

ICAR-NBAIR Conducted Training on Recent Advances in Good Agricultural Practices for Management of Emerging Insect Pests in Coconut

The bureau conducted Coconut Development Board Sponsored Training on “**Recent Advances in Good Agricultural Practices for Management of Emerging Insect pests in Coconut**” at ICAR-NBAIR, Bengaluru from 29th April - 3 May, 2024 (Five days) for Subject Matter Specialist (Plant Protection) of ICAR- Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Plant Protection Officers (Entomology) of Central Integrated Pest Management Centres, Horticultural Extension officials of department of Horticulture, Development Officers of Coconut Development Board to disseminate the biocontrol technologies developed at bureau to curtail the recent emerging insect pests in coconut.



This training focused on diagnosis and identification of emerging pests viz., invasive whiteflies, coconut black headed caterpillar, eriophid mite and slug caterpillar, their potential natural enemies, hands on training on mass production protocol for potential parasitoids, predators and entomopathogens including entomopathogenic fungi, bacteria and nematodes for management emerging pests in coconut. Various augmentative and conservation strategies for these biocontrol agents and biocontrol compatible approaches such as behaviours approaches for coconut pest management also covered.



In addition to crop protection practices, crop production practices including coconut based multiple and integrated farming systems and conservation of pollinators in coconut and IndGap certificate scheme for good agricultural practices were also covered for the optimum use

of resources such as pesticides, fertilizers, water and eco-friendly agriculture. Further, it was demonstrated release of natural enemies and foliar application of entomopathogens including agri-drone in coconut ecosystem.

Dr. S.N. Sushil, Director, ICAR-NBAIR interacted with trainees and sensitized about the biological control of recent invasive insect pests through bio-control agents. He also urged the trainees to disseminate these technologies to growers for the sustainable management of these emerging pests in coconut and their biocontrol strategies.

Total about 20 trainees from Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry were participated. In house resorse persons from ICAR0NBAIR and also from other organizations like ICAR-IIHR, Bengaluru, ICAR-ATARI, Bengaluru and Horticultural Research Station of YSRHU, Ambajipeta. Trainees were exposed to research facilities available at ICAR-NBAIR such as live insect repository, mass production unit of parasitoid, *Encarsia guadeloupae*, Bee home, black soldier fly mass production laboratory.



This training is part of project activities under Coconut Development Board, Kochi funded project on “Generation of toxicological data for registration of *Isaria fumosorosea* in CIBRC and demonstration of biocontrol agents for management of Invasive Whiteflies in Coconut”.

(Source: ICAR- National Bureau of Agricultural Insect Resources, Bengaluru)