

ICAR-NBAIR Hosts National Workshop on Economic Impact Assessment of Classical Biological Control Agents for Pest Management

The ICAR-National Bureau of Agricultural Insect Resources (ICAR-NBAIR), Bengaluru, in collaboration with CAB International (CABI) and the Society for Biocontrol Advancement (SBA), organized a **National Workshop on Economic Impact Assessment of Classical Biological Control Agents for Pest Management** in hybrid mode on **3 July 2026** at ICAR-NBAIR, Bengaluru. The workshop brought together scientists, agricultural economists, policy experts, and stakeholders to deliberate on methodologies for assessing the economic benefits of classical biological control (CBC) programmes in India.

The programme commenced with the welcome address by Dr. K. Subaharan, Principal Scientist and Head, Division of Germplasm Conservation and Utilisation, ICAR-NBAIR, who welcomed the dignitaries, invited experts, and participants. Dr. T. Venkatesan, Director (Acting), ICAR-NBAIR, delivered the introductory remarks, highlighting the significance of classical biological control as an environmentally sustainable and economically viable approach for managing invasive pests while reducing dependence on chemical pesticides.



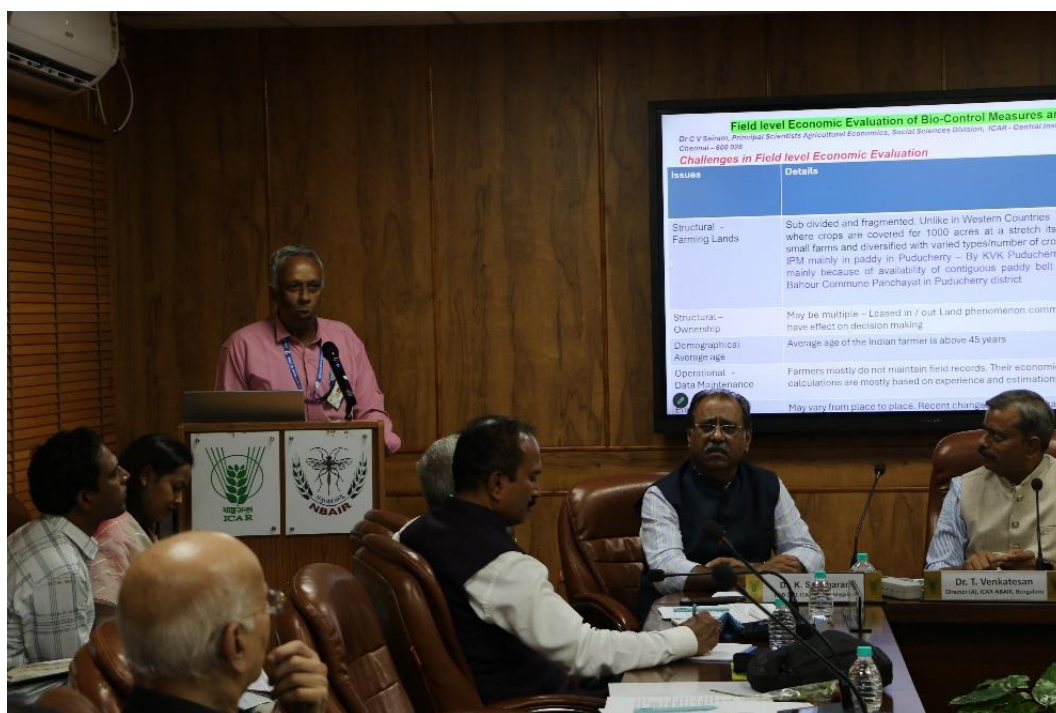
The workshop was chaired by Dr. Poonam Jasrotia, Assistant Director General (Plant Protection & Biosafety), ICAR, New Delhi, who underscored the importance of documenting the long-term economic, environmental, and societal benefits of biological control programmes for informed policy formulation and

future investments.

In the technical sessions, Dr. T. Venkatesan presented an overview of India's experience in classical biological control, showcasing successful interventions against invasive pests and their contributions to sustainable agriculture. This was followed by a presentation from Dr. Malvika Chaudhary, CAB International, who discussed global experiences and best practices in implementing and evaluating classical biological control programmes across different countries.



A dedicated session on the economic perspectives of classical biological control programmes featured expert presentations by Dr. D. Suresh Kumar (Director, CARDS, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore), Dr. S. Jayasekhar (Principal Scientist, ICAR-CPCRI, Kasaragod), Dr. C. V. Sairam (Principal Scientist, ICAR-CIBA, Chennai), and Dr. R. Sendhil (Associate Professor, Pondicherry University, Puducherry). The experts highlighted various approaches for quantifying the economic returns of biological control interventions, including cost-benefit analysis, valuation of ecosystem services, reduction in pesticide usage, enhancement of biodiversity, and long-term socio-economic benefits. The discussions also focused on developing standardized methodologies, data requirements, modelling tools, and impact metrics for evaluating CBC programmes in India.



The workshop included an extensive expert interaction session, during which participants deliberated on successful case studies, challenges in economic valuation, and opportunities for integrating economic assessments into national biological control programmes. The discussions emphasized the need for interdisciplinary collaboration among entomologists, agricultural economists, policymakers, and extension agencies to strengthen evidence generation and facilitate wider adoption of biological control technologies.

The workshop concluded with a wrap-up session and formulation of recommendations, highlighting the importance of developing standardized frameworks for economic impact assessment, strengthening data collection systems, incorporating ecosystem service valuation, and generating policy-relevant evidence to support sustainable pest management strategies.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by Dr. M. Sampath Kumar, ICAR-NBAIR, who expressed gratitude to the dignitaries, resource persons, participants, organizers, and supporting staff for their valuable contributions towards the successful conduct of the workshop.

The workshop reaffirmed ICAR-NBAIR's commitment to promoting environmentally sustainable pest management through classical biological control and strengthening the scientific and economic evidence base required for its wider adoption in Indian agriculture.

