

## **Infusing Science Instincts in Young minds – 2016**

### **ICAR – National Bureau of Agricultural Insect Resources, Yelahanka Campus, Bengaluru**

A one day programme with the theme “Infusing Science Instincts in Young Minds – 2016” as a part of Agricultural Science Pursuit for Inspired Research Excellence, a program proposed by ICAR was organized at ICAR – National Bureau of Agricultural Resources, Yelahanka Campus, Bengaluru on 29.07.2016. The program aimed at imbibing farm science among school children. This program was conducted to impart exposure training to students on cutting edge technologies in farm science so as to motivate them in food production campaign.

The programme was attended by over 30 school students. The resource persons were drawn from ICAR – NBAIR, National Centre for Biological Sciences and Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research. Dr. Kesavan Subaharan, Organizer of the program on “Infusing Science Instincts in Young Minds – 2016” welcomed the gathering and outline the genesis and importance of the program. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Chandish R. Ballal, Director, ICAR – NBAIR. She introduced the concept of biological control of insect pest and weeds to the students. She stressed the need for paradigm shift in pest management. The conservation and augmentation of bioagents in the field and horticultural crops were briefed by her. The success of the classical biocontrol program was discussed.

Dr. Prashanth Mohanraj, Head, Division of Systematics, ICAR – NBAIR gave a talk on “Bugs aren’t Bugs”. He spelt out the role of insects and the need to conserve them. Classical examples of the importation of dung beetles from Africa to Australia to ward off problems in pasture lands was informed. He also shared his knowledge on alternate uses of insects like using them as food or feed. The smallest insect Kikiki was exhibited to students.

Dr. Shannon Olsson, NCBS delivered a talk on role of chemical senses in insect world. During her interactive session with students she made the students participate in identifying the volatiles and their chemistry. This was followed by a talk on Nanotechnology by Prof. Eswaramoorthy, JNCASR. He touched upon the basics of nanotechnology and spelt out the possible application of nanomaterials for improving the human lives.

Dr. Bakthavatsalam, Head In- charge Division of Insect Ecology, ICAR – NBAIR delivered a talk on semiochemicals and their use in pest management. He listed the types of pheromone and kairomones and their use in pest management. The products developed by his group for trapping the insects were discussed by him.

Dr. M. Nagesh, ICAR – NBAIR gave a talk on nematodes. He also demonstrated the cultures of nematodes. Dr. Shivalingaswamy, ICAR – NBAIR guided students to the pollinator garden and briefed them on the role played by pollinators in improving the crop production. Dr. M. Mohan exhibited the biostages of *Tuta absoluta*, Dr. Mahesh yendigiri, spoke on the role of microbes in agriculture. Drs. Sampath Kumar, Selvaraj, Amala and Mahendran organized the exhibits of insects and explained their roles in agriculture to the visiting students.

Dr. Kesavan Subaharan spoke on insects of medical and veterinary entomology and showed the housefly and mosquito stages to the students. The meeting ended at 3.30 pm



**Participants of the programme on “Infusing Science Instincts in Young Minds – 2016”**



**Dr.Chandish R. Ballal, Director, ICAR – NBAIR addressing the students**



**Dr. Prashanth Mohanraj, Head, Division of insect systematics interacting with students during exhibits session**



**Dr. Shannon Olsson, NCBS having an interactive session with students**



**Prof. Eswaramoorthy, JNCASR delivering a talk on nanotechnology**



**Dr. Shivalingaswamy interacting with students during field visit.**