

Inauguration of training
on
Diversity and identification of white grubs (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae)
at
ICAR-National Bureau of Agricultural Insect Resources, Bengaluru

A ten days training on “Diversity and identification of white grubs (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae) is being organized at ICAR-National Bureau of Agricultural Insect Resources (NBAIR), Bengaluru from 10 to 19 March, 2025 under ICAR National Fellow project with Dr. Kolla Sreedevi, ICAR National Fellow as Course Director and Dr. G. Mahendiran, Senior Scientist as Course Coordinator. The inaugural programme was held on 10th March, 2025 at 10.00 am at the Hebbal campus of the Institute, which was presided by Dr. S. N. Sushil, Director, ICAR-NBAIR. Dr. V. V. Ramamurthy, Former Professor, ICAR-IARI, New Delhi was the Guest of Honour and Dr. C. A. Viraktamath, Former Professor, UAS, GKVK, Bengaluru was the Chief Guest of the inaugural programme. Dr. Kolla Sreedevi welcomed the dignitaries and trainees and presented the details of the training programme.

Dr. Sushil, in his presidential address emphasized on the importance of the diversity studies of white grubs, which are serious pests of several agricultural and horticultural crops outlining its importance from management point of view. Dr. V. V. Ramamurthy has highlighted the importance of conventional taxonomy in species identification and need of molecular tools that can aid in identification of immature stages. Also briefed about the significance of larval taxonomy as they are the most damaging stages in white grubs. Later Dr. Viraktamath, in his address, gave an overview of scarab diversity worldwide and India and also stressed on additional characters like adeagal and endophallic structures which can support the existing morphological characters in identification of various white grub species especially for those which closely resemble each other externally. Twenty trainees from eight states viz., Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala are participating in the training. The inaugural programme ended with the vote of thanks by Dr. G. Mahendiran, Course Coordinator.



Dr. Kolla Sreedevi, ICAR National Fellow welcoming the dignitaries and trainees



Lighting of the lamp by dignitaries at the inaugural programme of training



Dr. S. N. Sushil, Director, ICAR-NBAIR addressing the trainees



Dr. V. V. Ramamurthy, former Professor, ICAR-IARI addressing the trainees



Dr. C. A. Viraktamath, former Professor, UAS, GKVK addressing the trainees



Dr. C. A. Viraktamath being felicitated by Dr. S. N. Sushil, Director, ICAR-NBAIR



Dignitaries and participants of the training inaugural programme