

## Field Survey-Cum-Farmers Meet on “Invasive Rugose Spiraling Whitefly on Coconut and Oil palm”

**Survey on Infestation of Rugose Spiraling Whitefly in West Godavari district in Andhra Pradesh:** Survey team consists of Dr. (Mrs.) Chandish R Ballal, Director, ICAR-NBAIR, Dr. S.K. Jalali, Head, Genomic Resources Division, Dr. K. Sridevi, Senior Scientist (Entomology) and Dr. (Mrs.) Y. Lalitha, Asst. Chief Technical Officer from ICAR-NBAIR, Dr. Chalapathi Rao, Senior Scientist, Horticultural Research Station of Dr.Y.S.R Horticultural University, Ambajipeta, Dr. B. V.K.Bhagawan, Principal Scientist, Banana Research Station of Dr. Y. S. R Horticultural University, Kovvur, Dr. P.Kalidas, Principal Scientist (Entomology) from ICAR-Indian Institute of Oil Palm Research, Pedavegi, Subject Matter Specialist from Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Undi, West Godavari, representative from private oil palm industry and many progressive farmers. The expert team visited several coconut and oil palm plantation which were infested with rugose spiraling whitefly on 4<sup>th</sup> July, 2018. The level of pest incidence, pest population and occurrence of natural enemies were assessed.



The invasive pest is under the control on coconut and oil palm as very meager active colonies of rugose observed except few plants. Natural parasitism by *Encarsia guadeloupae* to the extent of 10-15 % was observed. Field visit followed by interactive meeting with farmers and other stakeholders at

Kalavalapalli village about the management strategies for rugose spiraling whitefly in coconut and oil palm. About 50 farmers, experts from YSRHU, KVK, CDB and other oil palm stakeholders were participated. Management aspects were briefed to all the participants based on survey and strategies followed in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.



Farmer meet on biocontrol of insect pests with special emphasis on biological suppression of rugose spiraling whitefly was conducted on 5<sup>th</sup> July at Horticultural Research Station of YSRHU, Ambajipeta, East Godavari district. The farmer meet was inaugurated and addressed by Dr (Mrs) Chandish R Ballal, Director, ICAR-NBAIR and Dr. J. DilipBabu, Director Research, YSRHU, address by Dr. G. Ramanandam, Principal Scientist and Head, HRS, Ambajipeta, Asst. Director from Coconut Development Board, West Godavari, retired scientist, Joint director of agriculture, Delegate from Mondeltez international, oil palm industry and about 120 progressive farmers were participated. In the meeting, it was briefed about sustainable management strategies for rugose spiraling whitefly in coconut and oil palm with special emphasis on biological suppression by various means of augmentative and conservation for noted potential parasitoid *Encarsia guadeloupae*.





The meeting was organized by Horticultural Research Station of YSRHU, Ambajipeta and ICAR-NBAIR, Bengaluru as part of institute silver jubilee celebration to promote biological pest suppression among farmers.