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Shivaji Nagar, Pune-411005



**Horticultural Science Division and ICAR-Directorate of Floricultural Research**

**organized Awareness Workshop on**

**Plant Parasitic Nematodes: A Hidden Threat to Nursery Industry**

Horticultural Science Division, ICAR in association with ICAR Directorate of Floricultural Research' Pune organized an awareness workshop on "Plant Parasitic Nematodes: A Hidden Threat to Nursery Industry" on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2018 in the seminar hall of ICAR-Central Tobacco Research Institute, Rajahmundry. Around hundred farmers and more than fifty academia and Horticulture officers from Department of Horticulture, Government of Andhra Pradesh participated in the workshop. Dr. K. V. Prasad, Director ICAR-DFR welcomed the dignitaries and explained the context of organizing the awareness programme in view of recent spurt in the nematode incidence in nurseries in nursery hubs like Kadiyam, Pune, Nashik. Honorable DDG (HS and CS), Dr. A.K.Singh inaugurated the workshop in the benign presence of ADG (HS), Dr. T. Janaki Ram and Dr. Damodar Reddy (Director, ICAR-CTRI), Dr.Dilip Babu, Director Research, Dr.Y.S.R.H University, Venkataramanna Gudem. In his address, Dr. A.K. Singh stressed on the importance of science led management of nurseries in view of the challenges faced by the industry. He emphasized that it is possible only through the constant interaction of Scientists and Farmers and other stake holders. He appreciated the great efforts of Kadiyam nurserymen in making Kadiyam as a brand in international ornamental plant industry. He also stressed on the importance of production of quality produce meeting the international standards for increasing the market of brand Kadiyam. In his address Dr. Janaki Ram explained the constant efforts made by the Horticultural Science Division at ICAR, New Delhi and ICAR-DFR, Pune to operationalize the Regional Station of ICAR-DFR at Kadiyam. He informed the house about the obstacles being faced in expediting the Regional Station. He stressed on clean cultivation for addressing nematode problems in ornamental nursery. Dr. Damodar Reddy, in his address appreciated the efforts made by DFR to reach farmers of Kadiyam and he expended his wholehearted help for ICAR-DFR any time. Dr. S. Rama Mohan, Project Director, Andhra Pradesh Micro irrigation Project addressed the gathering. The Nematology experts who have made a mark in their field across the country delivered lectures for the benefit of the farmers about various topics on nematode identification to management in both Telugu and English. Among the experts, Dr. R.K.Walia, Former Project Co-ordinator, who got a wide experience in working in nematode problems in nurseries, gave the overall picture of nematode problem in the country, their dissemination and solutions available at present. Dr. M. Nagesh, Principal Scientist (ICAR-NBAIR), who has got a wide experience in nematodes of Horticultural crops, gave an elaborate presentation on Good Agricultural Practices for addressing nematode problem in nurseries. Dr. Prasanna Holajjer (ICAR-NBPGR Regional Centre, Hyderabad) who has worked extensively on nematodes of flower crops gave a picture of diagnosis of nematode infestation

in ornamental nursery and importance of quarantine and the possible ways of nematode entry. Dr. M. Venkateshan from ICAR-CTRI with wide experience in management of root knot nematodes explained the life cycle and infestation tactics of plant parasitic nematodes. All the presentations were followed by detailed discussion. In the end of the workshop, a scientist-farmer interaction session was organized where experts from ICAR-DFR and Dr. YSRHU Vekataramanagudam participated and detailed discussions on problem occurring in nurseries like Rugose whitefly were also discussed. The programme was successful with the active participation of the farmers. The Nurserymen association and members of Horticulture Department, Andhra Pradesh and all other participants appreciated the initiative undertaken by ICAR-DFR and Horticultural Science Division, ICAR, New Delhi.



