

Report on MGMT Programme Conducted at Arabikothanur Village, Kolar District, Karnataka

As part of the MGMT programme envisaged to reduce the excessive usage of chemical fertilizers by 25% over the next five years (by 2030) through promotion of balanced nutrient management and diversification towards biofertilizers and organic inputs, an awareness meeting for farmers was organized on **24th April 2026** at **Arabikothanur Village** in **Kolar** district by the scientific and technical staff of ICAR-National Bureau of Agricultural Insect Resources (ICAR-NBAIR), Bengaluru.

The team comprised Dr. Deepa Bhagat, Dr. S. Salini, Dr. B. Gundappa, Dr. B.S. Manjunath and Mr. Umesh, S. A total of **73 farmers** gathered and participated in the awareness programme.

Dr. Deepa Bhagat introduced the significance of the programme envisioned by Government of India and emphasized the necessity to reduce the dependence on fertilizers in order to improve the long-term soil health. Dr. Salini's interaction with the farmers revealed that tomato, beans, ragi, chrysanthemum and mulberry are the major crops raised in the village.

Dr. Gundappa addressed the farmers the ways and means to reduce the excessive use of chemical fertilizers; highlighted the significance of Soil Health Cards which gives a clear picture of the soil nutrient status and help the farmers to apply fertilizers based on actual requirement of the soil. He also encouraged them to use organic fertilizers so as to reduce the load of inorganic fertilizers. Dr. Manjunath B.S. emphasized the need for the next phase of sustainable agriculture through efficient and balanced application of fertilizers directly to crops, thereby reducing wastage and improving nutrient use efficiency.

The farmers actively interacted with team and expressed their concerns which were addressed by the scientific team. They appreciated the practical guidance provided to improve the soil productivity and retention of the soil health to minimise the cost of cultivation for sustainable agriculture.

