

ICAR-NBAIR, Bengaluru conducted Schedules Caste Sub-Plan (SCSP) Program at Mandya, Karnataka

ICAR-National Bureau of Agricultural Insect Resources (NBAIR), Bengaluru conducted **“Training-cum-Input Distribution for Livelihood Improvement of Scheduled Casters Farmers”** under Schedules Caste Sub-Plan (SCSP) Program in collaboration with ICAR-KVK, Mandya and Department of Horticulture, Mandya on 10th July 2023 at KVK, Mandya, VC farm, Mandya. During this SCSP programme, Dr. Naresk, N.T, Senior Scientist & Head (Agricultural Extension) welcomed the dignitaries viz., Dr. S.S. Prakash, Dean (Agri), College of Agriculture, VC Farm, Mandya, Dr. D. Raghupathy, Assistant Director of Extension, Dr. N. Shivakumar, Assistant Director of Research, Zonal Agricultural Research Station, V.C. Mandya and Mr Manjunath, Deputy Director of Horticulture, Department of Horticulture, Mandya. Dr. S. S Prakash delivered the inaugural address and briefed about the importance of this programme for the livelihood of SCSP farmers, Dr. Shivalingaswamy, Principal Scientist (Entomology and Head, Division of Germplasm Conservation and Utilization, ICAR-NBAIR gave speech on importance of biological control of crops pests and their role in the pesticide free crop production to the consumers. Shri D. Manjunath, DDH briefed about various department initiatives and schemes for the Schedules Caste farmers for their improvement in their livelihood.



Subsequently, dignitaries distributed the inputs like sprayer, coconut seedlings, bio pesticides and fruit crop seedlings to farmers for the improvement in their livelihood. Inauguration program followed by technical and interactive session with farmers and address the various pest and diseases management strategies especially coconut palm. Dr. A.N. Shylesha, Principal Scientist (Entomology), ICAR-NBAIR delivered talk on eco-friendly management of insect pests infesting coconut and Ms Sumalatha, B.V briefed about

biocontrol strategies of invasive whiteflies infesting coconut. Besides, Dr. B. Gundappa, Senior Scientist (Entomology), ICAR-NBAIR also participated in the programme.



More than 60 coconut farmers participated and benefitted in the program. Program Coordinators Dr. Naresk, N.T, Senior Scientist & Head (Agricultural Extension) and Dr. K. Selvaraj, Senior Scientist (Entomology), ICAR-NBAIR arranged the necessary facilities and inputs for the Schedules Caste farmers.



Source: Dr. K. Selvaraj, Senior Scientist (Entomology), ICAR- National Bureau of Agricultural Insect Resources, Bengaluru