

## **Observation of “18<sup>th</sup> *Parthenium* Awareness Week” at ICAR Research Complex for Eastern Region, Patna from 16-22 August, 2023**

*Parthenium hysterophorus*, locally called carrot weed, gajar ghas or congress grass has been considered one of the most problematic alien invasive weeds, which is posing a serious threat to human beings and livestock besides deteriorating environment and causing loss of crop productivity and biodiversity. Presently, 35 mha of land in India has been infested with *Parthenium*. The increase of *Parthenium* infestation is alarming. This weed has been considered as one of the greatest sources of dermatitis, asthma, nasal-dermal and nasal-bronchial types of diseases. In view of the seriousness and magnitude of the threat posed by this weed, ICAR Research Complex for Eastern Region, Patna has organized “18<sup>th</sup> *Parthenium* Awareness Week” from 16-22 August, 2023 by involving Regional Centre and Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) to make farmers and general public aware about the menace of *Parthenium* and its management strategies. A wide range of activities were conducted to spread maximum awareness among staff members, farm and campus workers. On the eve of “18<sup>th</sup> *Parthenium* Awareness Week”, a brainstorming session had been arranged, in which the scientific and technical staffs of the Institute actively participated and suggested ways to manage it. The Director of the Institute, Dr. Anup Das stressed on the public awareness and community approach to manage this problematic weed. An integrated weed management programme, built on biological and cultural weed management could be the most effective management method for *Parthenium*. The bio-agents such as use of Mexican beetles (*Zygogramma bicolorata*) and competitive plants such as *Cassia* spp. or fodder crops can be combined to reduce the menace of this weed. In this programme, Dr. Sonaka Ghosh, Scientist, Division of Land and Water Management delivered a lecture on "Strategies for *Parthenium hysterophorus* L. Management". Also, an activity on *Parthenium* uprooting programme had been arranged. All the staff members of the institute actively participated in *Parthenium* eradication drive by removing the weeds present the Institute premises. The Institute campus and Farm area are approaching to achieve *Parthenium* free campus. The programme was coordinated by Dr. Rakesh Kumar, Senior Scientist, Division of Crop Research; Dr. Shivani, Principal Scientist, Division of Land and Water Management; and Dr. Sonaka Ghosh, Scientist, Division of Land and Water Management.

(Source: ICAR Research Complex for Eastern Region, Patna)



(Brainstorming session on “Parthenium management strategies” at ICAR-RCER, Patna)



(Parthenium uprooting activity at ICAR-RCER campus along with KVKs)