

ICAR-NBAIR is on Alert over desert Locust Invasion

Based on the report and subsequent panic about locust invasion by farmers on *Calotropis* and other plants, Director, ICAR-NBAIR has deputed Dr. M. Mohan, Principal Scientist (Entomology) to visit Madhugiri town of Tumakuru Dt (Karnataka) on 30th May, 2020 .

A local news report on the presence of large number of locusts on *Calotropis* plant at the premises of KSIIDC at Madhugiri, Tumakuru Dt, on 29th May, 2020 panicked all the villagers nearby. The Scientist from ICAR-NBAIR visited the spot the very next day (29th). Upon close examination of the grasshopper on the *Calotropis* plants confirmed that it was Ekka or calotropis grasshopper, *Poekilocerus pictus* and not the desert locust. The media and the local public including the farmers were briefed about the the difference between locust and other grasshoppers. Farmers were advised not be panic about the false news of the locust outbreak. Similarly, a large numbers of grasshoppers found on *Calotropis* and banana plants at Vepanapalli taluk of Krishnagiri Dt (Tamil Nadu), and nearby places were confirmed as *Poekilocerus pictus* and not the desert locust. The farmers were briefed about the difference between locust and grasshoppers and further they were advised not to take up any chemical control measures.

