

17.06.2025

The Wilmut Club of **PG and Research Department of Biotechnology**, J.J College of Arts and Sciences (Autonomous), Pudukkottai organized a special guest lecture programme on Tuesday (**17.06.2025**). The Chief Guest **Dr T Kavitha, Assistant Professor**, Dept of Microbiology, School of biological Sciences, Alagappa University, karaikudi, delivered a plenary lecture on “**Rooted innovations: Harnessing Rhizobacteria for sustainable agriculture**”.

In her talk, she explained the application of Plant Growth-Promoting Rhizobacteria (PGPR) to enhance soil fertility, improve crop yields, and reduce the dependency on chemical fertilizers and pesticides. These beneficial bacteria, found in the root zone of plants, play a crucial role in nutrient recycling, disease suppression, and plant stress tolerance. She highlighted the importance of sustainable agricultural practices in the face of climate change and environmental degradation. “This initiative is a testament to our commitment to research-driven solutions for real-world problems,” and also explained how local strains of PGPR are being isolated and studied for their effectiveness in promoting crop health. These beneficial soil microbes, found around plant roots, naturally boost crop growth, enhance nutrient uptake, and increase resistance to stress and disease. From this lecture students got idea for to develop low-cost biofertilizers tailored for local farmers, reducing reliance on chemical inputs while improving soil health and crop yield. Finally she was interacted with the students by telling so many answers.

At the commencement of programme Dr **G Manigandan**, Head & Assistant Professor, P.G & Research Department of Biotechnology, delivered welcome address & introduced the Chief Guest by highlighting his achievements, Chief Guest was honored by **Ms. M. Maheswari**, Assistant Professor, P.G & Research Department of Biotechnology. Finally **Ms. P. Priyadharshini**, Assistant Professor of Biotechnology proposed the vote of thanks.