



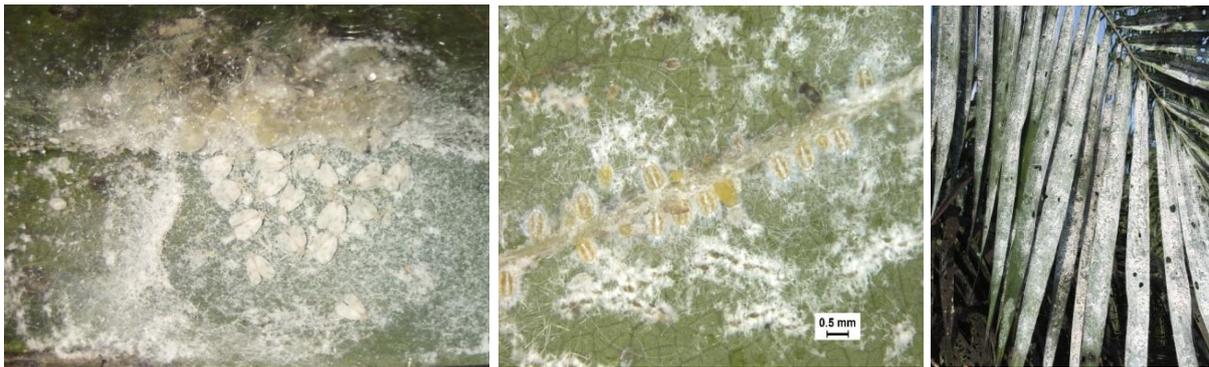
**Coconut
Development
Board**



Awareness programme on

**“Invasive Rugose spiralling whitefly (*Aleurodicus rugioperculatus*) in Coconut
at ICAR-KVK, Mangalore on 06th February, 2018**

Rugose Spiralling Whitefly (RSW), *Aleurodicus rugioperculatus* Martin, an invasive pest to the Oriental region, was first noticed on coconut at Pollachi, Tamil Nadu during August 2016. Subsequently, it was reported to feed on banana, sapota, mango, oil palm, guava, custard apple, water apple and many more ornamental plants like false bird of paradise, rubber fig, butterfly palm, ruffled fan palm, *Calophyllum* in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh. Due to its polyphagous in nature, moving of planting materials, it was reported from all coconut growing South Indian states within a few months period. Availability of wide range of host plants in large areas, favourable weather conditions might have helped intensity of RSW and established on many more host plants. Besides, direct damage by sucking sap, profuse honey dew excretion, which get deposited on upper leaf surface by the pest attract sooty mould which reduces the photosynthetic efficiency of plants.



Parasitoids (*Encarsia guadeloupeae* and *E. dispersa*) and the predators, green lacewing (*Dichochrysa* sp. nr. *astur*) and coccinellids (*Jauravia pallidula* and *Cheilomenes sexmaculata*) were found associated with RSW. Among the NEs, *E. guadeloupeae* was found to be dominant and could parasitize more than 70% RSW nymphs, which reduce the pest population significantly. However, *E. guadeloupeae* population is not evenly distributed across the infested areas and host plants. RSW population could be significantly reduced through conservation and redistribution of this parasitoid to the place where they are absent or insufficient. Efforts are being made at ICAR-NBAIR to mass produce *E. guadeloupeae* for augmentative release for the management of pest with financial support from Coconut Development Board, Kochi.



To sensitize the farmers and other stakeholders about the pest, host plants range, distribution, mode of dispersal and natural enemies, ICAR-NBAIR is organizing "Awareness programme on "Invasive Rugose spiralling whitefly (*Aleurodicus rugioperculatus*) at KVK, Mangalore on 06th February, 2018 jointly with Department of Horticulture, Government of Karnataka and ICAR-KVK, Kankanady, Mangalore. This awareness programme is intended take stock of the pest status of RSW such as augmentative and conservation biological control strategies and plan management strategies in collaboration with other stake holders and experts in Karnataka. The meeting also include field visit to study the extent of damage caused by the pest and release the parasitoid.

For further information, please contact the following:

Organizing Secretary

Dr. K. Selvaraj, Scientist (Ent), Email: selvaentomo@gmail.com; Mobile: 9482138812

Dr. T. Venkatesan, Pr. Scientist (Ent), Email: tvenkat12@gmail.com; Mobile: 9483161560

Dr. A.N. Shylesha, Pr. Scientist (Ent.), Email: anshylesha@gmail.com; Mobile: 8971318071