

Training on Taxonomy of white grubs (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae)

A seven days training programme has been organized on Taxonomy of white grubs (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae) at ICAR-National Bureau of Agricultural Insect Resources, Bengaluru, Karnataka in collaboration with All India Network Project on Soil Arthropod Pests, Rajasthan Agricultural Research Institute, Durgapura, Jaipur, Rajasthan from 19th to 25th February 2020. Around 20 trainees (Scientists and Research Scholars) from CSK, HPKV, Palampur, H.P.; AAU, Jorhat, Assam; GBPUA&T, Pantnagar, Uttarakhand; FARMER, Ghaziabad, U.P.; RARI, Durgapura, Rajasthan; UAS, GKVK, Bengaluru; UAS, Raichur, Karnataka and ICAR-NBAIR, Bengaluru have attended the training programme. The programme was inaugurated on 19-02-2020 by Dr. Chandish R. Ballal, Director, ICAR-NBAIR in the presence of Dr. A. S. Baloda, Network Coordinator, AINP on Soil Arthropod Pests, RARI, Durgapura, Jaipur. Dr. Kolla Sreedevi and Dr. G. Mahendiran were the Course Director and Course Coordinator, respectively for the training programme and there were series of theoretical and practical sessions conducted during the programme.

The lectures covered includes the basic taxonomic principles, scope and importance of white grubs taxonomy, collection techniques; classification and diagnostics, diversity and distribution, species diversity analyses (including programme developed at NBAIR), molecular taxonomy, pheromone applications, nanogel formulations, life histories of the pest, evolution, variability and heritability of diagnostic characters, ICZN rules and principles, levels of taxonomy, larval taxonomy, etc. The trainees were given hands on experience in the laboratory on collection, pinning, mounting, labelling, preservation, observation of the characters, identification of the species up to generic level through morphological characters as observed under microscope, molecular techniques in DNA barcoding, larval diagnostic characters. Several resource persons in their area of expertise have delivered the lectures. The programme concluded on 25-02-2020, which was chaired by Dr. N. Bhaktavatsalam, In-charge Director, ICAR-NBAIR and Dr. A. S. Baloda, Network coordinator, RARI, Jaipur as Chief Guest. The trainees were provided with the training manual in the form of hard and soft copies along with the training completion certificates.







