

**Visit of Honourable Union Minister for Agriculture, Shri Radha Mohan Singh Ji,
to ICAR-National Bureau of Agricultural Insect Resources, Bangalore,
on 2nd April 2015**

Honourable Union Agriculture Minister, Shri Radha Mohan Singh ji visited ICAR-National Bureau of Agricultural Insect Resources, Bangalore, on 2nd April 2015. He was welcomed in the campus by the Director, Dr. Abraham Verghese. During his visit, he inaugurated '**Insect Photo Gallery**', which exhibits the main activity of NBAIR and insects affecting various crops, insects found in various ecosystems, beneficial insects, parasitoids, predators, invasive insects etc. He also visited '*Insectarium*' and 'Insect Museum', which houses nearly 50,000 insect specimens.

After his visit to these facilities, the Hon'ble Union Agriculture Minister addressed a gathering consisting of Directors / Joint Directors / Heads of Bangalore based ICAR institutes; Vice-Chancellors of Agriculture, Horticulture and Veterinary & Fisheries Universities; Directors of Central and State Agriculture, Horticulture and Fisheries Departments; Incharges of KVKs and scientists and staff of NBAIR. He was **welcomed** by Dr. Sushil Kumar Jalali, Head, Division of Molecular Entomology, NBAIR welcomed and Dr. Verghese **felicitated** the Chief Guest. Hon'ble Agriculture Minister also released a folder on *Tuta absoluta*, a new pest on tomato in India. During his address, he mentioned that KVKs that are under State Agriculture Universities should be equally supported by the state government. He suggested that bimonthly meetings between state agriculture and horticulture departments, agricultural universities and ICAR institutes should be organized so that farmers get benefit of research outcome. Further he suggested to work out modalities to have a nodal officer, who should organize such meeting and monitor the progress. He stressed that each of the ICAR, State Agricultural University and KVKs should adopt one village, which should be supported by a group of scientists to uplift farming community and also learn from farmers about problem prevailing in their farms.

He also urged Vice-Chancellors of Agricultural, Horticultural and Veterinary & Fisheries Universities to introduce a short term course where students adopt a farmer and this should become important part of their curriculum. It was pointed out by the Hon'ble Agriculture Minister that benefit of research from lab to farmer's field first should be taken up in surrounding villages of ICAR institutes and Agricultural Universities.

The house was informed that a scheme of '**Soil Health Card**' has been put in place to optimize the use of fertilizers based on soil fertility and for this mobile lab with testing facility has been initiated. He pointed out that Hon'ble Prime Minister also has emphasised that soil health is key to second green revolution, unless we increase soil health, we cannot expect bumper yields.

He also urged that '**Traditional Farming**' and '**Jaivik Kheti**' will be implemented in phased manner and to start with 50 acres and 50 farmers at district level will be chosen. After ascertaining results, this will be taken up on a large scale. Another interesting aspect that was dealt by him was '**Krishi Dak**' service for distribution of seeds, by which quality seeds can

reach in every nook and corner of the country through post offices. He said that our motto should be '**Mera Gaon, Mera Gaurav**' and if we work on this principle, he stated that the entire country will be benefitted.

The meeting ended with **Vote of thanks** by Mr. Satandra Kumar, Assistant Chief Technical Officer, NBAIR, Bangalore.



Welcome of the Hon'ble Union Agriculture Minister at NBAIR, Bangalore



The Hon'ble Union Agriculture Minister inaugurating 'Insect Gallery and Exhibition Centre' at NBAIR, Bangalore in the presence of Dr. Abraham Verghese, Director ICAR-NBAIR



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Hon'ble Union Agriculture Minister releasing a folder on *Tuta absoluta*, new insect pest on tomato in India



The Hon'ble Union Agriculture Minister addressing the gathering



The Hon'ble Union Agriculture Minister keenly observing the ‘Insect Photo Gallery’



The Hon'ble Union Agriculture Minister showing keen interest in “Insectarium”



The Hon'ble Union Agriculture Minister showing keen interest in “Insect Museum”



The Hon'ble Union Agriculture Minister with scientists of NBAIR