

Training cum Demonstration on Biocontrol Strategies for Management of Invasive Whiteflies in Coconut

(21 February, 2023, Chitradurga district, Karnataka)

ICAR- NBAIR conducted farmers training cum demonstration on biocontrol strategies for management of invasive whiteflies in coconut on 21 February, 2023 at Hosadurga, Chitradurga district, Karnataka in collaboration with ICAR- Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Chitradurga District and Department of Agriculture, Chitradurga district, Government of Karnataka. The training cum demonstration held at Taralabalu Shaka Mata under the guidance of Panditaradhya Shivacharya Swamiji. Dr. S. Onkarappa, Subject Matter Specialist (Plant Protection) and Dr. Saraswathi, Subject Matter Specialist (Home Science), KVK, Chitradurga and Mr Eswar, Assistant Director of Agriculture, Hosadurga were also participated in the programme.

Infestation of rugose spiraling whitefly, *Aleurodicus rugioperculatus* (low to moderate), Bondar's nesting whitefly, *Paraleyrodes bondari* (moderate to severe) and palm infesting whitefly, *Aleurotrachelus atratus* (low to moderate) were observed the demonstration field.



Farmers and dignitaries attended the training cum demonstration programme

Swamiji distributed the parasitoids & entomopathogenic fungus formulations to the farmers and released the parasitoid in the infested coconut garden inside the mata. Dr. S.

Onkarappa briefed about the programme and importance of biocontrol agents to tackling these invasive whiteflies in coconut. Mr Eswar briefed about different initiative by the department to tackle these invasive whiteflies in coconut and subsidy scheme for power sprayer to enable easy application of entomopathogenic fungus, *Isaria fumosorosea* formulations.

In the technical session, Dr. K. Selvaraj, Senior Scientist (Entomology) and Ms Sumalatha, B.V. (Senior Research Fellow) briefed about the whiteflies origin, invasion, distribution, other different host plants, life cycle, nature of damage, management strategies to farmers. Further, we demonstrated the augmentation and conservation strategies for the potential parasitoids, *Encarsia guadeloupae* (for rugose spiralling whitefly) and *Encarsia cubensis* (Palm infesting whitefly) and preparation and foliar application of *Isaria fumosorosea* to farmers and other stakeholders.



Demonstration on parasitoid release and foliar application of *Isaria fumosorosea* (ICAR-NBAIR Pfu-5)

Training kits include biocontrol agent's viz., Parasitoids, *E. guadeloupae*, *E. cubensis* and *fumosorosea* formulations (oil and talc) and extension folders on invasive whiteflies and their biocontrol strategies (Kannada) were distributed to all the farmers. In this training cum demonstration programme, about 100 progressive farmers, department officials, KVK officials and mata board members were participated and benefitted. This training cum demonstration on biocontrol strategies for management of invasive whiteflies in coconut organized under research project on "Development and Validation of Bio-intensive Integrated Pest Management strategies for Coconut Invasive Whiteflies in Karnataka" sponsored by Coconut Development Board, Kochi.



Source: ICAR- National Bureau of Agricultural Insect Resources, Hebbal, Bengaluru-24