

Two days training programme on “**Mass Production of biocontrol agents for the management of fall armyworm (FAW)**”

ICAR-National Bureau of Agricultural Insect Resources, Bangalore and CABI jointly organized two days training programme on “**Mass production of biocontrol agents for the management of fall armyworm (FAW)**” from 27-28 December 2019 at NBAIR Bangalore. Fifteen farmers from Anantapur district, Andhra Pradesh; Two plant doctors and consultant from International Competency Centre of Organic Agriculture Bangalore, and Two scientists from M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai attended this training programme. In the inaugural session Dr. Chandish R Ballal, Director, NBAIR, Dr. N. Bakthavatsalam, HOD GC&U, NBAIR, Dr. A.N. Shylesha, PI of CABI-ICAR project of FAW management and DR. Malvika Chaudhery, CABI regional officer for ASIA Plantwise addressed trainees and briefed about importance of biological control to manage fall armyworm. Hands on training on different techniques of biocontrol agent production and mass production of macrobials (*Trichogramma* spp., *Telenomus remus*, Chrysopids) and microbials (entomopathogenic fungi, entomopathogenic nematodes and NPV) was given in their preferred local languages. The programme was aimed at initiation of biocontrol agents production at village level by the farmers and self help groups so that they can produce and share the bioagents as per their need in their own area.

This programme was coordinated by Dr. Richa Varshney Scientist, NBAIR, Dr. A.N. Shylesha Principal scientist, NBAIR, Dr. N. Bakthavatsalam Principal Scientist and HOD, NBAIR and Dr. Malvika Chaudhery CABI regional coordinator for Asia plantwise.



Dr. A.N. Shylesha, (PI of CABI-ICAR NBAIR project of FAW management) addressing the gathering



Director NBAIR, Dr. Chandish Ballal interacting with trainees



Dr. N. Bakthavatsalam, (HOD and Coordinator of CABI-ICAR NBAIR project of FAW management) giving



Trainees

overview of training programme



Dr. Malvika Chaudhery, CABI regional coordinator of Asia plantwise addressing the trainees

Director-ICAR-NBAIR, Dr. Chandish R Ballal interacting with trainees and giving remarks



Group photo with trainees