ICAR-NBAIR organises farm demonstration (FLD) cum Farmers - Scientists Meet on Management of Fall Armyworm, *Spodoptera frugiperda* infesting maize fields on 03-08-2019

An on-farm demonstration (Front Line Demonstration) cum Farmers-Scientists Interactive Meet on Management of Fall Army worm, *Spodoptera frugiperda*, in maize, as conceived by Dr. Chandish R. Ballal, Director, was organized by Mrs. L. Lakshmi, T.O., Dr. M. Nagesh, Pr. Scientist, Dr. A. Kandan, Principal Scientist, Dr. Mahesh Y, Sr. Scientist and Dr BK Chaubey, CTO, for the benefit of maize growing farmers (50), at the Research farm, Yelahanaka Campus, ICAR-NBAIR, on August 3, 2019. The beneficiaries primarily comprised of small and marginal farmers and women artisans of 3 villages *viz*., Hosahalli, Tekalahalli and Mallasandra. Doddaballapurataluk, Karnataka. On-farm trials with the Bureau's ecologically-safe technologies *viz*., formulations of entomopathogenic nematodes by Dr. Nagesh, and formulations of Plant Growth Promoting Rhizobacterium, *Pseudomonas fluoresens* by Dr. A. Kandan for the management of FAW in maize were showcased.

Dr Chandish R. Ballal, Director, felt that the interface between scientists and farmers was necessary to sensitize the farmers to the diagnosis, monitoring and prediction of the incidence of FAW at the very early stages of maize crop and prepare the farmers to manage FAW in maize with ecologically friendly technologies evolved by the scientists of ICAR- NBAIR specifically for FAW. Dr.Chandish R. Ballal, the Director of ICAR NBAIR, in her inaugural speech emphasized that FAW can be handled effectively with minimum use of pesticides by following specific advisory and not to panic with the onset of the pest. Dr. A. N. Shylesha, Principal Scientist provided pest biology and NBAIR technologies in vernacular language, Kannada for the benefit of farmers. Field trial using entomopathogenic Nematodes was explained by Dr. Nagesh and Dr J. Patil, Scientist, followed by the field demonstration using *Pseudomonas fluorescens* by Dr. A. Kandan at the experimental blocks of Yelahanka campus. Further field demonstrations of the use of pheromone traps were carried out by Dr. N Bakthavatsalam, Pr. Scientist & HOD, Dr. Subaharan, Pr. Scientist and Dr.Raghavendra, TO. Nano gel formulations for FAW were exhibited by Dr. Deepa Bhagat, Pr. Scientist. Dr. RichaVarshney and Dr. S. Navik Om Prakash, Scientists and Dr. Lalitha, CTO have explained the benefits of releasing egg parasitoids, especially trichogrammatids, and practically demonstrated field dispensing and placing of trichocards laden with trichogrammatids in maize fields for maximum parasitization. Dr. B. Ramanujam, Pr. Scientist and Ms.

Poornesha, SRF explained the field use of entomopathogenic fungi, *Metarhizium anisopliae* and *Beauveria bassiana* specific to FAW, and Ms. Apoorva, SRF, explained the use of *Bacillus thuringiensis* strain specific to FAW. As conceived by Dr. N. Bakthavatsalam, an exhibition was organized showcasing all the NBAIR technologies to the farmers. The farmers expressed their satisfaction in learning the techniques to manage Fall Armyworm infesting their maize fields, and thanked the Director for appropriately organizing this field oriented Farmers-Scientists interactive meeting on a problem that is threatening maize production and cultivation.

Inaugural speech by Dr.Chandish R.Ballal, Director, ICAR-NBAIR, Bengaluru

Dr. A. N. Shylesha, Principal Scientist delivering a talk in Kannada on FAW

Farmer’s interaction with the Scientists of ICAR-NBAIR

Women farmers singing a harvest song


The participants of Farmers–Scientists Interaction meet

Field demonstration of EPN and *Pseudomonas fluorescens* for the management of FAW in maize fields

Field demonstration for dispensing and placing of trichocards laden with trichogrammatids in maize fields

Field demonstration on the use of pheromone traps for the management of fall armyworm