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

The Valedictory Programme of the three days Training on “Soil Test Crop Response (STCR) Based Fertilizer Prescription for Various Crops” for the Agricultural Officers of Soil Testing Laboratories (STLs) and Mobile Soil Testing Laboratories (MSTLs) of Tamil Nadu (Batch II) was held on 23.01.2026 at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), Coimbatore. The programme was jointly organized by the Department of Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry, TNAU, Coimbatore, and the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of Tamil Nadu during 21-23, January 2026.

Dr.D.Selvi, Professor and Head, Department of Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry, TNAU, welcomed the gathering and emphasized the significance of STCR technology in advancing sustainable agricultural practices. She also provided an overview of the three-day training sessions.

Mrs. M. Tamil Selvi, M.Sc. (Agri.), Joint Director of Agriculture, Coimbatore, delivered the felicitation address. She highlighted that the training served as an important platform for knowledge exchange and collaboration between the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of Tamil Nadu and TNAU.

In his presidential address, Dr.P.Balasubramaniam, Director (DNRM), TNAU, underscored the pivotal role of soil testing in sustainable agriculture. He outlined the necessity for the judicious and integrated use of fertilizers and organic manures, advocating for the adoption of STCR and targeted yield approaches. He requested all the Agricultural Officers from Soil Testing Laboratories (STLs) and Mobile Soil Testing Laboratories (MSTLs) of the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of Tamil Nadu to give STCR-IPNS based fertilizer recommendations to farmers to ensure efficient and balanced fertilizer application to crops.

Dr. N. Senthil, Director (CPMB&B), TNAU, delivered the valedictory address, wherein he emphasized the challenges associated with the adoption of STCR technologies in the context of natural farming, organic farming, and the growing national emphasis on sustainable soil management and climate resilience. He acknowledged the commendable efforts of the Government of India and

the Government of Tamil Nadu in promoting soil health, highlighting the critical importance of maintaining soil quality to ensure global food and nutritional security while safeguarding environmental sustainability. He also deliberated on the mechanisms of nutrient transport in plants, bio fortification with Zn and Iron to alleviate micronutrient deficiency as well as recent advances in soil mapping and GIS. During the valedictory function, he released a handbook on Soil Test Crop Response based Fertilizer Prescription for various crops and distributed certificates to the participants.

The programme concluded with a formal Vote of Thanks by Dr.S.Maragatham, Professor (SS&AC) and Scheme In-charge, AICRP (STCR), TNAU, Coimbatore. A total of 30 Agricultural Officers from STLs and MSTLs of Tamil Nadu participated in the training programme and benefitted from the technical deliberations.

Public Relations Officer