

## National Seminar on “Entomophagy for livelihood security and ecological engineering for innovative pest management”

(ICAR-RCER, Patna, Dated: September 22, 2021)

ICAR-Research Complex for Eastern Region, Patna organized a National webinar on “Entomophagy for livelihood security and ecological engineering for innovative pest management” on September 22, 2021 in hybrid mode (online and offline) as a part of the “Azadi ka Amrut Mahaotsav” to commemorate 75 years of India’s Independence. The major objective of the National webinar was to create the awareness, and update the knowledge of the scientists, faculties, extension workers, NGOs, policy makers, students and other stakeholders regarding entomophagy for livelihood security and ecological engineering for innovative pest management.

**Dr. Ujjwal Kumar** (Director, ICAR-RCER, Patna and *Organizing Chairman*) welcomed the esteemed speakers and all the participating delegates. The Organizing Chairman briefed about the importance of entomophagy for livelihood security and role of host plant resistance for innovative pest management.

**Dr. Md. Monobrullah** (Principal Scientist & Organizing Secretary), in his introductory remarks, narrated the rationale for organizing this National Seminar and also briefed the outline of the webinar.

**Dr. A. K. Choudhary** (Convenor & Head, Division of Crop Research) narrated the importance of entomophagy. He also discussed the role of entomophagy in livelihood security and insects as the future food of the planet.



**Dr. Badal Bhattacharya** (Principal Scientist & PI- AINP on Soil Arthropod Pests, Assam Agricultural University Jorhat, Assam) delivered the first lecture on Exploration of edible insects and entomophagy in India. He suggested a number of technological interventions to strengthen the area of entomophagy in India.

**Dr. Poonam Jasrotia** (Principal Scientist, ICAR – Indian Institute of Wheat & Barley Research Karnal) discussed about modern tools of host plant resistance for Insect-pest management of cereal crops. She presented the detailed view of role of host plant resistance as fundamental component of IPM.

**Prof. M. S. Khan** (Department of Entomology, GBPUA&T, Pantnagar, Uttarakhand) delivered the lecture on “Significance of Apiculture and Insect Pollination in the Indian Agriculture”. He threw the light on insect pollinators as essential components for food production, improving the yield and quality of crops. Multiple pressures threatening pollinator populations and the pollination services they provide, including changing farm land use, disease, climate change and agrochemicals were also discussed by him.

**Prof. R. K. Gupta** (Head, Division of Entomology, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology-Jammu) talked on Ecological Engineering for Pest Management. He stressed on the importance of Ecological Engineering for pest management as it is a new paradigm to enhance the natural enemies of pests in an agro-ecosystem which relies on use of cultural techniques to bring about habitat manipulation and enhance natural enemies of pests in the crop micro and macro environment.

**Prof. M. Raghuraman** (Institute of Agricultural Sciences, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi) delivered the lecture on “Biodiversity of Soil Insects and Ecological Impact of Plant Protection Inputs on their Abundance”. He discussed that how abundant and diverse communities of insects are considered an indicator of sustainability in agro-ecosystems. He further narrated the impact of plant protection inputs on insect abundance. He also suggested the options for maintaining the diversity of soil insect.

All the expert speakers interacted with the participants of the national seminar. The Seminar was attended by a total of 273 participants from all over the country. The Seminar was organized and coordinated by a team of scientists namely, Dr. AK Choudhary (Convenor & Head, Division of Crop Research), Dr. Md. Monobrullah (Organizing secretary & Principal Scientist), Dr. N. Bhakta (Co-Organizing Secretary & Principal Scientist) and Dr. Abhishek Kumar Dubey (Scientist & Co-Convenor) with the active support of the Director, ICAR RCER, Patna, and the technical back up from Sarfaraj Ahmad (Technical Officer) and Mr. Ranjan Kishor (SRF). The Seminar ended with vote of thanks to the Chair by **Dr. N. Bhakta** (Co-Organizing Secretary & Principal Scientist).

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