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To
The Editor,

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Sir,

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

**Evolutionary Model Food Feed huge Populace to Ensure Food Security –
says Former Secretary of DST**

The inauguration function of National Seminar on “Doubling Food Production in Ten Years” Programme was held Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), Coimbatore on 23-1-2015.

Earlier Mr. S. Viswanathan, Trustee, Agriculture Consultancy Management Foundation welcomed the gathering. While speaking he said that Indian population is showing an increasing trend, whereas the food production is not keeping up pace with it and Land available for cultivation is decreasing. There is need to produce more from less land and mismatch between demand and growth of food output are the major issues that forced us to focus on this topic. India has 430 million acres of arable land, ability to produce throughout the year and rich in biodiversity. Six point programme that is essential included Selection of right crop, Preparing the land: lack of labour and need for mechanization, Soil testing and correction, Using quality seeds and raising healthy seedlings, Improving productivity through simple tools and implements and Holistic management: Setup shop for pricing decision, he specified.

While suggesting few strategies, he said that land can be agglomerated as in Punjab and Rajasthan without alienating ownership over a period of 15 years. This will enable using mechanization, technology and management. Growth in agriculture will boost rural prosperity, arrest migration to cities, make handsome contribution to overall economic development and agri graduates will find handsome remunerable employment in villages, he reiterated.

Dr. G. Palani G Periasamy, President, South India Sugar mills associations delineated the Constraints in agriculture, which included the following namely, No appropriate policy measures to make agriculture a profitable entity, Fragmentation of land leading to in effective utilization of mechanization, Falling agriculture prices, Prevalence of unorganized sector, Application of technology and modern improvement is costly and Farmers reeling under huge debts.

Issues are to be addressed from commercial perspective in warehousing, refrigeration, mechanization, storage and marketing. In case of sugarcane production in Brazil, 42 per cent of it goes to ethanol but due to decline in fuel price, profit was not realized, he lamented.

To realize profit by exporting the surplus, strengthening the global price, global network, global distribution system could bring profitability. Also the policy measures should address the micro elements of constraints faced by small farmers.

Experts should be involved in decision making process and interaction between scientists and policy makers should be encouraged. Further, he concluded by saying that unless we take comprehensive and scientific way by putting aside the political approach, the surplus will become a disadvantage. We must build the technological capabilities to convert the agriculture waste to energy he added.

Dr. K. Ramasamy, Vice-chancellor of TNAU, Coimbatore while addressing said that the government has already come out with schemes to identify and encourage talented youngsters, Non adoption of latest technology such as diffusion technology in the sugar industry. Despite, inadequate funding for agricultural research TNAU could help as many frontiers as development of new technologies and in amelioration of environmental problems. Besides being number one educational institution in terms of number of fellowships obtained by TNAU graduate besides joining the ICAR stream. He stressed the need for better networking and coordination among institutions and stakeholders, the weak support of industry to research and of being very positive about adoption of less polluting technologies, the role of journalists in bringing about linkage among the sectors in support of science and development, the need for autonomy to the states to take decisions best suited to them and agriculture education is attracting quality students including girls.

Dr. T Ramasami, Former Secretary of Dept. of Science and Technology said that there is enough science and technology in India to become self sufficient in food production, contribution of Indian research to world is in double digit as regards mathematics and agricultural engineering. We need a shift from agriculture as cultural practice to an industrial activity, he underscored. Inability to afford by consumers is the only thing that leads to surplus, he stressed. The government should address the issues of productivity of labour, remuneration and management, he wanted.

Public Relations Officer