

19th October, 2022

**ICAR-National Bureau of Agricultural Insect Resources (NBAIR),
Bengaluru celebrated 30th Foundation day with zeal and fervour here today**

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) - National Bureau of Agricultural Insect Resources (NBAIR), Bengaluru celebrated its 30th foundation day on Wednesday, 19th October at its farm campus, Yelahanka with several new initiatives. Dr T.R. Sharma, Deputy Director General (Crop Science), ICAR, New Delhi was the chief guest and Dr S.C. Dubey, Assistant Director General (PP&BS), ICAR was the guest of honour on the occasion. The dignitaries inaugurated "Bee Home" and "Black Soldier Fly Mass Production Unit" at the farm campus.

Following welcome note by Dr S.N. Sushil, Director, ICAR-NBAIR, he highlighted the achievements made by the present and past employees of NBAIR. He narrated the role played by NBAIR in biointensive management of whitegrubs, maize fall armyworm, pod borers, sucking pests etc., by employing suitable predators, parasitoids, pheromones and formulations of entomopathogens. He lauded the NBAIR's role in importation and introduction of three species of biocontrol wasps from USDA, USA during 2009, that has resulted in spectacular control of papaya mealybug on papaya, mulberry and in several other crops with saving of billions of rupees and preservation of environment.

In his felicitation address, Dr. Dubey praised the institute outputs and urged the scientists for further strengthening of research in GPS based biodiversity survey and novel biopesticide formulations and greater networking with other Institutes.

Inaugurating the foundation day, Dr Sharma lauded the great contributions made by the past and present employees of ICAR-NBAIR and congratulated the Director for the excellent presentation. He added that the Institute has secured 23rd rank among the ICAR Institutes mainly because of fulfilling four important 'P's - **publications, products, patents and partnerships**. He requested to analyse the citations and 'H' index of the institute to know the international rating. He further urged the Director, NBAIR to fix short, medium and long term goals in each research projects and ensuring of research continuity throughout one's scientific carrier. He adds on to say that science needs continuity, stability, constant funding and innovative thinking for achieving greater goals and competence with International Institutes. He congratulated all the award winners and urged everyone to own the Institute. He further suggested few areas of basic research such as genetic resource characterization, development of methods for large scale rearing of many insect species, identification of virulent biocontrol agents, mapping of genes and useful traits, cloning and functional validation of useful genes, allele mining, factors affecting the activity of biocontrol agents, data analytics using AI and IOT's and development of climate smart biocontrol agents.

The dignitaries released four publications and launched an online database on agriculturally important fruit fly pests. The National Insect Museum souvenir shop was also launched by the dignitaries with products such as coffee mug and T shirt with museum

insignia. NBAIR produced pure honey product named "Samrudha Honey" was also launched on the occasion.

In a significant initiative, the Institute has recently imported, *Anagyrus lopezi*, a parasitoid wasp for the biological control of the invasive cassava mealybug on cassava. NBAIR has optimised its mass production and trained several officials from state and central governments for initiating mass production and supply to farmers. This lead is expected to yield another successful biological control programme in India. The waste to wealth generation by employing a detritivore insect called black soldier fly is an initiative by the Institute that very well supports clean India campaign. This technology has been already licensed to half dozen companies within a short period of its development.

The Institute also came up with several other new technologies including, databases, mobile apps, patents and nano pheromones. The research publications are of high standard. The scientists of the Institute are regularly conducting field demonstrations and farmers training under various schemes of Govt. of India and published several extension folders in different languages.

On the occasion, the chief guest felicitated the former directors of ICAR-NBAIR, eminent entomologists, innovative farmers, the best performing start-ups and entrepreneurs in the fields of insect biological control. The best workers under various categories of the NBAIR staff were also felicitated for their significant contributions during 2021-22. More than 200 participants including all the staff members of ICAR-NBAIR and other Institutions took part in the event both online and offline.









