

## **ICAR-NBAIR National Insect Museum inaugurated by honorable secretary DARE and DG, ICAR, Dr Trilochan Mohapatra**

ICAR-NBAIR was designated by the Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change in 2012 as the national repository for preservation of insects, spiders and mites. Based on the Repository and Bureau status of ICAR-NBAIR, the need was felt to create a full-fledged national insect museum and the foundation stone of the museum was laid on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2016. The museum was inaugurated by Dr Trilochan Mohapatra, Secretary DARE and Director General, ICAR on 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2019. Dr P. K. Chakrabarty, ADG (PP & B) was also present. This museum is equipped with the facilities for dry/wet and cryo preservation, mobile racks with insect boxes for long term storage and a state-of-the-art training facility.

After unveiling the inaugural stone and visiting the insect museum premises, Dr Mohapatra addressed the gathering. He urged the Directors to focus on the issues to be addressed and the purpose of creating a facility, prior to embarking on any new construction.

For strengthening the museum facility at NBAIR Dr Mohapatra suggested the following:

1. SEM facility to be installed.
2. The collections in the museum should be arranged in an intellectual and aesthetic manner.
3. Molecular data to be generated for all preserved specimens in the museum.
4. The specimens preserved should be complimented with ecological data for the evolutionary studies as well as for the benefit of Indian farmers.
5. Visit to global museums by taxonomists should be encouraged.
6. The present museum should be a world class facility so that it can become a hub for international collaborative research/training/identification.

Dr Mohapatra complimented the databases created and hosted on ICAR-NBAIR website. Dr Mohapatra suggested the following:

1. The bureau will need a large auditorium.
2. The citation index and the impact factor of ICAR-NBAIR for the last five years to be documented to measure its performance.
3. Quantification of insect species decline to be worked out with respect to global warming.
4. Fast paced registration of insect derived resources to be enabled and the availability of biopesticides to be ensured for farmers.
5. Demand for biocontrol agents and pheromone traps to be worked out for different agricultural ecosystems.

The New National Insect Museum will now house the types and all the Agriculturally Important Insect specimens, with facilities for training students and researchers. It is envisaged that ICAR - NBAIR National Insect Museum would create a platform for national and international students and taxonomists to study the insect specimens. and for any national or international taxonomist to study the specimens. This would not only lead to a more comprehensive documentation of Indian Insect Diversity, but would also lead to the creation of a well-knit group of Indian taxonomists who will also have the benefit of networking with international taxonomists.



