

Training “Climate-Smart Biocontrol Strategies for Management of Pests and Diseases in Coconut” organized by ICAR-NBAIR

The bureau conducted Coconut Development Board Sponsored Training on “**Climate-Smart Biocontrol Strategies for Management of Pests and Diseases in Coconut**” at ICAR-NBAIR, Bengaluru from 11th May - 15 May, 2026 (Five days) for ” for newly recruited field officers, Assistant Directors Deputy Directors (Development & Marketing) of Coconut Development Board (CDB), Kochi, Keralam; Subject Matter Specialist from ICAR- Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Lakshadweep island, Assistant Professors from Kerala Agricultural University, Thiruvananthapuram, Keralam and Horticultural officers from Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat to disseminate the climate-smart biocontrol technologies developed at bureau to curtail the recent emerging insect pests and diseases in coconut.



This training focused on diagnosis and identification of emerging pests viz., invasive whiteflies, coconut black headed caterpillar, eriophid mite, slug caterpillar and their potential natural enemies, hands on training on mass production protocol for potential parasitoids, predators and entomopathogens including entomopathogenic fungi, bacteria and nematodes for management emerging pests in coconut. Various augmentative and conservation strategies for these biocontrol agents and biocontrol compatible approaches such as behaviours approaches for coconut pest management also covered. Further, training also focused on emerging diseases such as bud rot, root wilt, leaf blight, stem bleeding and Tanjore wilt and their biocontrol strategies. Training also covered on vertebrate Pest Management in coconut and nursery seedlings.

In addition to crop protection practices, crop production practices including coconut based multiple and integrated farming systems and conservation of pollinators in coconut and good agricultural practices for the optimum use of resources such as pesticides, fertilizers, water and eco-friendly agriculture. Further, it was demonstrated release of natural enemies and foliar application of entomopathogens including agri-drone in coconut ecosystem.



Dr. T. Venkatesan, Director (acting), ICAR-NBAIR interacted with trainees and sensitized about the biological control strategies for recent invasive insect pests through potential bio-control agents. He also urged the trainees to disseminate these technologies to growers for the sustainable management of these emerging pests and diseases in coconut and their biocontrol strategies.



Total about 30 trainees from Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Keralam, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Tripura, Bihar, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Assam, Chhattisgarh and a Union

territory were participated. Majority resource persons from in-house (ICAR-NBAIR); ICAR-Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Kasaragod; Dr. Y.S.R. Horticultural University, Venkataramannagudem, Andhra Pradesh and National Institute of Plant Health Management, Hyderabad, Telangana. This training is part of project activities under CDB funded project on **“Generation of toxicological data for registration of *Isaria fumosorosea* in CIBRC and demonstration of biocontrol agents for management of Invasive Whiteflies in Coconut”**.



(Source: ICAR- National Bureau of Agricultural Insect Resources, Bengaluru)