

International training for Nepal and Bangladesh participants Production protocol of biocontrol agents for the management of Fall armyworm at ICAR-NBAIR under Feed the future program.

A five days International training programme on the Production protocol of biocontrol agents for the management of Fall armyworm was organized at ICAR-National Bureau of Agricultural Insect Resources, Bengaluru for seven participants from Nepal and Bangladesh on 22-26 May, 2023. The training was sponsored by USAID, under the Feed the Future Nepal Integrated Pest Management Program (FTFNIPM) and Feed the Future Bangladesh Integrated Pest Management (IPMA) program funded by USAID being operated by Dr RMuniappan, Principal Investigator, FTFNIPM and IPMA, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, USA. The training programme was organized by Course directors: Dr. S. N. Sushil, Dr. K. Subaharan, and Course coordinators: Dr. M. Sampat Kumar, Dr. Amala Udaya Kumar and Dr. Richa Varshney. The focus of the training was to provide hands-on training on the Production protocol of biocontrol agents for the management of Fall armyworm. Dr. S. N. Sushil, Director, ICAR-NBAIR chaired the inaugural and valedictory program. In his address, he emphasized that closer working with neighbouring countries is essential to ward off the threat due to alien invasives. During five days program, participants were exposed to identification, mass rearing of parasitoids, *Bt*, NPV, entomopathogenic fungi, entomopathogenic nematodes, habitat manipulations and molecular approaches for FAW management etc. The participants in their feedback informed that they obtained practical knowledge and skill in the production of bioagents for FAW management from ICAR-NBAIR. This would enable them to setup production units or fine-tune the methodologies adopted at existing units in their respective countries. Appreciating the participant's enthusiasm, the Director, ICAR-NBAIR mooted the idea to explore the possibilities of initiating collaboration with Nepal, Bangladesh and IPM Innovation Laboratory, Virginia Tech in managing the alien invasives.



Inaugural and release of training manual



Hands on training on production protocol of biocontrol agents

