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
The Editor,
Sir,

Date: 26.10.2026

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

TNAU organised Guest Lecture on "Industrial Trends and Opportunities in Agriculture and Biotechnology"

The Centre of Excellence in Biotechnology (COXBIT), Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), Coimbatore and the Department of Plant Biotechnology, Centre for Plant Molecular Biology and Biotechnology (CPMB&B), jointly organised a guest lecture on "Industrial Trends and Opportunities" on 24 October 2026. The lecture was delivered by Mr. Karthikeyan Kasiviswanathan, Chief Executive Officer of Nithilam Tech. The session aimed to highlight the transformative role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in agriculture and biotechnology and familiarise students with emerging career opportunities in these fields. The under graduates of B. Tech (Biotechnology) & (Bioinformatics) (150 Nos.) and M.Sc Molecular Biology and Biotechnology students were participated in this event.

During the lecture, Mr. Karthikeyan highlighted the uncertainties associated with agriculture and explained how AI can support data-driven decision-making and improve agricultural practices. He discussed the application of AI-based crop data analysis, including vegetation indices such as the Normalised Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI), in precision agriculture. He also cited the Namo Drone Didi scheme as an example of the growing adoption of drone technology in Indian agriculture. The speaker highlighted opportunities in polyhouse cultivation of high-value crops such as blueberries and mentioned the RKVY-RAFTAAR programme for supporting agricultural innovation and entrepreneurship. He emphasised that AI-generated results should not be blindly trusted and must be validated using scientific methods and field observations, citing FAO-56 guidelines for irrigation scheduling as an example.

The session also introduced students to emerging career pathways at the intersection of biology, agriculture and technology, including Data Analyst, Precision Agriculture Specialist, Bioinformatician and Agri-Product Manager. During the interactive session, students discussed the challenges and limitations of AI applications in agriculture. Mr. Karthikeyan explained the importance of using reliable data, combining AI with scientific knowledge, and validating results through expert guidance and field observations. He encouraged students to use AI responsibly and explore its potential to address agricultural challenges.

Earlier, Dr. K. Hemaprabha, Associate Professor, Department of Plant Biotechnology, TNAU, Coimbatore, welcomed the gathering. Dr. N. Senthil, Director of CPMB&B and COXBIT, delivered the inaugural address. The teams of CPMB&B and COXBIT coordinated the programme.

Public Relations Officer