

Training and Demonstration on Mass Multiplication of Insect Natural Enemies and Stingless Bees for Sustainable Pest Management in Protected Cultivation

ICAR–National Bureau of Agricultural Insect Resources (ICAR NBAIR), Bengaluru, organized a Training and Demonstration Programme on Mass Multiplication of Insect Natural Enemies and Stingless Bees for Sustainable Pest Management in Protected Cultivation at Gurha Kumawatan Village, Jaipur District, Rajasthan, on 4 August 2026. More than 50 farmers participated in the programme.

Dr. Richa Varshney, Senior Scientist (Entomology), sensitized farmers on the importance of biological control and the use of insect natural enemies for sustainable and eco-friendly pest management. The farmers received training on the multiplication and utilization of important biological control agents, including Trichogrammatids, egg parasitoids effective against several lepidopteran pests, *Chrysoperla zastrowi sillemi* for whiteflies and aphids, and *Blaptostethus pallens* for thrips and mites.

Dr. Amala Udayakumar provided valuable information and practical guidance on the multiplication, maintenance, and utilization of stingless bees under protected cultivation, highlighting their role as important pollinators in protected cultivation systems.

The programme also included a practical demonstration on the use and release of ICAR–NBAIR biocontrol products:

- ◆ Trichocards: for the management of lepidopteran pests
- ◆ Blaptocare–product containing *Blaptostethus pallens* for the management of thrips and mites.
- ◆ Chrysocare – product containing grubs of *Chrysoperla zastrowi sillemi* for the management of whiteflies and aphids.

The programme aimed to strengthen farmers' knowledge in biological pest management, multiplication of natural enemies, and pollination services, thereby promoting safer, sustainable, and environmentally friendly pest management practices in protected cultivation.





