ICAR NBAIR organized a webinar #009 as part of Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav on 02.11.2021



ICAR-NBAIR organized a webinar 009 as a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav on 02 November 2021. The speaker and participants of the webinar were welcomed by Dr Kesavan Subaharan, Principal Scientist, ICAR–NBAIR. In his introductory remarks, Dr R. Rangeshwaran, Principal Scientist (Microbiology) briefed on the importance of microbial biopesticides to scale down the pesticide residues and resistance development in insects due to over dependence on insecticides in agriculture. While introducing the speaker Prof. Rajababu V.Vyas, AAU, Anand he lauded the efforts made by the speaker in taking the results from the laboratory to farmers field. The efforts made by the speaker to take forward the microbial biopesticides and biofertilizer was appreciated.

Prof. Rajababu V.Vyas, AAU, Anand delivered a talk on 'Microbes for IPM and its importance in Atmanirbhar Bharat for sustainable crop production'. Dr.Babu prior to delivering his talk lauded the efforts taken by Dr.M.Nagesh, Director Acting ICAR NBAIR in inviting him to deliver the talk. He recalled his association with Dr.Nagesh on works related entomopathogeic nematodes. In his talk, he covered the basic to applied aspects of microbial pesticides viz., entomopathogenic fungi, bacteria, virus and nematodes for the management of insects. He deliberated upon the success stories and economic impact of effective strains of microbial pesticides globally. He explained about the case study on biological control of root knot nematode using antagonistic and parasitic fungus, Paecilomyces lilacinus. He also explained about the validation of effective microbial strains in crops like cabbage, groundnut and tomato. The availability of effective *Bacillus* based plant growth promoting rhizobacterial strains with dual role as entomopathogens as well as growth promotion in plants was discussed. The need for policy guidelines from government to bring in private industries into mass production and commercialisation of microbial biopesticides on industrial scale was discussed. The role of public private partnership in promotion of microbial pesticides in India was deliberated.

Over sixty-seven participants from ICAR institutes, AICRP (BC) and State Agricultural Universities attended the webinar. Among the participants were, Dr Chandish R. Ballal and Dr

N. Bakthavatsalam Former Directors of ICAR–NBAIR. Dr R.R. Rachana, Scientist (Entomology) proposed vote of thanks. The webinar was organized by Dr.Rangeshwaran, Dr.Kesavan Subaharan, Dr.Amala and Dr.Rachana.

