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To
The Editor,
Sir,

Date: 02.03.2023

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

TNAU Celebrates National Science Day 2023

A 'National level Science Competition' for school students was organized in Tamil Nadu Agricultural University on Feb.28, in connection with the National Science Day to mark the discovery of the Raman Effect by Indian Physicist Sir C.V.Raman.

This symposium is being organized every year since 2005 by the undergraduate B.Tech. students of the Centre for Plant Molecular Biology and Biotechnology. During the inauguration, in his opening address, Dr. N. Senthil, Director, Centre for Plant Molecular Biology & Biotechnology, TNAU, Coimbatore explained the origin of Bioconcorrenza, which was derived from the Italian word *concorrenza* meaning competition. He stressed that, both the Central and State Governments are keen on encouraging scientific research in young minds, especially TNAU, since science is the key for success and economic prosperity of the country.

Vice Chancellor, TNAU, Prof. V. Geethalakshmi TNAU presided over the function in her presidential address, scientific research that has raised India from the importer of food grains in the 1960s to exporters currently. She pointed out that India was the largest exporter of wheat during the Covid times and during the Ukraine war. This year, TNAU has released 23 high yielding improved varieties. She advised the students that all the ideas need to be patented for commercial application. Finally, the VC commended all the school students for participation and distributed the prizes to the school students.

The contribution of Aryabhata for Indian science and the predictive science of *Panchangam* in imparting knowledge is applicable even now, Dr.VenkatesaPalanichamy, Dean (Agriculture) said in his felicitation address. He also pointed that Indian vaccines that were developed by Indian companies were far more better than those developed by other countries and which are with controversies. This event will be an eye opener of all students to bring them towards science.

In his felicitation address, Dr. Hari Krishnan, Adjunct Professor of Plant Sciences and Technology, University of Missouri, USA motivated the students to be inquisitive and encouraged them to ask the question “why”, which is the key for success in science. He opined, refusal to accept failure and developing an infallible acumen are the qualities each student scientist has to develop with hardwork.

In his presidential address, Dr. A. Velmurugan, Assistant Director General (SWM), ICAR, New Delhi noted that the key to become a scientist is “Discover Yourself, Ask yourself what you are.”. Science will be the truth even if we accept it or not. First the students need to observe, understand and admit to be a good researcher. Communication is the key to disseminate the findings, he said. Finally, he advised, we need to be deserving to desire.

Initially, Miss. Pragalaya welcomed the gathering and Mr. Aravindh, Student Organizing secretaries, proposed the vote of thanks. There were around 247 school schools from 27 schools in and around Coimbatore participated in the seminar and the competitions.

Public Relations Officer