ICAR-NBAIR observes the 'World Bee day 2021'

ICAR-NBAIR, organized a webinar titled 'World bee day' on 20 May 2021 from 15.00 – 16.30 hrs. to commemorate the International bee day on the theme "Bee engaged – Build Back Better for Bees". This webinar was the sixth in series under the town talk series. The webinar was chaired by Dr N. Bakthavatsalam, Director, ICAR-NBAIR Bengaluru. In his opening remarks, he briefed the role of bees in agriculture and their untiring role on crop pollination and other services attributed to enhanced crop productivity. Two scientists from ICAR- NBAIR delivered lectures on this occasion. Dr A.N. Shylesha, Head, Division of Germplasm Conservation and Utilization gave insight information on world bee day by quoting historical aspects of bees in ancient times. He informed, the role of services of the honeybee in the ecosystem, especially in food security and it estimates to be the global contribution of whopping 195-357 billion US dollars. He also shared the information to the house that, *Apis cerana indica* is the state insect of Karnataka. He also explained the factors attributed to the decline in bee population are urbanization, monocropping etc. In the second part of the webinar, Dr Amala Udayakumar delivered a talk on Apivectoring, the novel technique used in dispensing the microbial bioagents to target plant disease/ insect pest incidence in crops and simultaneous achievement of the desired yield by bee pollination. The problems, opportunities, and prospects of the apivectoring were also discussed at length in the webinar. The webinar was attended by former Directors of ICAR – NBAIR, Dr N.K Krishna Kumar, Dr Abraham Verghese and Dr Chandish. R. Ballal. There were over 64 participants from NBAIR, other ICAR institutes, All India Co-ordinated Research Project on Biological Control (AICRP-BC) centres, State Agricultural Universities, research scholars attended this webinar. The webinar was organized by Kesavan Subaharan, M. Sampath Kumar, M. Pratheepa and M. Mohan of ICAR NBAIR, Bengaluru.