Tamil Nadu Agricultural University
O/o the Public Relations Officer
Coimbatore – 641 003

Dr. Venkata Pirabu, Ph.D.,
Public Relations Officer &
Professor (Agrl. Extension)
Mobile: 94890 56730

Phone: 0422 - 6611302
Fax: 0422 – 2431821
E-mail: pro@tnau.ac.in

To
The Editor,

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Sir,

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

Technological Breakthrough in Agriculture Subsided Poverty – says TNAU VC

Agricultural Machinery Research Centre of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) organized a one day workshop of All India Coordinated Research Project on "Farm Implements and Machinery" on 4-2-2015 at Rasi Seeds Hall of TNAU. About more than 100 scientists participated in the workshop.

Dr. C. Divakar Durairaj, Dean, Agricultural Engineering & Research Institute, TNAU in his special address, felt prideful for the presence of dignitaries of reputation. While introducing, he elaborated the genesis on the historical development of institute. He further said, since 1972 the fabrication of machineries had gone beyond boundaries. Legacy is to be proudly carried out, he added.

The plethora of researches, big array of farm equipments have been developed but they did not reach the clientele to fulfill the needs and aspiration of farming community. He also lamented that the preparation of farming system is essential for machinery development and matching. Day old methods of irrigation channel will be mismatching the use of farm implements. He wanted a complete transformation of farming system like precise planting and equidistance would be the right way to implement the viability of the machinery. Though mechanical dibbling of seeds would enhance the germination percentage to 60%, machine dibbling could reduce the germination percentage to 50% but sticking to mechanization alone could save time, energy and labour, he insisted.

In furtherance, he aspired the integration of research by crop and engineering scientist which would bring out productive results in the farm machinery front.

Dr. C.R. Metha, Project Coordinator, AICRIP and Farm Machinery, ICAR, New Delhi highlighted the achievements, delineating the shortage of agricultural labour which trigged the mechanization drive, migration of labourers, decline of farm power to 10%, increase in input use efficiency enhanced crop intensity, drudgery reduction etc would pave a big way for augmentation of farm machineries. A few successful models of farm implements and machinery namely Tractor operated check basin former, seed cum fertilizer Drill, Tractor operated small seed planter, Tractor operated Garlic planter, Tractor operated turmeric planter, GPS based variable rate fertilizer operator, sugarcane sett cutter, pomegranate spray system using ultrasonic sensor approach, tractor operated sugarcane harvester, thresher for corriandrum and other similar innovations were promoted. He also stated that, various prototypes developed for manufacturing, fabrication, feasibility testing, tractor operated rotary weeder, air assisted horizontal sleeve, boom spray with extension methodological approaches for the dissemination of above innovations. The policy briefing was also displayed.

Dr. K. Alagusundaram, Deputy Director of General, Agrl. Engineering, ICAR, New Delhi insisted on the quality of writing and proficiency of speaking as the integral component for research. He also stated the researches must not be always experimental but should be empirical to rectify the defects of farm problems and to increase the income level of farmers. He wanted a consortiam mode of research instead of piece meal research. He further underscored the need for reaching the unreached to reduce the gulf in the technological gap. The Centre of Excellence will be geared and restored only due to intensive research with a collaborative attempt, he insisted.

Dr. K. Ramasamy, Vice-Chancellor, TNAU, Coimbatore in the special address, specified the need for under graduate research which could be the initiating points for the Master of research. He also lamented that water tight correspondent need to be scrapped and researchers must summon the efforts of multi disciplinary and crisscross research for future benefits. He stated that the proliferation of ICAR system would invite more scientists for other spectra of specialisation. He wanted pragmatic change must be contemplated and exclusive unit need to be identified by scientists for alternative researches and for

strengthening the researches. Also he stressed the need for simple and cheap materials to use for research.

In addition, he wanted interventions like mechanization along with focused and allocated work need to be done for efficient execution of researches.

Consolidation of lands would reap more success quotient and Indian innovations are more reliable and reach the stupendous achievement by feeding the huge populace. He also said that, the agricultural technology break through alone subside the hunger and fed the burgeoning population.

He also wanted the scientists to find ways and means to support the young farmers to sustain in agriculture, an attractant for machinery for flourishing, augmenting money for basic and fundamental research would all combinely promote the innovations in machinery.

He also recalled, that the self sufficiency, the India had brought in which created self correcting mechanism, willful scientists with a team building attitude will bring out fruitful research, he exhorted.

Earlier, Dr. M. Maheswaran, welcomed the gathering. Finally, Dr. Dr. B. Sridhar, Professor and Head, AMRC, TNAU proposed a formal vote of thanks.

Public Relations Officer