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To
The Editor,
Sir,

Date: 04.06.2025

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

**TNAU offers Skill training on Biocontrol Agents Production
to the Rural Youths**

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University plays a key role in introducing integrated pest management technologies to manage crop pests rather than relying solely on pesticides. Biological control, along with other methods, is a very important component of integrated pest management. The role of biological control agents is particularly important in managing invasive insect pest species such as papaya mealybug, cassava mealybug, sugarcane woolly aphid etc.

Biocontrol agents, apart from reducing the number of insecticide applications, increase the abundance of natural enemies in agricultural ecosystems. Timely use of parasitoids, predators, and entomopathogens reduces pest infestation in crops. Biocontrol agents are mostly available at Agricultural University centers and the State Department of Agriculture Biocontrol Laboratories. The limited availability of biocontrol agents restricts their use in the field. Farm-level multiplication of biocontrol agents ensures the timely availability of these inputs.

To impart the biocontrol agent's production among the schedule caste rural youths, It has been proposed to organize week long skill training programme on “Biocontrol Agent Production” during June second week with the financial assistance from the ICAR – Indian Institute of Rice Research, Hyderabad. The skills for mass production of important parasitoids, predators, bioinsecticides, and biofungicides will be imparted to trainees.

The age limit of the participants will be 25 – 35 years. Boarding and lodging will be provided for the participants during the training program. The training program can accommodate only 25 participants; hence, the interested scheduled caste rural youth should send their willingness to entomology@tnau.ac.in mail ID with necessary documents.

Public Relations Officer