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To
The Editor,
Sir,

Date: 26.09.2026

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

Skill oriented training on mushroom spawn production

In the current climate change situation, depleting agricultural land and water shortage, Mushroom cultivation is a sustainable venture for self-employment and income generation to woman folk and youth. Mushroom cultivation best fits in Integrated Farming System to add additional income to the farmers. By adopting mushroom cultivation, agro wastes like paddy straw can be converted into proteinaceous mushroom vegetable. Mushroom growers of Tamil Nadu are contributing around 81% to the total mushroom production of our country. However, there is more demand for quality spawn among the growers to produce more mushrooms to satisfy the demands of the consumers. To fill this gap, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) has organized a three day skill oriented training on spawn and mushroom production (23.09.2026 to 25.09.2026) where 31 participants from various districts of Tamil Nadu *Viz.*, Coimbatore, Vellore, Chennai, Thiruvallur, Thanjavur, Karur, Salem, Dharmapuri, Tiruvannamalai, Kerala and Bangalore participated and gained hands on experience. The trainees were actively involved in media preparation, tissue culturing of mushrooms, spawn production, paddy straw processing and mushroom bed preparation. They were also exposed to the Technology Business Incubator and Centre for Post Harvest Technology of TNAU to further know the strategies and plans to upgrade and expand their business venture. Dr. M. Shanthi, Director (CPPS) and Dr. K. Angappan, Professor and Head gave assurance to the

trainees for extending further support and guidance to the trainees. The training aspects were conducted by Dr. G. Thiribhuvanamala (Professor) and Dr. P. Mahalakshmi (Asst. Prof.) of the Department of Plant Pathology. An Interaction meeting was held between the trainees and entrepreneur, Mrs Priyadharshini, Avvai Mushrooms and Food products, Trichy and Mrs. Hema, Uyir valam organic mushrooms, Coimbatore who shared their experience and motivated the trainees to start a mushroom venture through production of mushroom spawn, oyster and milky mushroom production and value addition.

Public Relations Officer