Farmers meet on rugose spiraling whitefly at Andhra Pradesh

Farmer meet on biological suppression of rugose spiraling whitefly on coconut and oil palm was conducted on 5th July at Horticultural Research Station of YSRHU, Ambajipeta, East Godavari district (Fig.1). The farmer meet was inaugurated and addressed by Dr (Mrs) Chandish R Ballal, Director, ICAR-NBAIR and Dr. J. Dilip Babu, Director Research, YSRHU, address by Dr. G. Ramanandam, Principal Scientist and Head, HRS, Ambajipeta, Asst. Director from Coconut Development Board, West Godavari, retired scientist, Joint director of agriculture, Delegate from Mondeltez international, oil palm industry and about 120 progressive farmers were participated. In the meeting, it was briefed about sustainable management strategies for RSW in coconut and oil palm with special emphasis on biological suppression by various means of augmentative and conservation for noted potential parasitoid *Encarsia guadeloupae*. The meeting was organized by Horticultural Research Station of YSRHU, Ambajipeta and ICAR-NBAIR, Bengaluru to promote biological pest suppression among farmers.

Fig.1. Farmers meet on Rugose spiralling whitefly activities at YSRHU,Ambajipeta

Survey on Infestation of RSW in West Godavari district in Andhra Pradesh: Survey team consists of Dr. (Mrs.) Chandish R Ballal, Director, ICAR-NBAIR, Dr. S.K. Jalali, Head, Genomic Resources Division, Dr. K. Sridevi, Senior Scientist (Entomology) and Dr. K. Selvaraj,Scientist (Entomology) from ICAR-NBAIR, Dr. Chalapathi Rao, Senior Scientist, HRS of Dr. Y.S.R Horticultural University, Ambajipeta, Dr. B.V.K. Bhagawan, Principal Scientist, BRS of Dr. Y.S.R Horticultural University, Kovvur, Dr. P. Kalidas, Principal Scientist (Entomology) from ICAR- Indian Institute of Oil Palm Research, Pedavegi, Subject

Matter Specialist from Krishi Vigyan Kendra, West Godavari, representative from private oil palm industry and many progressive farmers (Fig. 2). The expert team visited several coconut plantation which were infested with rugose spiralling whitefly on 4th July, 2018. The level of pest incidence, pest population and occurrence of natural enemies were assessed.

Fig.2. Dr Chandish R Ballal and NBAIR expert assessing the incidence of RSW at Kalavalapalli

The invasive pest is under the control on coconut and oil palm as very meager active colonies of rugose observed except few plants. Natural parasitism by *Encarsia guadeloupae* to the extent of 10-15 % was observed. Field visit followed by interactive meeting with farmers and other stakeholders at Kalavalapalli village about the management strategies for rugose spiraling whitefly in coconut and oil palm. About 50 farmers, experts from YSRHU, KVK, CDB and other oil palm stakeholders were participated. Management aspects were briefed to all the participants based on survey and strategies followed in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka (Fig.3).

Fig.3. Farmers meet on Rugose spiralling whitefly activities at YSRHU,Ambajipeta