

Field day on monitoring and management of tomato leaf miner, *Tuta absoluta* on 11.08.15 held at Soolagiri, Hosur, Tamilnadu.

A field day on monitoring and management of tomato leaf miner, *Tuta absoluta* was organised by ICAR - National Bureau of Agricultural Insect Resources, Bengaluru, Department of Agriculture, Govt. of Tamil Nadu and Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Krishnagiri on 11.08.2015 at Soolagiri, Hosur in Tamil Nadu. Over 100 farmers, agricultural college students and research scholars attended the event. The inaugural meeting was chaired by Dr. Abraham Verghese, Director, ICAR – NBAIR. The director addressed the farmers and alerted them on the occurrence of *T. absoluta* in Tamil Nadu and the damage it can cause to tomato. He assured the farmers that management strategies developed by scientists of ICAR - NBAIR will help to tide over the problems posed by this invasive pest. He informed that pheromones lures developed by ICAR - NBAIR were effective and it could be used for monitoring and trapping the adults. The need to reach to other blocks of the districts in the districts was stressed by him. This could be achieved with the cooperation between the NBAIR, Agricultural Department and KVK. Folders on *Tuta absoluta* management in Hindi and English were released during the meet.

Dr. M. Mohan, Sr. Scientist, ICAR - NBAIR made a presentation on occurrence, distribution, damage symptoms and losses caused by *T. absoluta*. He briefed on the life cycle of the pest and management measures that involves cultural and chemical methods. Dr. Bhaktavatsalam, Pr.Scientist, ICAR - NBAIR gave an overview of the pheromones used in pest management. He highlighted about the pheromone lure developed at ICAR - NBAIR and called upon the farming community to use them to scale down the damage caused by the pest.

The group discussion between the farmers and scientists was moderated by Dr. T. Sundarraj, Programme Coordinator, KVK, Krishnagiri. The farmers interacted with the scientists on areas like identifying the difference between the serpentine leaf miner and tomato leaf miner. The queries raised on the safe use of pesticides were also addressed. Dr. Kesavan Subaharan, Pr. Scientist proposed the vote of thanks.

In the noon session the farmers had a field visit to Medapalli where the pheromone lures developed by ICAR- NBAIR were being evaluated. The farmers were shown the bio stages of the pest, the damage symptoms on leaves and fruits. The farmers had a feel of the number of adults being trapped in the lures and were convinced of its efficacy. The interaction with the farmers and scientists were given wide publicity through local dailies and national TV channels. Further surveillance and follow up are being planned.



Dr. Abraham Verghese, Director, ICAR - NBAIR inaugurating the meet.



Release of folder on *Tuta management* by Dr. Abraham Verghese



View of the participants during the meet



Field visit at Medapalli