

ICAR-NBAIR Celebrates 33rd Foundation Day and Hosts 3rd Biocontrol Expo 2025 in Bengaluru

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HDK: Welfare of farmers is our priority

Bengaluru: Union minister for steel and heavy industries **HD Kumaraswamy** Sunday said the central govt is committed to the welfare and upliftment of farmers and urged them to adopt organic farming practices to protect soil fertility and health.



At the inauguration of the third Agricultural Insect Biocontrol Expo and 33rd Foundation Day celebration of ICAR-National Bureau of Agricultural Insect Resources, Kumaraswamy said farmers should grow more pulses to help reduce imports. "Pesticides lower soil fertility," he said. "Farmers must prioritise organic farming, which strengthens both the soil and the farming community."

Union minister of state Shobha Karandlaje and Bangalore Rural MP CN Manjunath were also present at the event. Karandlaje said traditional farmers had a deep understanding of beneficial insects and the natural ecosystem. "We are working to share that knowledge with farmers," she said. "We encourage farmers to move away from chemical-based practices," she said.

Manjunath said human health was closely linked to soil fertility and quality of crops. "Adopting biological and organic methods can help prevent many diseases," he said. TNN

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HDK urges farmers to grow more pulses to reduce dependence on imports

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UNION Minister for Steel and Heavy Industries HD Kumaraswamy urged farmers to cultivate pulses alongside paddy to reduce India's dependence on imports.

Inaugurating the 3rd Agricultural Insect Biocontrol Expo and the 33rd Foundation Day of Indian Council of Agricultural Research - National Bureau of Agricultural Insect Resources (ICAR-NBAIR) here on Sunday, he said the Centre has launched several welfare schemes and remains committed to farmers' upliftment.

Bengaluru Rural MP, Dr CN Manjunath, said, "India loses nearly 15 to 35% of crops every year to pest-related diseases, resulting in farmer losses estimated at Rs 90,000 crore" and stressed that human health depends on the quality of crops and the fertility of the soil. "We need to use biological methods more often. Many diseases can be prevented by adopting organ-



Union Minister for Heavy Industries HD Kumaraswamy with Union Minister of State for Labour Shobha Karandlaje and BJP MP Dr CN Manjunath in Bengaluru on Sunday

ic methods. It is necessary to reduce the use of pesticides and chemical fertilisers", he said.

He said, "The environment does not need humans — humans need the environment. If we destroy the soil, air, and water, we destroy ourselves. Our future depends on adopting sustainable and biological farming methods. Healthy soil, healthy crops, and healthy people, that must be our new agricultural mantra."

Union Minister of State for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Ministry of La-

bour and Employment, Shobha Karandlaje, said the previous generations of our farmers had more knowledge about farmer-friendly insects. Work is being done to disseminate this knowledge to today's farmers as well. Farmers, researchers, and scientists are being sensitised about organic farming.

During the event, farmers who achieved excellence in agriculture and scientists from ICAR - NBAIR were felicitated. SN Sushil, Director of the institute, and others were present on the occasion.



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CN Manjunath,
Bengaluru Rural
MP

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