



Tamil Nadu Agricultural University
Coimbatore – 641 003

Dr.M.Rajavel, Ph.D.,
Public Relations Officer
Mobile: 94890 56730

Phone: 0422 - 6611302
Fax: 0422 – 2431821
E-mail: pro@tnau.ac.in

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 Programme on “Soil Test Crop Response (STCR) Based Fertilizer Prescription for Various Crops” to Agricultural Officers

The inauguration of the three days Training Programme on “Soil Test Crop Response (STCR) Based Fertilizer Prescription for Various Crops” to Agricultural Officers from Soil Testing Laboratories, Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of Tamil Nadu (Batch II) was organized by the Department of Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry, TNAU, Coimbatore jointly with the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of Tamil Nadu on 21st January 2026.

Dr.D.Selvi, Professor and Head, Department of Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry, TNAU welcomed the gathering and highlighted the importance of STCR technology in promoting sustainable agriculture and conserving natural resources. During the inaugural session, trainees from Soil Testing Laboratories (STLs) and Mobile Soil Testing Laboratories (MSTLs) introduced themselves and outlined their ongoing activities in soil analysis and advisory services.

Dr.R.Santhi, Former Director (DNRM) & Professor & Head, Dept. of SS&AC (Rtd.), TNAU & Principal, Adhiyaman College of Agriculture & Research, Krishnagiri, delivered the felicitation address. She outlined the evolution of soil testing initiatives at TNAU since 1980s and expressed gratitude to scientists instrumental in establishing the Agri Clinic–cum–STL under NADP, as well as in developing software tools such as DESSIFER and VDK. She emphasised the close linkage between soil health and human health and acknowledged the contributions of former STL experts, including Thiru. Lakshminarayanan, Thiru M.N. Munusamy and Thiru Dhanapalan Mosi. She insisted the need for such capacity-building programmes for young STL personnel. She narrated that, during the 2021 pandemic, the interactions with the Principal Secretary (Agriculture), Tamil Nadu,

paved the way for the current STCR-based training programme. She thanked the Government of Tamil Nadu for deputing STL and MSTL officers and wished the trainees and organizers a successful programme.

Dr.P.Balasubramaniam, Director (DNRM), TNAU, delivered the inaugural and presidential address, insisting the importance of soil testing in sustainable agriculture. He traced the historical changes in fertilizer-use efficiency from the Green Revolution to modern cultivars and underlined the environmental consequences of imbalanced fertiliser use. He reiterated the need for the judicious and integrated use of fertilizers and organic manures, promoting STCR and targeted yield approaches. He also explained the role of integrated nutrient management in controlling the pests and diseases occurrence and thereby production of safe food devoid of residues of agrochemicals. He also stated that STCR equations have been developed so far for 37 crops and 10 cropping sequences and encouraged scientists to develop STCR models for other major crops of Tamil Nadu. The inaugural session concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. S.Maragatham, Professor (SS&AC) and Scheme incharge AICRP (STCR), TNAU, Coimbatore.

Public Relations Officer