

Five days training for Officials of Mizoram Government on Scaling up of production of macrobials and microbials for the management of fall armyworm at ICAR-NBAIR.

A five days training programme on **Scaling up of production of macrobials and microbials for the management of fall armyworm** was organized at ICAR-National Bureau of Agricultural Insect Resources, Bengaluru for officials from the Department of Agriculture, Govt. of Mizoram from 07-11 August 2023. The training programme was organized and coordinated by Dr. K. Subaharan, Dr. M. Sampath Kumar, and Dr. Richa Varshney. During the training, emphasis was laid on providing hands-on training on the production protocol of various macrobials, microbials, EPN and semiochemical-based management of FAW. Dr. S. N. Sushil, Director, ICAR-NBAIR chaired the inaugural and valedictory programme. The participants were exposed to threats posed by invasives entry and regulatory mechanisms needed to contain the damage caused by them. The bionomics of FAW, morphological and molecular tools in the identification of FAW and their natural enemies, methods for mass rearing of parasitoids, multiplication of entomopathogenic fungi, *Bt*, NPV, entomopathogenic nematodes, and the pheromone to manage FAW were provided to the trainees. The habitat manipulation strategies for the management of FAW and the benefits of pollinators in crop ecosystems were briefed to the trainees. In their feedback, the participants expressed their knowledge of non-chemical approaches to manage FAW had improved. The training provided will enable them to set up the biocontrol labs back at Mizoram. A proposal to provide technical expertise by ICAR-NBAIR in establishing the biocontrol lab and popularizing the stingless bees in Mizoram was mooted.





