

Strategies for Management of Whitefly in Coconut



Coconut Development Board organised a one day workshop on 'Strategies for management of whitefly in coconut' on 10th March 2020 at Kozhikode, Kerala. The session was attended by Shri. Saradindu Das, Chief Coconut Development Officer, CDB, Kochi, Smt. Bindu. R, Principal Agriculture Officer, Kozhikode, Deputy Directors and Agriculture Officers of State Agriculture Department from Kozhikode, Kannur, Kasargod, Malappuram and Wayanau districts in Kerala, CDB officials, farmer representatives from affected districts and representatives of CPCs in Kerala.

Shri. Saradindu Das, Chief Coconut Development Officer, CDB, Kochi in his introductory remarks pointed out that the main purpose of this workshop is to assess the extent of damage and percentage of loss caused due to white fly in coconut. He added that Department should take up a roving survey in all affected districts so that CDB can take up the matter to Govt. of India for support and to formulate suitable management programmes in farmers fields. He informed that CDB is taking initiatives throughout India for creating awareness among the farmers and for managing the whitefly in Coconut.

Smt. Bindu R, Principal Agriculture Officer, Kozhikode detailed the introduction of the white fly in Coconut in Kerala and informed that the management of this invasive pest could not be achieved even though the pest is prevalent for the last two years.

Smt. Deepthi Nair, Deputy Director, Coconut Development Board, Kochi in her welcome address pointed out that this workshop is being organised by Coconut Development Board to create an awareness among the practicing farmers on integrated management of the pest as well as to update with the strategies and protocol formulated for integrated management

of the whitefly by the research institutions to the Agriculture Department officials working on coconut.

The inaugural session was followed by a technical session wherein Dr. Joseph Rajkumar, Principal Scientist, CPCRI, Kayankulam explained the management strategies to be adopted for RSW management and Dr. Madhu Subramanian, Professor AICRP on BCCP, Kerala Agricultural University, Vellanikkara handled a session on pest surveillance. In the discussion forum, Agriculture Officers and farmers raised their apprehensions and queries regarding whitefly management and the scientists explained the same.

Shri. Saradindu Das Chief Coconut Development Officer, Coconut Development Board, Kochi detailed in his special address about the different view of this work shop and also stressed that control of spiralling white fly is only possible through community based approaches and hence strategies for same to be formulated. Since the pest is prevalent for the two years, management of this invasive pest is not achieved so far. He also requested CDB to support the farmers with some schemes for controlling the existing situation.

It was also suggested to researchers and university officials to develop climate resilient varieties for having tolerance to upcoming new pest and diseases in climate changing scenario. He also added that we should develop methodologies for climate forecasting and respective consequences and their precautions/control measures need to be informed to farmers through text messages. Further he also pointed out the need for crop diversification as an essential tool for sustainable yields or income to the farming community. ■