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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:

TNAU Hands on training session on "Plant Tissue Culture Techniques"

In agriculture, the production and quality of the farm produce is ensured right from the adoption of package of practices including use of good quality planting material, timely inter-cultural operations and balanced application of nutrients for crop growth. In recent years, plant tissue culture practices have revolutionized agriculture, through production of high-quality disease free and genetically pure plantlets of several commercially important crops for the benefit of the farmers. This is a giant leap in the path towards attaining for sustainable development goals of agriculture. India's plant tissue culture business is rapidly growing over time with the advent of commercial production of tissue-cultured banana plants by companies for the benefit of farmers.

The importance of plant tissue culture approaches, key challenges and futuristic opportunities are highlighted during the Hands-on training session on "*Plant Tissue Culture Techniques*," held at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), Coimbatore May 19-22, 2026. The training is organized by the Department of Plant Biotechnology, Centre for Plant Molecular Biology and Biotechnology with participants from diverse backgrounds including scholars, farmers, entrepreneurs, researchers, school goers and science enthusiasts from all over India, including Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu to get a firsthand experience on this promising technology.

Dr. E. Kokiladevi, Professor and Head, Department of Plant Biotechnology welcomed the gathering and offered remarks on the scope of the plant tissue culture and emphasized key deliverables of this training programme to be dealt in theory and practical sessions. Dr. N. Senthil, Director of the Centre for Plant Molecular Biology and Biotechnology, in his inaugural address presented an update on the current status of the plant tissue culture industry with statistics and gave a glimpse of various culture techniques to be practiced in the training. He highlighted the opportunities and challenges in plant tissue culture and need of the trained manpower to meet out the challenges in hastening the production and supply of the tissue culture plants.

A special address by Dr. K. Venkatesan, Dean (Horticulture), TNAU underscored the scope of the tissue culture in fruits and ornamental crops and narrated the success journey of plant tissue culture in TNAU for quality production of plantlets to meet out the demands of the farmers.

Over 27 participants from various parts of India were introduced to the hands-on training on the basics and practices of plant tissue culture techniques aimed at propagating commercially important agricultural, horticultural crops and forest tree species. Dr. S. Rajesh, Associate Professor (Biotechnology) and training organizer delivered the vote of thanks and acknowledged the resource persons from in-house and external experts from ICAR-Sugarcane Breeding Institute, Coimbatore and Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Coimbatore for making this event successful with a great learning experience in modern practices of plant propagation.

Public Relations Officer