

Training cum Demonstration on Biocontrol Strategies for Management of Invasive Whiteflies in Coconut

16 June, 2023, Annamaya district, Andhra Pradesh

ICAR- NBAIR conducted farmers training cum demonstration on biocontrol strategies for management of invasive whiteflies in coconut on 6th June, 2023 at Madanapalle, B. Kothakota Mandal, Annamayya district of Andhra Pradesh in collaboration with ICAR-KVK, Kalikiri. Dr. G. S. Panduranga, Programme Coordinator, KVK Kalikiri, Dr. Dr.A.Srinivasulu, Subject Matter Specialist (Horticulture) and Dr. Sesha Kiran Kollipara, Senior Scientist (Plant Pathology), Horticultural Research Station, Madanapalle of Dr. YSR Horticultural University were also participated in the programme.

Infestation of rugose spiraling whitefly, *Aleurodicus rugioperculatus* (low to moderate), Bondar's nesting whitefly, *Paraleyrodes bondari* (low to moderate) and palm infesting whitefly, *Aleurotrachelus atratus* (low to negligible) were observed the demonstration field.



Demonstration of preparation of *Isaria fumosorosea* (ICAR-NBAIR Pfu-5) solution

Dr. G. S. Panduranga briefed about the programme and importance of biocontrol agents to tackling these invasive whiteflies in coconut. In the technical session, Dr. K. Selvaraj, Senior Scientist (Entomology) briefed about the whiteflies origin, invasion, distribution, other different

host plants, life cycle, nature of damage, management strategies to farmers. Further, we demonstrated the augmentation and conservation strategies for the potential parasitoids, *Encarsia guadeloupae* (for rugose spiralling whitefly) and *Encarsia cubensis* (Palm infesting whitefly) and preparation and foliar application of *Isaria fumosorosea* to farmers and other stakeholders. Further, distributed the parasitoids & entomopathogenic fungus formulations to the farmers and released the parasitoid in the infested coconut garden.



Demonstration of foliar application of *Isaria fumosorosea* (ICAR-NBAIR Pfu-5)

Training kits include biocontrol agent's viz., Parasitoid, *E. guadeloupae* and *fumosorosea* formulations (oil) and extension folders on invasive whiteflies and their biocontrol strategies (Telugu & English) were distributed to all the farmers. In this training cum demonstration programme about 50 progressive farmers were participated and benefitted. This programme widely covered in local daily and given wider publicity among the farming community.



Demonstration on parasitoid, *Encarsia gualoupae* release

Source: ICAR- National Bureau of Agricultural Insect Resources, Hebbal, Bengaluru-24