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To  
The Editor,

Date: 31-8-2015

Sir,

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

**TNAU and ICAR Cotton Institute Sign Agreement for Development  
of Indigenous Bt Cotton**

Bollworm infestation is a serious problem causing enormous yield loss in cotton. Farmers are forced to take up frequent insecticidal sprays. Conventional breeding to develop bollworm resistant cotton is difficult due to non-availability of resistance source in cultivated cotton. With the advent of recombinant DNA and genetic transformation technology, it is possible to introduce a specific gene from a soil bacterium into cotton plant. This gene expresses a Bt protein which has insecticidal activity against the bollworms.

With a view to developing indigenous Bt cotton, TNAU has developed a potent Bt gene. Using this gene, cotton events resistant to the bollworms were generated. TNAU in collaboration with Central Institute of Cotton Research (CICR), Nagpur will further work on the development of indigenous Bt cotton.

An MoU was signed on 27-8-2015 in the presence Dr. S. Ayyappan, Secretary (DARE) & Director General, ICAR, New Delhi and Professor K. Ramasamy, Member, State Planning Commission by Dr. C. R. Anandakumar, Acting Vice-Chancellor, TNAU and Dr. N. Gopalakrishnan, Principal Scientist, CICR Regional Station, Coimbatore.

Asst. Public Relations Officer