

ICAR-NBAIR and FAO-India jointly organized "Scientists - Farmers Interface Meeting for the Management of Fall Armyworm through Biological Control" on 4th October 2023 at ICAR-NBAIR, Yelahanka Campus.

The fall armyworm, *Spodoptera frugiperda* (J.E. Smith) (FAW) is native to North and South America and it was first recorded in African continent in 2016. It has subsequently spread across Asia at a rapid pace causing severe damage to cereal crops. In India, it was first reported in 2018 on maize and now has spread to more than 22 states. The pest has also spread to Uttar Pradesh in the north, Gujarat in the west, Chhattisgarh in central India, and several states in the south. Application of broad-spectrum insecticides may lead to resistance against this pest and may disrupt any pest management tactics. Biological control, an eco-friendly method can be adopted either as a standalone technology, which can provide an economical and environmentally safe alternative to synthetic insecticides, especially as FAW has been reported to develop resistance to chemical insecticides.

An on-farm demonstration cum Scientists-Farmers Interface meeting for the Management of Fall Armyworm, *S. frugiperda*, in maize, was organized at ICAR-NBAIR for the benefit of maize growing farmers at the Research farm, Yelahanka Campus, ICAR-NBAIR, on 4th October 2023 under the leadership of Dr. S. N. Sushil, Director, ICAR-NBAIR. The beneficiaries primarily comprised of small and marginal farmers from Kolar district, Karnataka. With the ICAR-NBAIR biocontrol agents like *Metarhizium anisopliae* NBAIR-Ma35, *Bacillus thuringiensis* NBAIR-Bt25 and Nucleopolyhedrosis virus (NPVSf1) for approximately one hectare area of maize demonstration field trials conducted in Yelahanka campus, ICAR-NBAIR which showed effective management of FAW under field conditions. Dr. S. N. Sushil, Director, ICAR-NBAIR distributed talc formulation of *Metarhizium anisopliae* NBAIR-Ma35, *Pseudomonas fluorescens* strain NBAIR-PFDWD and liquid formulation of *Bacillus thuringiensis* NBAIR-Bt25 to all the farmers for management of FAW in their respective maize field and also for enrichment of farm yard manure in their field for application to their crops.

















