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To
The Editor,
Sir,

Date: 28.10.2026

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

TNAU is conducting a hands-on training programme on "Molecular Breeding for Crop Improvement"

The Department of Plant Biotechnology, Centre for Plant Molecular Biology and Biotechnology (CPMB&B), Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), Coimbatore, is conducting a two-day hands-on training programme on "Molecular Breeding for Crop Improvement" on October 28 and 29, 2026.

A total of 27 participants from Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Haryana and Delhi are attending the programme. The participants include postgraduate students, faculty members from SRM University and NGP College of Arts and Sciences, scientists from the Department of Biotechnology and the ICAR–National Research Centre for Orchids, and representatives of private seed companies.

The programme commenced with an inaugural session in which Dr. E. Kokiladevi, Professor and Head, Department of Plant Biotechnology, delivered the welcome address. Dr. K. Venkatesan, Dean (Horticulture), Horticultural College and Research Institute (HC&RI), Coimbatore, delivered the special address.

The training programme aims to familiarise participants with the principles of molecular markers and their applications in modern plant breeding. The sessions combine expert lectures with guided practical exercises to provide hands-on experience in polymerase chain reaction (PCR) techniques and marker-assisted selection. Participants are also introduced to advanced genetic analysis methods, including linkage map construction, quantitative trait locus (QTL) mapping and genome-wide association studies (GWAS), using analytical tools such as ICIM and TASSEL.

The programme is designed to strengthen participants' practical knowledge and technical skills in molecular breeding and to enhance their understanding of genomics-assisted approaches for crop improvement.

The training programme is being organised by Dr. S. Geethanjali, Associate Professor, Department of Plant Biotechnology, CPMB&B, TNAU, Coimbatore.

Public Relations Officer