

Workshop on Human - Wildlife Conflict in Agro-Pastoral Context
11-12 December, 2015, ICAR - NBAIR, Bengaluru

A workshop on Human - Wildlife conflict in Agropastoral context was held between 11-12 December, 2015 at ICAR - National Bureau of Agricultural Insect Resources. The meeting was attended by Scientists from ICAR institutes, State Agricultural Universities, NIAS, IISc, ATREE, Independent researchers, State Forest Department officials of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and NGOs.

On 11.12.15, Dr. Abraham Verghese, Director, ICAR - NBAIR welcomed the gathering and informed that the workshop is apt at a time when we have information from media on man animal conflict in agricultural lands on daily basis. Dr. P. K. Agrawal, ADG (NASF) outlined the genesis of the workshop and expressed his desire to have a clear road map as an outcome of the workshop. This was followed by remarks by Prof. Dr. V. S. Ramamurthy, NIAS, who felt that Human - Wildlife conflict was to be tackled in mission mode. The inaugural address was delivered by Dr. Baldev Raj, Director, NIAS. In his keynote lecture Dr. S. Ayyappan, Secretary (DARE) and DG (ICAR) was of the opinion that ICAR has to work in synergy with institutes of higher learning that were working on basics aspects of behaviour of wildlife. This would help to generate a robust conflict management methods.

Technical session I was on wild life and crop damage was chaired by Dr. Baldev Raj, Director, and NIAS. During the session Dr. Meena Venkatraman, CCR Mumbai delivered a talk on carnivore livestock depredation in Gir. This was followed by a talk on Bird- Man conflict: A case study in Bengaluru by Dr. Abraham Verghese, Director, ICAR - NBAIR.

Technical session II was on Impact of wild life damage on farmers. Dr. Nitin Rai, ATREE and Dr. Sindhu Radhakrishnan, NIAS delivered a talk on Conservation policy, wildlife depredations and peasant livelihoods and farmers perception regarding problem wildlife species respectively.

Technical session III was on mitigation strategies for wildlife agriculture damage. This session was chaired by Dr. Sindhu Radhakrishnan, NIAS. During the session, Dr. Radha Gopalan Independent researcher from Goa delivered a talk on Cropping techniques to mitigate human - wild boar conflict followed by a talk on Bioacoustics as a wildlife damage mitigation technique by Dr. Vasudeva Rao. Methods of vertebrate pest management in agriculture was delivered by Dr. S. Tripathi, ICAR CAZRI, Jodhpur.

On day two 12.12.2015 there were four presentations followed by Panel discussion. The first talk was on Monkey sterilization in Himachal Pradesh by Dr. Anindya Sinha, NIAS. He provided a case study on the success of sterilization technique to overcome the problems faced by monkeys in Himachal Pradesh. Dr. Charudutt Mishra touched upon the problem posed by snow leopards in high ranges. The compensation and insurance schemes to mitigate HWC was spelt out by him. Dr. Ajay Misra, IFS from the Forest Department of

Karnataka touched upon the Government responses to human - wildlife conflict issues. Mr. Kuldip Singh Tanwar running NGO delivered a talk on what do farmers think about HWC Government polices. This was followed by panel discussion.

The valedictory address was delivered by Dr. Raman Sukumar, IISc. In his address he made a mention on the increasing number of casualties caused by elephants were on rise. This was attributed to habitat degradation and habitat fragmentation. He informed that change in behaviour pattern of animals are also a cause for conflict. While concluding his talk he suggested that society has to accept certain level of conflict and the success lies in coexistence.

The following points emerged as way forward.

- As an off shoot of this first meet another meet will be organized at Veterinary College, Hebbal calling in experts in vertebrate pest management.
- The presentation made in the meeting is to be brought out as publication by ICAR - NIAS
- Data base of the experts on human wildlife conflict issues to be developed
- A joint platform is to be developed with AICRP on VPM, ICAR -CAZRI as a nodal centre.
- The technologies developed till date are to be validated across AICRP VPM centres
- Suggestion was invited from the participants to provide information on syllabi for forestry courses. The researchable issues in the area is to be spelt out.



Dr. Abraham Verghese, Director, ICAR – NBAIR greeting Dr. S. Ayyappan and welcoming the guests.



Dr. S. Ayyappan, Secretary (DARE) and DG (ICAR) being welcomed by Dr. Baldev Raj, Director, NIAS



View of the participants



Director, NIAS addressing the gathering



Dr. P. K. Agrawal, ADG (NASF) outlining the genesis of workshop



Dr. S. Ayyappan, Secretary (DARE) and DG (ICAR) giving his presentation



Dr. Abraham Verghese delivering a lecture on bird human conflict



Dr.Vasudeva Rao giving his presentation on mitigation strategies



Dr.Tripathy, CAZRI, Jodhpur delivering a lecture on Vertebrate pest management



Dr. Anindya Sinha, Professor, NIAS speaking on sterilization of monkeys



Dr. C. Harudatta Mishra giving a talk on Insurance policies for HWC



Dr. Tanwar, NGO from Himachal Pradesh delivering lecture on HWC



Panel discussion during the workshop



Prof. Raman Sukumar delivering the valedictory address



Concluding session of the workshop chaired by Dr. S. Ayyappan, DG (ICAR)



Participant of the workshop on Human -Wildlife conflict in Agro- Pastoral context held at ICAR - NBAIR