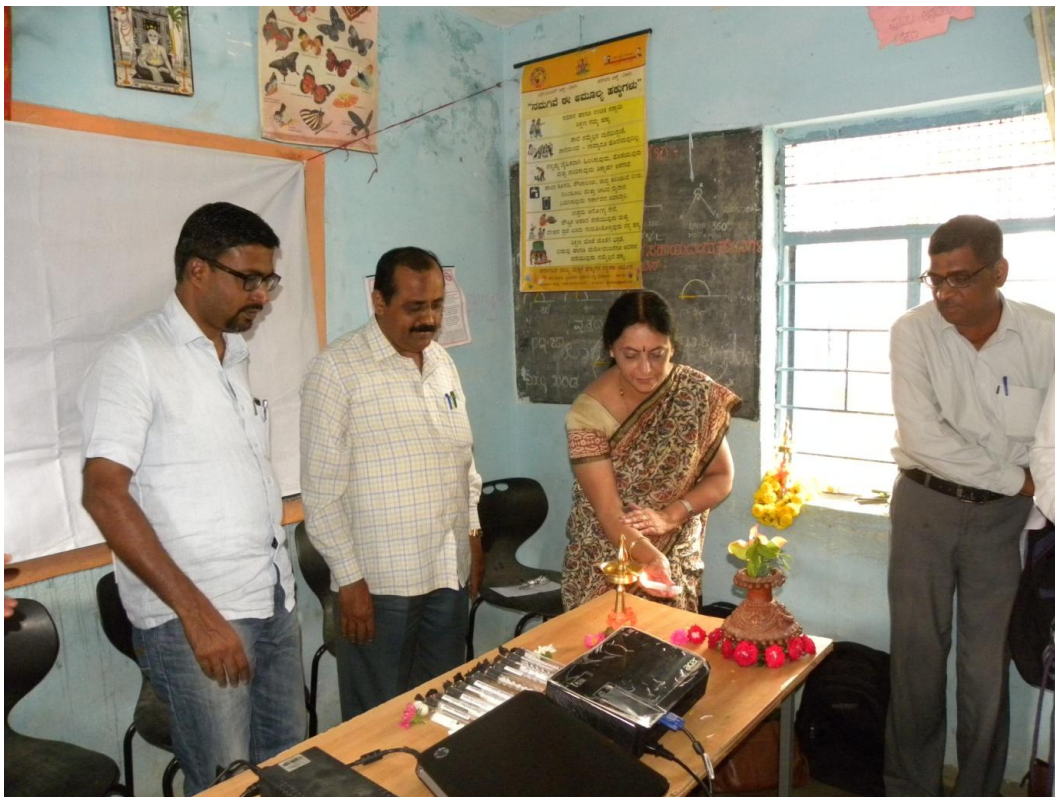


ICAR – NBAIR held Farmers meeting on “Management of insect pests of crops through biological control” at P. Rampura, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara district, Karnataka

The meeting was held in premises of Higher Primary School of P. Rampura village on 28/01/2017 in collaboration with an NGO – B. V. Foundation, Horohally. Meeting was attended by state department officials – Mr. Anjanappa, Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture and colleagues, Mr. Muthuraju, Assistant Director of Sericulture, Dr. Jayaram, Principal Scientist from Central Silk Board, NGO staff and about 75 farmers (both men & women) and school children from P. Rampura and nearby villages. Formal invocation by the school children followed by brief introduction of farmers regarding crops cultivated in their fields. Dr. Chandish R. Ballal, Director addressed the gathering and explained about the effective biological agents and methods to use them for the management of leaf roller, thrips and mealy bugs in mulberry fields. She has also suggested to farmers to adopt eco-friendly measures for the control of whiteflies infestation by spraying either mild soap solution or neem oil or by rope method or by use of yellow sticky traps. Referring to the heavy damage caused by the severe infestation of black headed caterpillar in the coconut plantations, she has emphasized the need of regular monitoring of the pest arrival and adopting biological control measures immediately after noticing the pest appearance. Dr. T. M. Shivalingaswamy Principal Scientist, Division of Insect Ecology presented a power point presentation depicting different pests, their biological control agents and method of releases. Officials from Central Silk Board & State department advised farmers to adopt environment friendly measures like soil health monitoring, changing the cultivation pattern, release of biological control agents etc. Biological control agents' viz. tricho cards of *Trichogramma chilonis*, adults of *Goniozus nephantidis*, eggs of *Chrysoperla zastrowi sillemi*, nymphs of *Blaptostethus pallescens*, grubs of *Crptolaemus montrouzieri* were distributed to farmers. Release method of *G. nephantidis* was demonstrated to the farmers.



Program started with invocation by the school students



Invocation (above) and inauguration by lighting of lamp by Dr. Chandish R Ballal, Anjanappa (L), Mr. Muthuraju (extreme left) and Mr. Ganapathy Bhat (extreme right)



State officials and ICAR-NBAIR Scientists involved in the farmer's meet



Farmer's interaction with ICAR-NBAIR Scientists



Dr. T.M. Shivalingaswamy explained about the biological control in pest management



Biological control agents were showcased



Women farmer's involved keenly in farmer's meet



Mr. Muthuraju, Assistant Director of Sericulture sensitized farmers on soil health management



Distribution of natural enemies among the farmers



Group photo in farmer's meet



Release of *Goniozus nephantidis* on coconut in the field by the farmer