

ICAR-National Bureau of Agricultural Insect Resources, Bengaluru

Meeting of the plant protection scientists with Dr. S.C. Dubey, Assistant Director General (PP&B), ICAR, New Delhi on 20 April 2022

An interactive meeting of the plant protection scientists of the ICAR institutes located in Bengaluru with Dr. S. C. Dubey, Assistant Director General (Plant Protection & Biosafety) was organized on 20 April 2022 in ICAR-NBAIR, Bengaluru. Sixteen plant protection scientists deputed from ICAR-Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR), one scientist from Regional Station of ICAR-Indian Institute of Seed Science (IISS) and all the scientists of ICAR-NBAIR attended the meeting. The meeting started with the welcome address delivered by Dr. M. Nagesh, Director In-charge, ICAR-NBAIR. He welcomed Dr. S. C. Dubey, ADG (PP&B) and all the scientists who were present for the meeting.

Dr. S.C. Dubey gave opening remarks on the importance and relevance of holding such meetings so as to foster collaboration and co-ordination in the research activities under plant protection. He stressed upon the importance of finding out the scientific reasons for encountering of most of the invasive pests in the peninsular India. He deliberated on various reasons like climate variability, crop diversity, import of exotic plant materials and also the availability of taxonomic experts for identification of the invasives. He pointed out the importance of responsibilities of plant protection scientists in the context of implementation of organic/natural farming and to prepare plant protection modules ready to be used for organic farming. He encouraged the plant protection scientists to get more involved in breeding programmes of horticultural crops, especially in fruit trees and ornamentals. He also stressed on the improvement of quality and visibility of publications.

Another topic which was discussed in detail in the meeting was about the application of insecticides using drones. Dr. Dubey stressed on the importance of generating data on phytotoxicity, drift, and dosage of pesticides. The need for standardizing method and dosage of pesticide application using drones was emphasized. The revised guidelines so as to facilitate ease of registration of biopesticides were also discussed. The possibility of evaluating the biocontrol agents developed at ICAR-IIHR in “AICRP on Biological Control of Crop Pests and Diseases” centres as well as testing of bioagents developed at ICAR-NBAIR in AICRP programmes of Fruits, Vegetables, Flowers, Medicinal and Aromatic plants was also discussed in detail. It was pointed out that the label claims for various chemicals do not cover many crops. Hence, it was suggested to initiate discussion at the policy makers’ level about the extension of label claims for related crops or based on groups of pests/diseases. Scientists deliberated on the need to take efforts to re-initiate Network projects on research problems of national priority. The possibility of generating toxicological data for the biocontrol agents in public-private partnership or in collaboration with private companies was also discussed. The need for establishing a “Plant Protection Network” so as to bring better visibility of plant protection scientists in the national and international level was emphasized. The importance of solid research work on recent invasives like *Thrips parvispinus* was highlighted.

The scientists requested the ADG to look into the requirement for the National Laboratories and Research Institutions to share 50% of the non-recurring cost of the projects funded by DST. Dr. Dubey pointed out the possibility of sharing of research papers between “Journal of Biological Control” and “Pest Management in Horticultural Ecosystems” and also holding national conferences in joint collaboration between “Society for Biocontrol Advancement” and “Association for Advancement of Pest Management in Horticultural Ecosystems”. Deliberations were also made on continued sharing of equipments and research facilities between ICAR-NBAIR and ICAR-IIHR.

Former Directors of ICAR-NBAIR, Dr. Abraham Verghese, Dr. Prashanth Mohanraj, Dr. Chandish R. Ballal and Dr. N. Bakthavatsalam also had a brief interaction with the ADG. They emphasized the importance of strengthening the National Insect Museum in ICAR-NBAIR. Two eminent plant protection scientists, Dr. M. Krishna Reddy and Dr. P.D. Kamala Jayanthi were felicitated during the meeting. Dr. Reddy was honoured for his services rendered and superannuation in June 2022, while Dr. Kamala Jayanthi was felicitated for securing first National Professorship in Plant Protection Sciences (2022). The meeting ended with the vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Jagadeesh Patil followed by a group photo and lunch hosted by ICAR-NBAIR.



ICAR-National Bureau of Agricultural Insect Resources, Bengaluru

Venue: Conference Hall
Timings: 11:00 AM

Date: 20.04.2022

Attendance for Meeting Bengaluru ICAR-Plant Protection Scientists

Sl. No	Name	Organisation, Designation and Specialization	E-Mail id and Mobile No.	Signature
1.	Dr S & DUBBY	ADG, PPB ICAR		
2.	Dr. M. NAGESH	Director(A) ICAR-NBAIR	9845753113	M. Nagesh 20/4/22
3.	Dr M. Krishna Reddy	ICAR-IIHR	9449671343	M. Krishna Reddy 20/4/22
4.	Dr. J. Jothi	ICAR-NBAIR	9885541925	J. Jothi 20/4/22
5.	S. Sriram	ICAR-IIHR	9449557070	S. Sriram
6.	V. Sridhar	"	9449631795	V. Sridhar
7.	P. V. R. Reddy	"	9663060825	P. V. R. Reddy
8.	PRASANNA KUMAR	ICAR-IIHR	6364830541	P. Prasanma Kumar
9.	Dr. R. UMAMAHESWARI	ICAR-IIHR	8861282155	R. Umamaheswari
10.	JAYANTHI MALABAR	ICAR-IIHR	8861767095	Jayanthi Malabar
11.	Dr. Kolla Sreedevi	ICAR-NBAIR	9911606683	Kolla Sreedevi
12.	Dr. Anjitha George	ICAR-IISS, Mon	8623937913	Anjitha George 20/4/22
13.	Dr. Radha T.K.	ICAR-IIHR	8792392781	Radha T.K. 20/4/22
14.	Dr. Bhagya S N	ICAR-IIHR	7795503679	Bhagya S N 20/4/22
15.	Dr. Deepa Bhagat	ICAR-NBAIR	7975001906	Deepa Bhagat 20/4/22
16.	Dr. A. N. Shylesha	ICAR-NBAIR	9480424706	A. N. Shylesha 20/4/22
17.	Dr. G. Sangeetha	ICAR-IIHR	9178830831	G. Sangeetha 20/4/22
18.	Dr. Rida Vanshrey	ICAR-NBAIR	9663199963	Rida Vanshrey 20.4.2022
19.	Dr. R. G. Gray	ICAR-NBAIR		R. G. Gray 20/4/22

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23.	Amala, V.	Taxonomy of bees NBAIR, Sr. Scientist	amala.vuday@gmail.com	Amala
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41.	P.D. Kamala Jayarami	IHR	jayarami.pd@gmail.com	P.D. Kamala Jayarami
42.	R. Rangeshwari	NBAIR	9449006813	R. Rangeshwari

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48.	Dr. M. Jeyapathi Kumar	Pr. Scientist, NBAIR		
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