

## Field demonstrations cum farmers-scientists interactive meetings on biological control of rugose spiralling whitefly in coconut

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Field demonstrations on biological control agents such as parasitoid, *Encarsia guadeloupae* and entomopathogenic fungus, *Isaria fumosorosea* for the management of invasive rugose spiralling whitefly (*Aleurodicus rugioperculatus*) in coconut was conducted at three places in West Godavari and East Godavari districts of Andhra Pradesh on 03-04<sup>th</sup> December, 2018 for farmers. The meetings was intended to field validate two potential biocontrol agents, *E. guadeloupae* and *I. fumosorosea* and distribute them for the farmers and other stakeholders for the management.



First demonstration on coconut was conducted in Kalavalapalli village in Chagallu mandal, West Godavari district where we distributed the coconut leaflet containing *E. guadeloupae* parasitized RSW nymphs followed by demonstration on foliar applications of two formulations of *I. fumosorosea* (Talc & rice grain based) in coconut palm in farmer field. After the demonstrations, farmers – scientist’s interactive meet was held in all three locations where we have briefed about the potential biocontrol agents, its mode of action, application/release strategies and its conservation to the farmers. Observation on pre-treatment was taken to compare the post treatment effect on *I. fumosorosea* on RSW and augmentation of parasitoid. Similar demonstrations were also conducted in Kantavarigudam and Davarapalli in West Godavari district.

About 200 progress farmers, Dr. G. Ramanandam, Principal Scientist and Head, HRS, Ambajipeta, Dr. Chalapathi Rao, Pr. Scientist (Entomology) from HRS, Ambajipeta, Mr. Jayanath, Deputy Director, CDB-RC, Vijayawada, Mr. Vijaya Prasad, State Head, 3F oil Palm, Department of

Horticulture, Government of Andhra Pradesh and an subject matter specialist from KVK were participated. An extension folder (In Telugu) on the “**Biological control of Rugose Spiralling Whitefly in Coconut**” was released by the dignitaries and distributed.



This demonstration followed by interactive meeting was organized in collaboration with Horticultural Research Station of Dr YSRHU, Ambajipeta under project on “Biological control of invasive rugose spiralling whitefly *Aleurodicus rugioperculatus* using *Encarsia guadeloupae* in coconut” funded by Coconut Development Board, Kochi. This programme is widely covered by local press (different newspapers) and media (ETV Telugu).

