

Mera Gaon Mera Gaurav

“Demonstration of WP formulation of entomopathogenic nematode, *Heterorhabditis indica* for the biological control of Sugarcane root grub on 08.09.15 and 09.09.15 held at Hosur, Matolli, Ingalagi and Enagi villages of Savadatti taluk and Belgaum district”.

A field demonstration on WP formulation of Entomopathogenic nematode, *Heterorhabditis indica* was organised by ICAR - National Bureau of Agricultural Insect Resources, Bengaluru in collaboration with Department of Agriculture, Govt. of Karnataka on 08.09.15 and 09.09.15 at Hosur, Matolli, Ingalagi and Enagi villages of Belgaum district in Karnataka under the **Mera Gaon Mera Gaurav** programme. Over 100 farmers attended the event. The inaugural meeting was chaired by Dr. L. M. Hosamani, Assistant Director of Agriculture, Savadatti, Dr. Jagadeesh Patil, Scientist, ICAR–NBAIR. Mr. Prakash Mubasav, Chairman Cooperative Society, Hosur Mr. Mahantesh Abbai, President Gram Panchayat Sutagatti, Mr. Shankar Badiger, Secretary Cooperative society Hosur, Dr. M. N. Mahareddy, Agriculture officer Munnolli, Dr. M.S. Bisaguppi, Agricultural officer R.S.K. Savadatti, Dr. B.L. Dalwai, Agricultural officer R.S.K. Murgod, Dr. V.M. Hosur, Assistant Agricultural officer R.S.K. Murgod, Mr. Suresh Viveki, and Mr. Arvinda Lokur, Village leader Enagi.

Dr. Jagadeesh Patil addressed the farmers and gave the occurrence, distribution and the damage root grubs can cause to sugarcane crop. He presented a lecture in Kannada on root grub management in sugarcane using EPN at the farmers rally followed by demonstration of application of EPN formulation in sugarcane, Cabbage and Tomato fields infested with *Holotrachia serrata* and *H. consaguinea* grubs. He assured the farmers that WP formulation of *H. indica* developed by ICAR-NBAIR was effective and could be used for the management of root grubs. Dr. L. M. Hosamani, Assistant Director of Agriculture, Savadatti was expressed this EPN technology should reach to other blocks of the districts. This could be achieved with the cooperation between the NBAIR, Agricultural Department and KVK.

Scientist from NBAIR and other Agriculture officers interacted with the farmers and obtained information about the infestation of rootgrub in sugarcane and associated crops like banana, maize, tomato and cabbage. Farmers expressed their feeling about the devastating loss of sugarcane and associated crops in their fields due to these grubs. We discussed the management of root grubs by biological control means (Entomopathogenic nematodes). For the benefit of the farmers posters depicting ways to control rootgrub using EPN were displayed. Literature in local language Kannada on rootgrub management was distributed to the farmers and contact details of NBAIR’s licencees who are mass producing and marketing the NBAIR EPN technology were handed over to the farmers. An open discussion with farmers was held during the farmer’s rally and suggestions were mooted to adopt EPN under package of practices for root grubs management. ICAR-NBAIR distributed 80 Kg of WP EPN formulation to sugarcane growing farmers in Hosur, Matolli, Enagi and Ingallagi villages of Savadatti taluk. The Department will carry forward the programme with support from NBAIR.



Dr. Jagadeesh Patil, scientist, ICAR - NBAIR addressing the farmers at Hosur (above) and interacting with the farmers (below)



Distribution of WP formulation of *Heterorhabditis indica* to the farmers and visit to sugarcane fields infested with root grubs by Scientists of NBAIR



Damage to sugarcane crops caused by root grubs *Holotrichia serrata* and *H. consaguinea*



Dr. Jagadeesh Patil, scientist, ICAR - NBAIR demonstrating the application of WP formulation of *H. indica* for the management of sugarcane rootgrubs.