

**Two-day event “National Dialogue on Insects in Agriculture, Health and Environment”
in commemoration of one hundred years of the Birth Anniversary of the Prominent
Entomologist, Prof. T. N. Ananthkrishnan, conducted at ICAR-NBAIR, Bengaluru.**

Bengaluru, December 15-16, 2025.

The ICAR-National Bureau of Agricultural Insect Resources (ICAR-NBAIR), Bengaluru, in collaboration with The Prof. T. N. Ananthkrishnan Foundation, Chennai, Entomological Society of India, New Delhi, Society of Biocontrol Advancement, Bengaluru and the University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru celebrated the birth centenary of the legend in Entomology, **Prof. T. N. Ananthkrishnan** as a two day event “**National Dialogue on Insects in Agriculture, Health and Environment** “ from 15-16 December, 2025 at ICAR-NABIR, Yelahanka Campus, Bengaluru.

The celebration began with the dignitaries paying homage to Prof. T. N. Ananthkrishnan. Dr. S. N. Sushil Director, ICAR-NBAIR briefed about the significant contribution of Prof. T. N. Ananthkrishnan in the field of Entomology, frontier areas in Insect Science and other activities undertaken by ICAR-NBAIR and welcomed the Chief guest Dr. S. N. Puri, Former Vice Chancellor, MPKV, Rahuri & CAU, Imphal and the guest of honours Dr. J. P. Singh, Plant Protection Advisor, Govt of India, Dr. N. Muraleedharan, Former Director General, Tocklai Tea Research Institute, Jorhat and Mr. P. Sivakumar Member Secretary and CEO, Central Silk Board, Bengaluru and several other dignitaries like the family of Prof. T. N. Ananthkrishnan. Dr. V. V. Ramamurthy, President (ESI) remarked about the outstanding contribution by the Professor.

Dr. S. N. Puri, Chief Guest briefed the work of Prof. Dr. T. N Ananthkrishnan on Thrips. He emphasised the importance of research on technologies used in Natural farming and standardization of drone application for delivering various biocontrol agents. The guest of honour, Dr. J. P Singh Plant Protection Advisor, Govt. of India briefed about the National Pest Surveillance Scheme (NPSS) and stressed the importance of pest scouting for deciding the right dose and use of pesticides by the farmers. Other guest of honours Dr. N. Muraleedharan, Former Director General, Tocklai Tea Research Institute, Jorhat and Mr. P. Sivakumar Member Secretary and CEO, Central Silk Board also briefed about the significant contributions to thrips taxonomy and ecology by Prof. T. N. Ananthkrishnan. The event witnessed the release of a special issue about Prof. T. N. Ananthkrishnan by the Entomological Society of India.

The two day event witnessed the legendary speech by various eminent personalities in the field of Agricultural Sciences on various topics like “You are how much you eat: Caste and nutrition in the Indian paper wasp, *Ropalidia marginata*”, “Signal transduction and omics in plant defense mechanisms under insect attack”, “*Aedes* transmitted Arboviruses – The global threat” and “Conception and implementation of classical weed biological control programs using insects-The Queensland experience”. In addition, deliberations on various scientific aspects, including brainstorming session on conventional insect taxonomy, with the participation of stalwarts in the field of Taxonomy like Dr. V. V. Ramamurthy and Dr. C. A. Viraktamath and former Directors of ICAR-NBAIR, experts from the Zoological Survey of India etc. was undertaken.

The valedictory session marked the culmination of in-depth deliberations on the critical role of insects in agriculture, public health, environment, and sustainable development. Dr. S. N. Sushil, Director, ICAR-NBAIR briefed on the key recommendations that emerged from the deliberations across the various technical sessions held over the two days. It was emphasized to strengthen molecular and genomic research in entomology and to promote eco-friendly, precision-based pest management approaches. The importance of AI-based pest diagnostics and stronger networking of biocontrol production units and laboratories across the country was highlighted. The creation of a national collaborative network anchored at ICAR-NBAIR was recommended to facilitate data sharing, capacity building, and outreach in insect taxonomy. Speakers also stressed the need for improved public–private collaboration in managing invasive pests, greater research focus on climate change effects on insect biology, and increased attention to stingless bees for sustainable agriculture.

The valedictory address emphasized the enduring scientific legacy of Prof. T. N. Ananthakrishnan, whose pioneering contributions to insect taxonomy, ecology, and systematics continue to inspire generations of entomologists in India and abroad. The organizers expressed confidence that the outcomes of the National Dialogue would help shape future research priorities and policy directions in insect science.

Over 125 delegates, including eminent scientists, academicians, industry representatives, and students from across the country, participated in the event, making the National Dialogue a significant platform for scientific exchange and reflection.





