-based practical training for the farmers.

As part of the technical sessions, Dr. N. Premalatha, Associate Professor, Department of Cotton, explained the salient features of the CO 17 cotton variety, released as a variety suitable for mechanized cultivation. Dr. N. Vadivel, Professor, discussed agronomic practices essential for mechanized cotton cultivation, while Dr. E. Rajeswari elaborated on pest and disease management

practices in cotton. Dr. Thambidurai, Assistant Professor, Department of Farm Machinery and Power Engineering, explained the various machines used in cotton cultivation. About 40 farmers participated in the programme and benefited by observing field demonstrations of the CO 17 cotton variety and by clarifying their doubts related to cotton cultivation.

Public Relations Officer