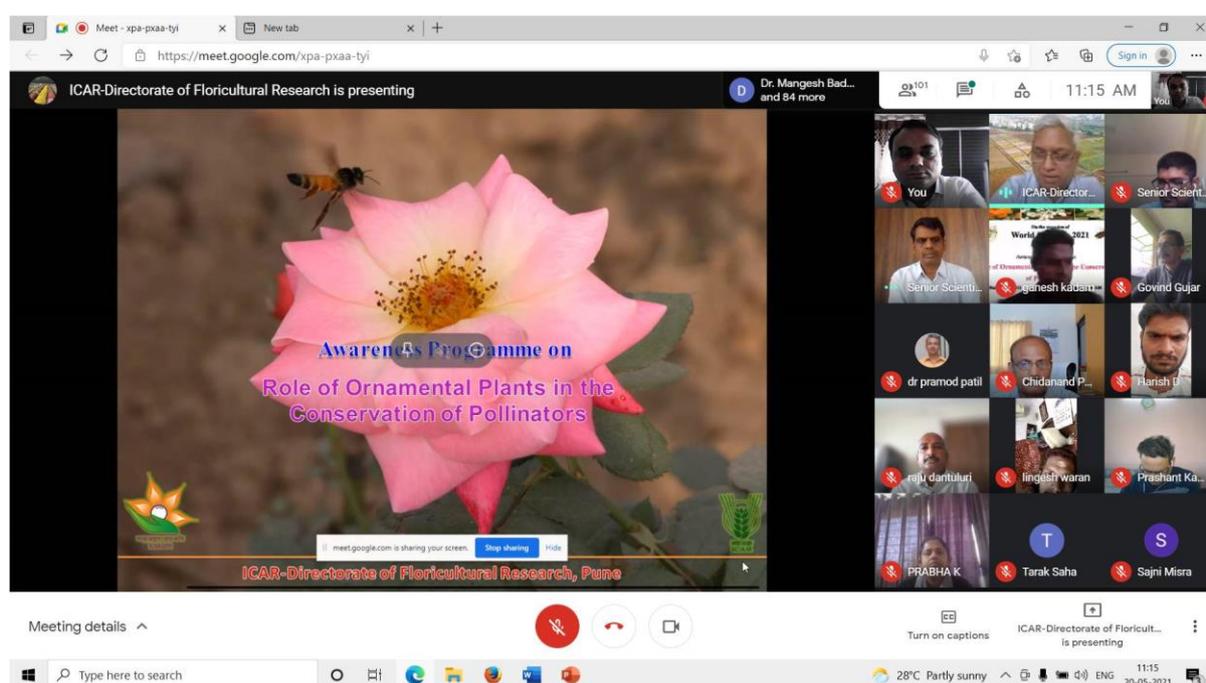


4th World Bee Day celebrated at ICAR-DFR, Pune

ICAR-Directorate of Floricultural Research (DFR), Pune celebrated 4th World Bee Day on 20th May 2021. On this occasion, ICAR-DFR conducted an awareness programme on "*Role of Ornamental Plants for the Conservation of Pollinators*" on virtual mode. The day long programme was mainly intended to create awareness about the pollinators among the farmers, students, extension workers and young entrepreneurs. At the outset, Dr Sanjay Kad, Scientist (Extension), ICAR-DFR welcomed all participants and introduced the topic of the awareness programme.



Dr. K.V. Prasad, Director, ICAR-Directorate of Floricultural Research, Pune and Chief Guest on this occasion emphasized on the importance of the World Bee Day celebration and highlighted the scope of ornamental plants in conservation of pollinator fauna in rural and urban areas. He also stressed upon the activities of ICAR-DFR on conservation of pollinator fauna and scope of floriculture based beekeeping for doubling the farmers income and employment generation.

Dr D. M. Firake, Senior Scientist (Entomology), ICAR-DFR highlighted the importance of pollinators and explained in detail different adaptations in honey bees which make them most efficient pollinators among all. The presentation included few interesting videos highlighting the communication among the bees and the process of pollen/nectar collection. Dr P. Naveen Kumar, Principal Scientist (Floriculture), ICAR-DFR explained about the inter-relationship

of flowers and pollinators and the potential of floricultural crops as efficient sources of food to the diversified pollinators especially during dearth period. Dr Girish K.S., Scientist (Entomology), ICAR-DFR presented a detailed account of different Non-Apis (other than honeybee) pollinators and their essential role in ecosystem. Dr. V.S. Raju Dantuluri, Principal Scientist (Floriculture), ICAR-DFR gave a brief account of floral calendar for conservation of pollinators in farm and urban areas. Dr G. B. Kadam, Scientist (Floriculture), ICAR-DFR highlighted the importance of bee-friendly package of practices and honey-based products for entrepreneurship among rural youths. Dr M.D. Joshi, SMS (Plant Protection), KVK, Baramati narrated the importance of beekeeping for employment generation and additional income and also explained about various steps to start bee keeping.

More than 100 participants registered in this event including distinguished researchers and teachers across the country, farmers, students and young entrepreneurs, etc. Among the participants, Dr G.T. Gujar, Retired PS and Head of Division of Entomology, ICAR-IARI, New Delhi applauded the ICAR-DFR for organizing such essential events. He highlighted the role of Non-Apis pollinators in ecosystems and also stressed on the need for in-depth studies on pollinators safety. Dr R.P. Shrivastava, Professor (Entomology), G.B.P.U.A&T, Pantnagar also appreciated the efforts of ICAR-DFR in creating awareness on pollinators and advised to conduct detailed studies on conservational aspects of the beneficial flora and fauna. Dr C.S. Patil, Head of the Department (Entomology), MPKV, Rahuri explained scope of creation of specialized gardens for pollinator's conservation.

At the end, all the members actively participated in the scientific interaction session on "strategies for pollinator conservations" and the programme was concluded with vote of thanks by Dr P G Kawar, Principal Scientist (Plant Breeding), ICAR-DFR, Pune.