ICAR-NBAIR with Virginia Tech Organizes International Workshop on Area-wide Management of Melon Fly: From Research to Field Application" in hybrid mode on **15 July 2026**

The ICAR–National Bureau of Agricultural Insect Resources (ICAR-NBAIR), Bengaluru and Center for International Research, Education and Development (CIRED), Virginia Tech, USA jointly organized an International Workshop on **"Area-wide Management of Melon Fly: From Research to Field Application"** in hybrid mode on **15 July 2026**.

The programme commenced with a welcome address and introductory remarks by **Dr. K. Subaharan**, Head, Division of Germplasm Conservation and Utilisation, ICAR-NBAIR. The inaugural session featured opening addresses by **Dr. Poonam Jasrotia**, Assistant Director General (Plant Protection & Biosafety), ICAR, **Dr. T. Venkatesan**, Director (Acting), ICAR-NBAIR, and **Dr. R. Muniappan**, Director, CIRED, Virginia Tech, USA. The speakers highlighted the growing importance of international collaboration in developing sustainable, science-based, and economically viable strategies for the management of melon fly (*Zeugodacus cucurbitae*), one of the most destructive pests affecting cucurbit crops worldwide.

The technical sessions covered a broad spectrum of topics related to the biology, ecology, surveillance, and integrated management of melon fly. **Dr. K. J. David** (ICAR-NBAIR) provided an overview of the diversity and distribution of tephritid fruit flies in India, while **Dr. R. Muniappan** (Virginia Tech) discussed the biogeography and spread of melon fly in the Indian subcontinent. **Dr. C. Viraktamath** emphasized the importance of field sanitation as a key component of integrated melon fly management, and **Dr. R. Muniappan** together with **Dr. Vidya** highlighted the potential of natural enemies in the biological control of tephritid fruit flies.

The workshop also showcased several emerging technologies for sustainable melon fly management. **Dr. Markandeya** (ATGC Biotech) presented advances in semiochemical-based management approaches, while **Dr. Kamala Jayanthi** (ICAR-IIHR) discussed the development and application of bisexual attractants for fruit fly management. **Dr. Deepa Bhagat** (ICAR-NBAIR) highlighted the use of biosensors for rapid detection and monitoring of fruit flies, and **Dr. Asokan** (TIGS) elaborated on the application of genomic tools for improving melon fly management. **Dr. Anubhab Gupta** (Virginia Tech) presented methodologies for evaluating the impact of melon fly management technologies, whereas **Dr. Atishi Pandey** (DPPQS) discussed sanitary and phytosanitary challenges associated with gherkin exports. The technical session concluded with a presentation by **Dr. Abraham Verghese**, who underscored the important role of agricultural input dealers in promoting the adoption of effective melon fly management practices among farmers.

The workshop brought together eminent national and international scientists, researchers, policymakers, extension professionals, and industry representatives to deliberate on innovative and sustainable solutions for melon fly management. An interactive brainstorming session facilitated discussions on future research priorities, technological innovations, and collaborative opportunities to strengthen area-wide integrated management strategies. The programme concluded with a networking session, during which participants explored avenues


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ICAR-National Bureau of Agricultural Insect Resources, Bengaluru, India
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Sanitation
– a cost effective practice to
manage melon fly
Dr. T. Venkatesan


The Total Ecosystem
Protection Paradigm
Dr. T. Venkatesan


DETECTING MELON FLY EGGS INSIDE GHERKIN WITHOUT OPENING
NON-DESTRUCTIVE DETECTION
HOW IT WORKS
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Areawide Management of Melon Fly: From Research to Field Application
Impact Assessment of Agricultural Technologies
ICAR-National Bureau of Agricultural Insect Resources
Anubhab Gupta
Dr. T. Venkatesan


GUEST HOUSE
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