

Mr. Neeraj Kumar Prajapati, renowned as the Bicycle Man of India, graced the ICAR-National Bureau of Agricultural Insect Resources (ICAR-NBAIR), Bengaluru



On January 24, 2024, Mr. Neeraj Kumar Prajapati, renowned as the Bicycle Man of India, graced the ICAR-National Bureau of Agricultural Insect Resources (ICAR-NBAIR), Bengaluru during his 4200km Shree Anna Millet Promotion Cycle ride from Kashmir to Kanyakumari as part of Mission Millet. In awe of the institution's accomplishments, he lauded the efforts and technological advancements of ICAR-NBAIR, Bengaluru.

During his visit, Mr. Prajapati extended his admiration to the Director, Dr. S. N. Sushil. Acknowledged as the "National Repository" by the Ministry of Environment & Forests, ICAR-NBAIR's museum houses approximately 0.22 million insect specimens, including 378 types. Notably, the institution has described 127 new species since 2017 and reported 44 insect species for the first time in the country, effectively addressing invasive threats such as the cassava mealybug and whiteflies.

ICAR-NBAIR's commitment to conservation is highlighted by the maintenance of 136 live insects, establishing it as one of the largest live insect repositories in Asia. The institution also boasts a diverse collection of entomopathogenic organisms, playing a crucial role in extensive field studies and evaluations under the AICRP Biological Control of Pests and Diseases.

Mr. Prajapati specifically commended the institution's efforts in developing slow-release pheromone formulations and nanosensors for early pest detection. Expressing interest in collaboration, he emphasized his role in bridging connections between the institution, CSR funding agencies, and end-users, particularly farmers. His visit showcased the potential for synergies between agricultural research, technological innovations, and community engagement.