

DDG (CS) ICAR inaugurated the XXXI Annual Review Meeting of All India Coordinated Research Project on Biological Control of Crop Pests organised by ICAR – NBAIR, Bengaluru

20 – 21 October 2022, Bengaluru, Karnataka

The ICAR-National Bureau of Agricultural Insect Resources, Bengaluru organized the XXXI Annual Review Meeting of All India Coordinated Research Project on Biological Control of Crop Pests.



Deputy Director General (Crop Science) Dr Tilak Raj Sharma inaugurating XXXI Annual Review Meeting of AICRP BC

Dr S N Sushil, Director, ICAR-NBAIR, Bengaluru & Project Coordinator, AICRP on Biological control of Crop Pests welcomed the dignitaries and participants. He briefly presented the highlights of the project for the period 2021-22, which included the development, validation and commercialisation of promising bioagents under the project and area covered through the adoption of biocontrol modules. He also presented the monitoring and management of the recent invasive pests and preparedness to tackle the invasive attacks.



Deputy Director General (Crop Science) Dr Tilak Raj Sharma releasing AICRP BC Annual Report 2021



Deputy Director General (Crop Science) Dr Tilak Raj Sharma releasing the Biocontrol product developed under AICRP on Biological Control

Deputy Director General (Crop Science) Dr Tilak Raj Sharma, ICAR, New Delhi inaugurated the workshop and appreciated the progress made in the project. He emphasized the scope of biological control in the natural farming. He stressed upon the need of concentrating the basic studies on the biological control with special emphasis on rhizosphere biology and the interaction between the rhizosphere and biocontrol agents. He urged to strengthen the public private partnership to test, validate, mass produce and register the potential biocontrol products. He highlighted the importance of generating molecular

signatures for the promising bioagents and depositing the same in recognised nodal centres. A good biocontrol product should have quality, scalability, applicability and traceability. He mentioned that Artificial intelligence (AI) and Internet of Things (IOT) need to be studied and explored to develop innovative ways of application and monitoring of biocontrol agents. More concentration has to be given to develop climate resilient biocontrol agents like temperature tolerant, drought tolerant etc.

Registrar, University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru, Dr Basave Gowda mentioned about the integration of biocontrol in natural farming to avoid the usage of chemicals and insecticides. He also spoke on doubling farmer's income involving quality biocontrol agents.

Dr S C Dubey, Assistant Director General (Plant Protection & Biosafety) shared his knowledge and experiences on registration of microbial biopesticide products. He stressed upon the need of stringent and scientific proven procedures for survey and surveillance of crop pests and their natural enemies. Standard formulation technologies should be followed by all the centres while developing a product against a crop pest or disease. Basic research on mode of action, competence, virulence and colonization of biocontrol agents should also be focussed along with the field evaluation. He emphasized to develop measures to conserve the natural enemies of crop pests and diseases for better utilization. He also pointed out AICRP on Biological Control should involve other plant protection institutes like ICAR-NCIPM for conducting large scale demonstrations.

Programme Advisory and Monitoring Committee members Dr H C Sharma, Dr H B Singh and former directors of ICAR-NBAIR Dr N K Krishnakumar, Dr Abraham Verghese, Dr Chandish R Ballal, Dr.N.Bakthavatsalam and senior retired biocontrol workers Dr T M Manjunath, Dr M Mani actively participated in the review meeting. Around 100 scientists and ten company representatives from different parts of the country participated in the XXXI AICRP on Biological Control Annual Review Meeting. During the valedictory session, the finalised recommendations of technical sessions were presented. Dr G Sivakumar, Principal Scientist & In charge, AICRP BC PC cell proposed the vote of thanks.

(Source: ICAR-National Bureau of Agricultural Insect Resources, Bengaluru)