

## ICAR-NBAIR organized training on “Mass Production of Biocontrol Agents for Suppression of Invasive Whiteflies”

Three days training program on “Mass Production of Biocontrol Agents for Suppression of Invasive Whiteflies” was organized by ICAR- National Bureau of Agricultural Insect Resources ( NBAIR), Bengaluru from 16.11.2022 to 18.11.2022 at ICAR-NBAIR, Bengaluru under the Coconut Development Board project “Development and Validation of Biointensive Integrated Pest Management strategies for Coconut Invasive Whiteflies in Karnataka”



ICAR-NBAIR is striving hard for tackling invasive whiteflies in the country through constant monitoring, surveillance and developing the viable biocontrol technologies. Besides, ICAR-NBAIR also disseminating bio control technologies through regular trainings, demonstrations, awareness programme for the farmers, extension officials of state line departments, subject matter specialists of Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) and plant protection officers of Central integrated pest management centres (CIPMC) in the country.

In this direction, ICAR-NBAIR organized three days hands on training program on “Mass Production of Biocontrol Agents for Suppression of Invasive Whiteflies” to educate the different stakeholders on diagnosis, identification, coexisting pattern, their natural enemies of invasive whiteflies. Further, the trainees were exposed to mass production

protocols for the potential natural enemies viz., parasitoid, *Encarsia guadeloupa*; Predator, *Apertochrysa astur* and entomopathogenic fungus, *Isaria fumosorosea* for their large scale augmentation and application. Besides, we demonstrated the parasitoid release techniques and foliar application of *I. fumosorosea* under field conditions. The trainees were also exposed to various conservation strategies for the potential natural enemies of invasive whiteflies.



Dr. S.N. Sushil, Director, ICAR-NBAIR interacted with trainees and sensitized about the biological control of invasive whiteflies through bio control agents. He also urged the trainees to disseminate these technologies to growers for the sustainable management of these invasive whiteflies.

Training kits viz., training manual, extension folders, technical bulletins on invasive whiteflies and their biocontrol strategies were distributed to all the trainees. Trainees were from CIPMC, Bengaluru and Trichy; Assistant Horticultural Officer, Government of Karnataka; Agricultural Development Officer, Government of Kerala and Subject Matter Specialist (Plant protection) from Kerala and Karnataka. In valedictory function, trainees expressed their confidence to identify and diagnosis the invasive whiteflies and their natural enemies. Director, ICAR-NBAIR and Courses directors viz., K. Selvaraj; Dr. A. Kandan; Dr. B S Gotyal and Dr. M. Sampathkumar sincerely acknowledge the CDB, Kochi for funding this training programme.



**Hands on training on mass production of *Isaria fumosorosea***



**Trainees keenly looking on invasive whiteflies and their natural enemies**



**Demonstration on foliar application of *Isaria fumosorosea***

*Source: The Director, ICAR- National Bureau of Agricultural Insect Resources, Bengaluru*