



**Tamil Nadu Agricultural University**  
Coimbatore – 641 003



Dr. M. Rajavel, Ph.D.,  
Public Relations Officer  
Mobile: 94890 56730

Phone: 0422 - 6611302  
Fax: 0422 – 2431821  
E-mail: [pro@tnau.ac.in](mailto:pro@tnau.ac.in)

---

---

To  
The Editor,  
Sir,

Date: 06.07.2022

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

### **TNAU Scientist honored with Tamil Nadu Government Scientist Award**

Dr. G. Karthikeyan, Professor and Head, Department of Plant Pathology of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University has been conferred with the Tamil Nadu Scientist Award by the Tamil Nadu State Council for Science and Technology, Government of Tamil Nadu. Dr Karthikeyan is renowned in the sphere of Plant Virology, Biological control of crop diseases and host pathogen interactions. He has obtained 25 externally funded projects worth more than 11 crore rupees from reputed national and international science funding agencies.

Dr. Karthikeyan has published more than 200 publications including research papers in reputed high impact factor international journals like Scientific Reports, Microbiological Research, Frontiers in Microbiology, Microbial Pathogenesis, World Journal of Microbiology and Biotechnology, Phytopathology, Plant Disease, etc.

Dr. Karthikeyan has documented and reported the natural infections of different plant viruses on diverse crops viz., Groundnut bud necrosis virus (GBNV) on bitter gourd; Tobacco mosaic virus on *Solanum nigrum*; Capsicum chlorosis virus on groundnut; Zucchini yellow mosaic virus (ZYMV) on pumpkin; Cucumber green mottle mosaic virus on snake gourd; Tomato spotted wilt virus on chrysanthemum; ZYMV in snake gourd and Vanilla distortion mosaic virus on ornamental *Zinnia bicolor* for first time in India. He has developed the virus diagnostic kits for viruses infecting cucurbitaceous crops, brinjal, tomato, chillies, blackgram etc. He has sequenced more than 500 genes of different plant viruses, bacteria, phytoplasma and fungi and deposited them in public database, NCBI.

He has developed integrated pest management (IPM) capsule for major pests and diseases of pearl millet and yellow mosaic disease of blackgram. He has also developed IPM strategies for major vegetable crops viz., tomato, brinjal, bhendi, cucurbitaceous vegetables and onion involving different components. A non-transgenic molecular approach for virus disease management, the dsRNAs targeting coat protein and replication initiator protein of Mungbean yellow mosaic virus were also developed and evaluated by him. He has also constructed the RNAi constructs harbouring the hpRNA cassetts of virus gene fragments of GBNV, Tobacco streak virus and Cucumber mosaic virus and proved their resistance in crops. He had been awarded with the Best Researcher Awards of TNAU for two times (2010 and 2018) and also awarded with Scientist of Excellence in Niche Area of Research for Plant Virology. He is the recipient of thirty other awards and recognitions including several international awards for his professional excellence. Dr. Karthikeyan took up his Post - Doctoral Research at Washington State University, USA. He has visited eight foreign countries including USA for research related assignments.

In recognition of the outstanding research work done by Dr. G. Karthikeyan in the field of Plant Pathology, the Tamil Nadu State Council for Science and Technology of Government of Tamil Nadu is privileged to confer to him, the Tamil Nadu Scientist Award (TANSA) in Agricultural Sciences for the year 2020.

**Public Relations Officer**