



**Plant Protection  
Adviser's Desk**

As we reflect on the past quarter, I am pleased to share key developments within the Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine & Storage. These milestones showcase our ongoing commitment to advancing plant protection and promoting sustainable agriculture across India.

A major highlight is the progress on National Pest Surveillance System (NPSS Mobile App), which has been in development for the last one year with joint efforts of DPPQS and National Centre for Integrated Pest Management (ICAR-NCIPM).

The field trials and first phase of scout training for the NPSS app are nearly complete, yielding very promising results. This app will greatly improve the surveillance and management of pest and disease outbreaks across the country.

The NPSS app will allow farmers to identify pest and disease issues in real time directly in their fields. They will receive timely, localized advice

from agricultural experts through the app, helping them manage outbreaks effectively. Initially, the app will cover major pests and diseases for 61 crops, with detailed monitoring and management support for 15 key crops, including cotton, paddy, wheat, maize, pigeon pea, soybean, and more. Additional crops will be added soon and the app will provide advisories based on the Economic Threshold Level (ETL).

This platform will help map pest hotspots, identify peak pest activity periods and support the development of pest and disease forecasting models. With this effort, India will soon become the first country to implement a robust, tech-driven pest surveillance network, positioning us as a leader in agricultural innovation and sustainable pest management.

Also, developed the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for a National System for Pest Surveillance and Response Mechanism. This SOP will establish a unified pest surveillance system across India, enabling us to forecast pest outbreaks and issue timely advisories and response mechanism for invasive pest incursion.

IPM Division has intensified efforts to promote Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices, educate farmers on the ill effects of pesticide misuse and raise overall agricultural awareness. These efforts will positively impact the farming community, leading to safer, more productive and environmentally sustainable agriculture.

Annual meetings of Plant Quarantine Stations and Integrated Pest Management Centres & Locust Control were held during the quarter to review achievements from the past financial year and discuss action plan for current year.

Directorate participated in the Preparatory Group Meeting for the 33rd Session of the Asia and Pacific Plant Protection Commission (APPPC). Key discussions focused on amendments to the APPPC agreement, reviewing the current work plan and preparing for the next biennium (2025-2026). APPPC strengthen cooperation in plant protection across the region.

On 12th May, 2024, we observed International Plant Health Day with activities like quizzes, essay and painting competitions, Kisan Gosthis and an IPM exhibition. These events aimed to engage youth and raise awareness about plant health, safe trade and the role of digital technology in agriculture.

Directorate also celebrated International Yoga Day on 21st June, 2024, with the theme "Yoga for Self and Society." Celebration highlighted the benefits of yoga for both physical and mental well-being, emphasizing its cultural importance.

In closing, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all officials and stakeholders for their continued dedication and support. Together, we will continue to enhance Indian agriculture and ensure a brighter, more sustainable future for our farmers and the nation.

- Dr. J.P. Singh  
Plant Protection Adviser



## Catalogue:

- 🌐 Highlights
- 🌐 International Participations
- 🌐 Dignitary Visits
- 🌐 Bilateral Phytosanitary Meetings
- 🌐 Special Achievements & Events
- 🌐 Trainings and Workshops
- 🌐 Media Coverage
- 🌐 The Gazette of India Notifications

## Highlights

### Integrated Pest Management Cum Locust (Efforts of CIPMCs & LCIPMCs):

- During the period **1.78** lakh ha. of crop area was surveyed.
- **607.8** million biocontrol agents were released across **0.25** lakh ha. area for managing pests.
- Successfully conserved the natural habitat of bio agents in over **1.30** lakh ha.
- Conducted Desert Locust Survey in **45.83** lakh ha. Published & circulated **six** locust information bulletins during the quarter highlighting current locust situation in India and neighbouring countries.

### Plant Quarantine (Efforts made by PQ stations):

- ♣ Facilitated export of Agricultural commodity and issued **1,45,358** numbers of Phytosanitary Certificates for **95.89** lakh MTs. of various Agricultural commodities.
- ♣ Issued Import clearance for **32,813** numbers of Agricultural consignments for **58.11** lakh MTs.
- ♣ **35** numbers of quarantine pests in **212** import consignments were detected and have been succeeded in preventing the entry of exotic pests through an effective PQ inspection system.
- ♣ Successfully negotiated on phytosanitary issues and gained **02** new market access for export.

## No. of certificates of registrations/accreditations of Agencies issued during the quarter

Name of registrations/accreditations of Agencies	Nos.
Methyl Bromide (MBr) Fumigation Agency	11
Aluminium Phosphide (ALP) Fumigation Agency	15
Vapour Heat Treatment (VHT) Facility	16
Rice Mills / Processing Units for Rice Export to USA	03
Rice Mills / Processing Units for Rice Export to China	02
Processing Units for export of Peanut	03
Pack Houses for Export of Pomegranate Fruits to USA	01
Pack Houses for Export of Mango Fruits to USA	01
Phytosanitary Service Agency (PSSA)	02
Pack Houses for Export of Fresh fruits & vegetables to EU	03

### New Appointments:

**01** incumbent joined as Technical Assistant in the Directorate during the quarter April to June, 2024.

*Best Wishes*

### Central Insecticide Laboratory, Regional PTLs and Techno Legal Cell:

- ▲ RPTL's tested **1008** numbers of samples, out of which **79** were declared misbranded.
- ▲ The CIL tested **671** samples, out of which **226** were found misbranded.

### Central Insecticide Board and Registration Committee:

- The committee has issued Certificate of Registration for a total number of **4715** pesticides out of which **107** were issued for bio-pesticides, **4104** for chemical pesticides and **504** were issued for export purpose.

### Rajbhasha Hindi:

"Hindi Workshop" was organized at Hqrs. DPPQS, Faridabad on 24.06.2024. Dr. J. P. Singh, PPA and other officers of the Directorate attended the meeting.







The quarterly meeting on Official Language was held at Hqrs. DPPQS on 25.06.2024. Dr. J. P. Singh, PPA and other officers of the Directorate attended the meeting.

**Planning and Coordination Unit:**

- Facilitated participation of two participants in “Awareness Program on NABL accreditation of Pesticides Testing Laboratories” organized by Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare and NABL on 03.05.2024.
- A total of 57 nos. of RTI requests and 66 of grievance requests were resolved during the quarter.
- Transparency Audit of online Disclosures under section 4 of the RTI Act, 2005 of the DPPQ&S Website (<https://ppqs.gov.in/>) for the year 2023-2024 was successfully carried out by National Institute of Technical Teachers Training & Research, Ministry of Education, Govt. of India.

**Directorate’s participation in online training programmes**

Sl. No.	Training Programme	Duration	No. of Participants
1	“Online Proficiency Testing Course” Organized by: Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), Netherlands	03 to 14 June, 2024 (12 days)	01
2	Online Workshop on “Proactive Disclosure of Information under RTI-Act & Third Party Audit (PDI-RTI-01)” Organized by: Institute of Secretariat Training & Management (ISTM)	10 <sup>th</sup> June, 2024	10

**Participation in workshop on “One Health and Agro ecology: Building Synergies”**



Dr. Sunita Pandey, JD (E) and Dr. Shivaji Haridas Wavare, DD (PP) participated in the workshop on “One Health and Agro ecology: Building Synergies” organized by Indo-German Project on One Health and Agro ecology, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, New Delhi on 03<sup>rd</sup> June, 2024.



## International Participations

### Participation in the Preparatory Group Meeting for the 33<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Asia and Pacific Plant Protection Commission (APPPC)



Dr. J. P. Singh, PPA participated in the Preparatory Group Meeting for the 33<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Asia and Pacific Plant Protection Commission (APPPC) held at Bangkok, Thailand during 3-6 June, 2024. The FAO regional office and APPPC Secretariat, Thailand, Republic of Korea, Philippines, New Zealand, China and India participated in the meeting.

The meeting was to prepare for the 33<sup>rd</sup> APPPC biennium Session in China. The FAO support and financial report, logistics arrangements for the 33<sup>rd</sup> Session, updates on the acceptance of the amendments of the APPPC agreement, implementation status of the current biennium work plan, work plan for the next biennium (2025-2026) and special topics to be discussed in the 33<sup>rd</sup> APPPC session were discussed, among others.

### Participation in Port-to-Port Workshop(Benapole-Petrapole)



Dr. O. T. Singh DD (E) and Mr. Hareesha Badiger, PPO (E) participated in the Port to Port workshop on “Improving port to port efficiency at Benapole-Petrapole Border crossing through policy and process simplification and

**collaborative border management: recommendations and way forward”** organized by Bangladesh Land Port Authority, Ministry of Shipping on 10.06.2024 at Benapole, Jashore (Bangladesh).



# Dignitary

## Visit of Shri Faiz Ahmed Kidwai, Additional Secretary (Plant Protection) to Headquarters, Faridabad



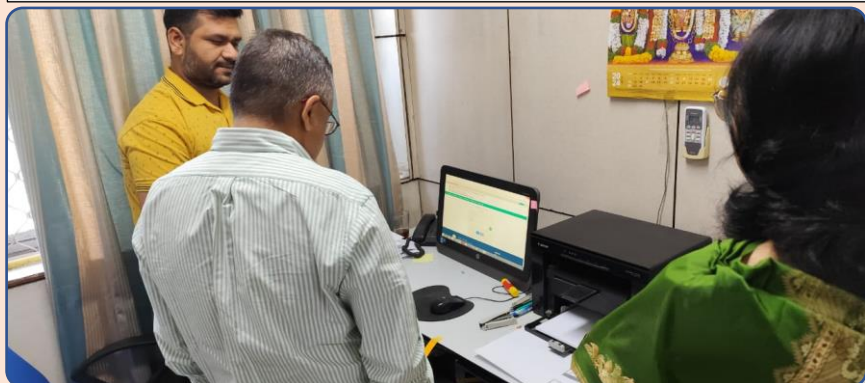
Visit to Headquarters



Visit to RCIPMC, Faridabad

Shri Faiz Ahmed Kidwai, Additional Secretary (PP), Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, visited the Directorate on 09<sup>th</sup> May, 2024. He gave various important guidelines for the upliftment of the Directorate. Dr. J.P. Singh, Plant Protection Advisor and other officials of the Directorate gave information about the working system of various

units of the Directorate (Central Insecticide Board and Registration Committee, Central Pesticide Laboratory, Central Integrated Pest Management Centre and Headquarters etc.) to the dignitaries.



Visit to CIB&RC

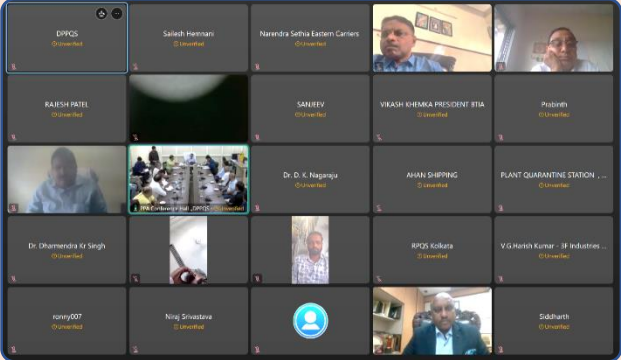


Visit to CIL



**Visit of Shri Faiz Ahmed Kidwai, Additional Secretary (Plant Protection) on 26.06.2024**

Shri Faiz Ahmed Kidwai, Additional Secretary (PP) visited the Directorate on 26.06.2024 to discuss various plant quarantine issues in import. The aim was to create awareness among importers about PQ regulations and prevent non compliances.



Dr J. P. Singh, Plant Protection Adviser, Joint Director (PQ), various import associations, importers and plant quarantine officers of various PQ Stations attended the meeting and responded to the queries of importers. More than 100 importers also participated in the virtual meeting and discussed issues.

**Visit of Shri Faiz Ahmed Kidwai, Additional Secretary (PP) to RPQS, Bengaluru**



Shri Faiz Ahmed Kidwai, Additional Secretary (PP), Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, visited RPQS Bengaluru on 21<sup>st</sup> June, 2024 and had an overview of the laboratory facilities at the station, Dr. J. P. Singh, PPA, Dr. S. N. Sushil, Director, ICAR-NBAIR, Bengaluru, Dr. S. Gnanasambandan, JD (PQ), Dr. Sriram S, Head of Crop Protection Division, ICAR-IIHR, Bengaluru, and Dr. Nagaraju, JD (E) accompanied him.

**Visit of Shri Faiz Ahmed Kidwai, Additional Secretary (PP) to RCIPMC, Kolkata**

Shri Faiz Ahmed Kidwai, Additional Secretary (PP), Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, visited RCIPMC, Kolkata on 28<sup>th</sup> June, 2024 and had an overview of the laboratory setup and Insect museum at the station, Dr. J. P. Singh, PPA, and Dr. Alamgir Siddique, JD (E) accompanied him.





# Special Events & Achievements

## Participation in training at New Custom House

Shri. Venkata Reddy, PPO(WS), RPQS, Mumbai delivered a lecture on “Regulations of Plant Quarantine and its implementation in India” for newly recruited officials of customs at New Custom House, Mumbai on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2024.



Latitude: 10.424273  
Longitude: 78.367292  
Elevation: 348.16±31 m  
Accuracy: 465.1 m  
Time: 04-04-2024 12:09  
Note: ATMA ICM PADDY FARM SCHOOL 4th class IPM MANAGEMENT

## Participation in FARM school

CIPMC, Trichy participated in the programme FARM school conducted by State Department of Agriculture, Marungapuri Block, Trichy District on 04.04.2024, wherein delivered a lecture about ‘IPM on paddy, seed treatment and safe and judicious use of pesticides by adopting IPM practices’. 25 no. of farmers and 10 RAWE students of Mother Theresa College of Agriculture, Villupuram participated in this training programme and got benefited.

## Collaboration of CIPMC Ernakulam with Coffee Board for pest management

CIPMC Ernakulam technical team visited Technology Evaluation Centre, Coffee Board of India, Vazhavara, Idukki on 09.04.2024. CIPMC team observed the incidence of Shot hole borer, Coffee white stem borer, Coffee berry borer and Mealy bug in the field and provided *Beauveria bassiana* to control coffee white stem borer and *Cryptolaemus montrouzieri* to control mealy bugs.



## Participation in training at LPAI Petrapole

Dr. O. T. Singh, DD(E), RPQS Kolkata delivered a lecture and discussed with stakeholders on Importance of Plant Quarantine regulation for safe trade at LPAI, Petrapole on 12.05.2024





**Participation of RCIPMC Lucknow in unique empowering workshop for farmers on Banana Cultivation**

Dr. G. P. Singh, JD (E), RCIPMC, Lucknow participated as chief guest in unique empowering workshop for farmers on Banana Cultivation Organized by Amity Food and Agriculture Foundation at Amity University, Lucknow on 6<sup>th</sup> June, 2024.



**Participation in workshop on “Basic Practices of Fumigation with Aluminium Phosphide”**

Dr. Z. A. Ansari, DD (E), RPQS, Mumbai participated and delivered lecture in workshop on “Basic Practices of Fumigation with Aluminium Phosphide” organized by Pest Management Association on 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> June, 2024 at Pune.



# Directorate's Archive

*Apropos Central Insecticide Board and Registration Committee....*

**1958**

**Appointment of Commission by the Government**

*Government of India appointed a Commission of enquiry to suggest remedial measures following a number of deaths in Kerala and Madras (Tamil Nadu) by poisoning through the consumption of imported wheat contaminated by pesticide accidentally which was shipped together with food grains.*

**1964-67**

**Appointment of Prof. M.S. Thacker Committee**

*An Expert Committee headed by Prof. M.S. Thacker was appointed to study pesticide use and legislation.*

**1968**

**Insecticides Act**

*Based on the recommendations of the Expert Committee a comprehensive Insecticides Act was passed in 1968 to regulate the import, manufacture, sale, transport, distribution and use of insecticides with a view to prevent risks to human beings and animals.*

**1970-71**

**CIB&RC and Insecticide Rules**

*In the year 1970, the Ministry of Agriculture framed the Insecticide Rules and constituted Central Insecticides Board and Registration committee. And the Insecticides Act was brought into force with effect from 1st August, 1971.*

*To be continued.....*

## Extensive survey in Mango orchards in Uttar Pradesh by RCIPMC Lucknow

RCIPMC, Lucknow conducted joint survey with Officers of State Agriculture, Horticulture, Mandi Parishad, and APEDA in Mango orchards in the district of Lucknow Region (Lucknow, Barabanki, Unnao, Sitapur & Hardoi) and Saharanpur Region (Saharanpur & Shamli) of Uttar Pradesh to ascertain the status of occurrence of mango nut weevil (*Sternochetus mangiferae*), mango pulp weevil (*Sternochetus frigidus*) and red banded caterpillar (*Deanolis sublimbalis*) as per NSPM-13.



No incidences of above-named pest were recorded by the joint survey team at Lucknow Region & Saharanpur region of Uttar Pradesh.



## The Boll Weevil Monument

A disastrous can be a catalyst for change!!!!

**The Boll Weevil Monument** in Alabama, United States is a prominent landmark and tribute erected in 1919 to show their appreciation to an insect, the boll weevil, for its profound influence on the area's agriculture and economy. Hailing the beetle as a "herald of prosperity," it stands as the world's first monument built to honor an agricultural pest.

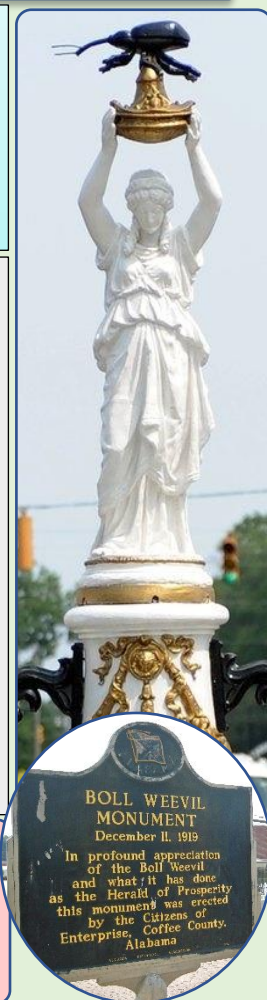
**But, Why?????**

The Boll Weevil (*Anthonomus grandis*), referred as "Mexican cotton boll weevil" appeared in Alabama during 1915.

By 1918, farmers lost whole crops of cotton and production decreased to 5000 bales from 15000 bales in a year. Farmers couldn't switch to other crops as cotton generated the highest profits and grew on marginal sandy land.

A seed broker named H.M. Sessions came across peanut fields in Virginia and sold peanut seeds to a Farmer named C.W. Baston of Alabama. He planted his entire crop in peanuts. To a surprise that year, he earned \$8,000 from his new crop. By 1919—right when the boll weevil scourge was reaching its peak, Alabama became the largest producer of peanuts in the country, and shortly thereafter became the first in the region to produce peanut oil.

**To thank the Cotton Boll Weevil that helped the farmers to diversify the cropping from cotton to peanuts, the people erected a statue in its honor which is 'The Boll Weevil Monument'.**

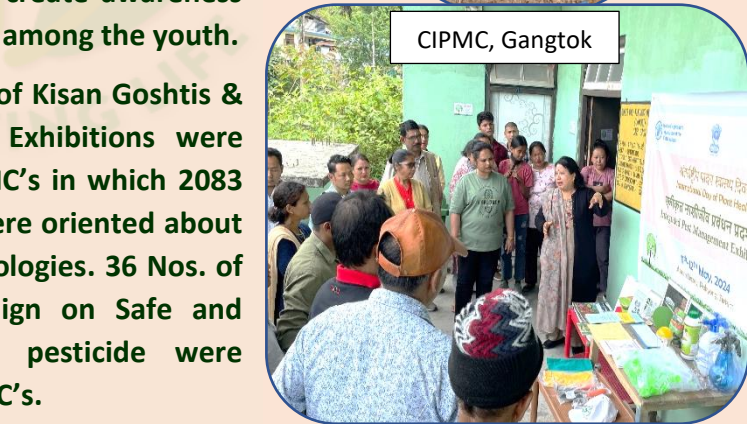






# International Day of Plant Health

"Plant Health, Safe Trade, and Digital Technology"



**International Plant Health Day**

The event was observed at all the offices of the Directorate on 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2024. Saplings were planted at the premises of office and awareness was created on Plant Health, Safe Trade and Digital Technology. Quiz competitions, Essay Writing and Drawing/ Painting Competition were also conducted to create awareness about plant health among the youth.

A total of 36 Nos. of Kisan Goshtis & 37 Nos. of IPM Exhibitions were organised all CIPMC's in which 2083 Nos. of farmers were oriented about various IPM technologies. 36 Nos. of Awareness campaign on Safe and judicious use of pesticide were organised by CIPMC's.



# Annual Meeting of Plant Quarantine Stations



The annual meeting of the Officer In-charges of Plant Quarantine Stations was held on 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 2024 at RPQS, Bengaluru. Shri Faiz Ahmed Kidwai, Additional Secretary (Plant Protection), Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, GoI, Dr. J. P. Singh, PPA, Dr. S. N. Sushil, Director, ICAR-NBAIR, Bengaluru, Dr. S. Gnanasambandan, JD (PQ), Dr. Sriram S, Head of Crop Protection Division, ICAR-IIHR, Bengaluru, Officer in-charges of Plant Quarantine Stations and other officers of the Directorate were present in the meeting.

Sh. Faiz Ahmed Kidwai, Addl. Secretary (PP), DA&FW in his inaugural address mentioned that plant protection division holds a crucial role to farmers, consumers and country as whole. He shared his experience of IPPC-CPM18 and highlighted the need for circulation of ISPMs to all the PQ officials at RPQs/PQs. He further insisted the officers to go through e-learning courses available at FAO on IPPC guidelines.



Dr. J. P. Singh, PPA, Dr. S. N. Sushil, Director, ICAR-NBAIR, Bengaluru, Dr. S. Gnanasambandan, JD (PQ), Dr. Sriram S, Head of Crop Protection Division, ICAR-IIHR, Bengaluru also addressed the gathering on importance of Plant Quarantine. It was followed by the presentations by all the regional in-charges on various activities in their respective plant quarantine stations. Various issues related to PQMS and other issues related to Capacity Building, SOPs, Custom related issues were discussed and the action points for those issues were presented.

The collaboration between DPPQ&S and respective Institutes of ICAR such as NBAIR, IIHR etc. in the area of plant protection was also discussed.





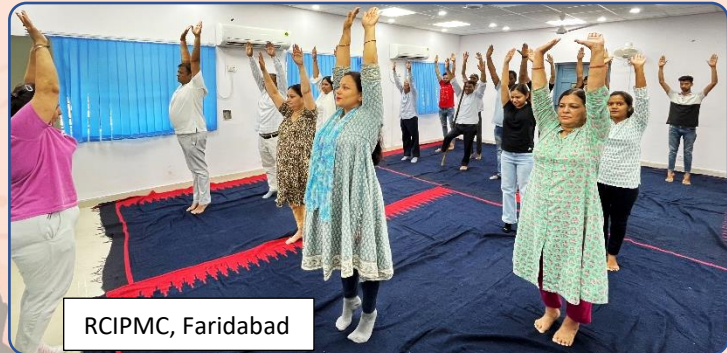


**“YOGA FOR SELF AND SOCIETY”**

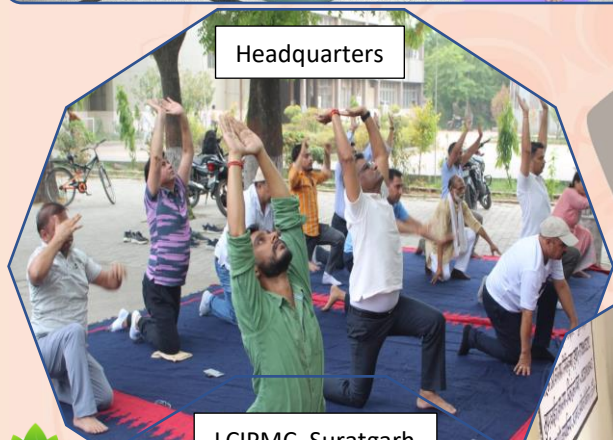
The significance of International Yoga Day is to raise awareness of the many benefits of yoga for physical and mental health. Yoga is a mind-body practice that originated in India thousands of years ago. The 10<sup>th</sup> edition of International Day of Yoga was celebrated on 21<sup>st</sup> June with the theme “YOGA FOR SELF AND SOCIETY”.



RPQS, Bengaluru



RCIPMC, Faridabad



Headquarters



CIPMC, Ranchi



LCIPMC, Suratgarh

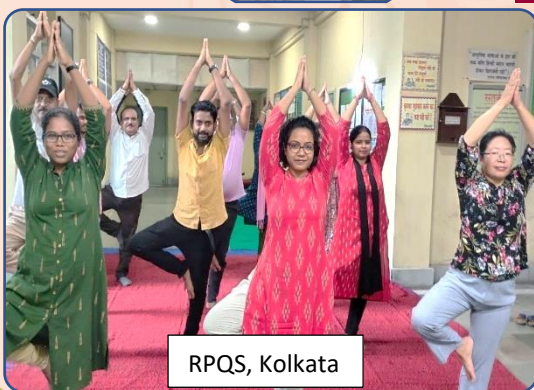


L&IPMRC, Bikaner

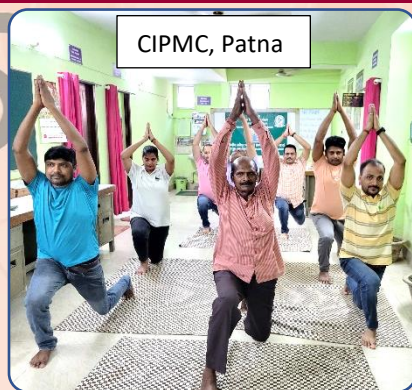


CIPMC, Raipur

The event was also celebrated at various offices of the Directorate all over the country to spread the awareness of practicing yoga.



RPQS, Kolkata



CIPMC, Patna



RPQS, Amritsar



# Annual Meeting of Central Integrated Pest Management Centres



Annual meeting of RCIPMC's, CIPMC's, RLCIPMC, LCIPMC's & L&IPMRC to review the activities was carried out during 2023-24 and the Action Plan for 2024-25 was held under the chairmanship of Sh. Faiz Ahmed Kidwai, Additional Secretary (PP) and in the presence of Dr. J. P. Singh, Plant Protection Advisor and Dr. Sunita Pandey, Joint Director (E) IPM Cum Locust Division at Auditorium Hall, Anthropological Survey of India, Ministry of Culture, Government

of India, Kolkata on 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> June 2024 in which all the RCIPMC's, CIPMC's, RLCIPMC, LCIPMC's & L&IPMRC In-charges presented their achievements for the year 2023-24 and action plan for 2024-25. Sh. Faiz Ahmed Kidwai, Additional Secretary (PP) appreciated the DPPQS and IPM Cum Locust team for promotion of IPM approach in farming community in India.



## Flag Off Ceremony for first Sea Shipment of Mangoes to UK from Bengaluru

First Sea Shipment of Mangoes to UK were sent on 19<sup>th</sup> of May, 2024. During the flag off ceremony various delegates from ICAR-CISH, Lucknow, APEDA, Mango Development Board, Federation of Indian Export Organisations along with Plant Quarantine officials of RPQS, Bengaluru were present.



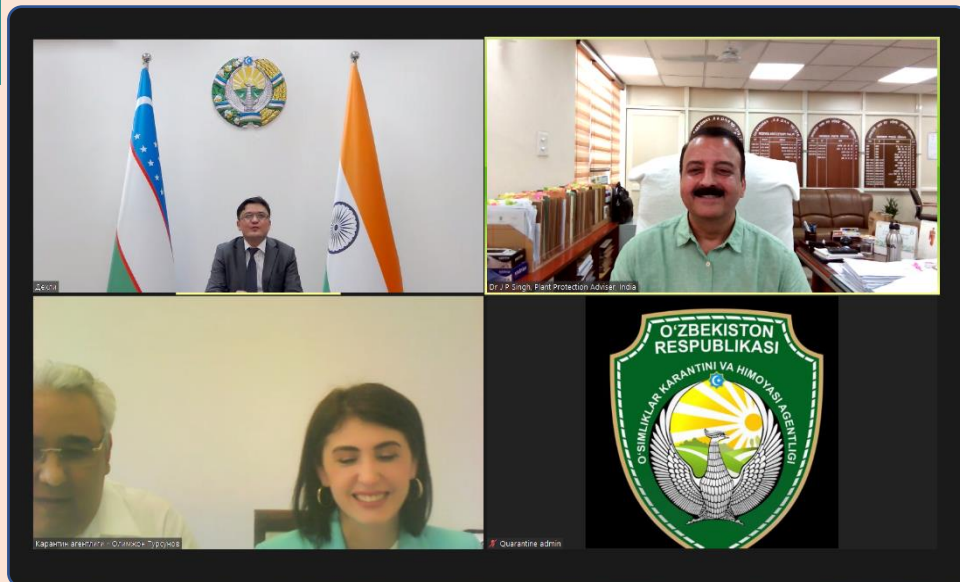


## Bilateral Phytosanitary Meetings



Dr. J. P. Singh, PPA attended the virtual meeting with National Plant Protection Organization, Uzbekistan on 08.05.2024 to discuss various market issues.

### Virtual meeting with NPPO, Uzbekistan



### Meeting with USA

The meeting of Mango export to USA was held at RPQS, Mumbai on 10.04.2024. USDA inspector, officials/officers of RPQS, Mumbai, APEDA, MSAMB staff and exporters were attended the meeting.

### Meeting with Japan

Mr. Okuyama Takeshi, MAFF, Japan visited Vapour Heat Treatment Facility, Vashi, Navi Mumbai on 3rd & 4th April 2024. Officers of RPQS, Mumbai, APEDA, MSAMB VHT staff were present.





Meeting with Republic of Korea



The meeting of Mango export to Republic of Korea was held at RPQS, Mumbai on 29.04.2024. Mr. Kim Jae Min, Inspector, Republic of Korea, officials/officers of RPQS, Mumbai, APEDA, MSAMB staff and exporters attended the meeting

Mr. Kim Jae Min, Inspector, Republic of Korea visited to mango orchard at Palambe, Raigad on 29th May, 2024 along with officials of RPQS, Mumbai, APEDA and Maharashtra State Dept. of Agriculture as a part of system approach to export Mango from India to Republic of Korea.



Media Coverage



Dr. K.L. Gurjar, JD (PP) delivered a talk in DD Kisan on use of bio-control agents for management of diseases in kharif crops.

Dr. V.D Nigam, DD (E) delivered a talk in DD Kisan on "Management of pod borers and caterpillars in Groundnut crop" on 31.05.2024 and "Pest and Disease of Rice crop and their management" on 14.06.2024.



Dr. G. P. Singh, JD (E) participated in radio talk on Importance of Seed and Soil treatment in Kharif Season crops at Akash Vani, Lucknow Uttar Pradesh on 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2024.



**Trainings**



**Workshops**

**Visit of students of Shri Vishwakarma Skill University, Palwal to Biocontrol Laboratory at RCIPMC, Faridabad**



39 No. of students along with University staff from Shri Vishwakarma Skill University, Palwal visited the biocontrol lab of RCIPMC, Faridabad on 21.05.2024. The students were informed about various IPM techniques with examples. The students visited IPM museum & bio-control lab and learnt about bio-control agents, preparation of tricho cards, various types of traps, Low cost bottle traps for fruit fly control, mass multiplication of bio-pesticides like Trichoderma, Beauveria etc.

**One-day training programme on IPM by CIPMC Ernakulam**

CIPMC Ernakulam organized a one-day training programme on IPM and Mass production of biocontrol agents to the farmers' association of Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE), a community environmental resource centre located at Alappuzha district of Kerala engaged in wetland conservation, sustainable livelihood and climate action on 12.06.2024



**One Day training cum exposure visit**

CIPMC, Trichy conducted One Day training cum exposure visit for the Agriculture Students from M.S. Swaminathan College of Agriculture and Research Institute, Echankottai, Thanjavur on 16.05.2024. The officers explained about mass production on Corcyra host culture, mass production of predators & parasitoids, mass multiplication of bio-pesticides and safe & judicious use of pesticides.

**Exposure visit of Students and faculty from ICAR-IARI Regional Campus IIHR, Bengaluru**

20 number of PG Students from ICAR-IARI Regional Campus visited RPQS, Bengaluru on 20<sup>th</sup> May,2024 and they were explained regarding technical activities and various laboratory activities carried at RPQS, Bengaluru.







# The Gazette of India Notifications

**S.O. 1590(E) dated 28th March, 2024** - Establishment of New Plant Quarantine Station (PQS), Bhubaneswar, Odisha under Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine & Storage, Faridabad as an attached office under the administrative control of Department of Agriculture & Farmer's Welfare.

**S.O. 1591(E) dated 28th March, 2024** Amendment of Schedule VI *Persea americana* (Avocado) regarding "Fresh Fruit for Consumption" -South Africa the following entries in columns (4)- South Africa, (5) Avocado Sunblotch viroid (Avocado Sun blotch) b) *Ceratitis capitata* (Mediterranean fruit fly) c) *Ceratitis cosyra* (Mango fruit fly) d) *Ceratitis rosa* (Natal fruit fly) e) *Cornu aspersum* (Common Garden snail) f) *Milviscutulus mangiferae* (Mango shield scale) g) *Sphaceloma perseae* (Avocado scab) h) *Spodoptera littoralis* (Cotton leafworm) and (6) -Fumigation shall inserted.

**S.O. 1593(E) dated 28th March, 2024**, Schedule II of the Plant Quarantine (Regulation of import into India) Order, 2003 ICD (INSAJ6) at Tumb-Vapi under jurisdiction of Regional Plant Quarantine Station, Kandla."

**S.O. 1602(E) dated 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 2024** In the Schedule VI: *Fraxinus excelsior*, Sawn timber / Logs without bark-Germany and free from a) *Agrilus convexicollis* b) *Dryocoetes villosus* c) *Hylesinus varius* d) *Lepidosaphes conchyformis* e) *Lymantria monacha* f) *Neoclytus acuminatus* g) *Poecilnota variolosa* h) *Stenocorus meridianus* i) *Xyleborus dispar* j) *Bjerkandera adusta* k) *Heterobasidion annosum* l) *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus* m) *Meripilus giganteus* n) *Stereum hirsutum* o) *Trametes hirsute* shall be inserted.

**S.O. 1601(E) dated 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 2024**: Amendment of Schedule VI- *Ruscus aculeatus*, Rhizomes for Propagation, Portugal, Post-entry quarantine for a growing period of 4-6 months and free from soil shall be inserted.

**S.O. 1854(E) dated 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2024**: In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-clause (ii) of clause (e) of section 3 of the Insecticides Act, 1968, the Central Government, after consultation with the Central Insecticides Board, hereby makes the following further amendments in the Schedule to the said Act, namely:- in the Schedule, after the entry relating to "Picolinafen", the following entries inserted are – Camphor, Eugenol, Citral, Thymol, Piperine, Metarylpicoxamid, Methyl Chavicol, Mecoprop-P.

**S.O. 2195(E) dated 5<sup>th</sup> June, 2024**: In Schedule I of the Plant Quarantine (Regulation of import into India) Order, 2003 the Land Frontier Station shall be added, namely: - Dalu (Meghalaya), Dawki (Meghalaya), Fulbari (West Bengal), Hili (West Bengal), Ghasuapara (Meghalaya), Mahurighat (Tripura), Sabroom (Tripura), Srimantapur (Tripura) & Sutarkandi (Assam) under Regional Plant Quarantine Station, Kolkata."

**S.O. 2221(E) dated 7<sup>th</sup> June, 2024**: Chapter II, Clause 3 (4) of PQ Order, 2003 shall be omitted i.e. (a) "Import of consignments of seeds of coarse cereals, pulses, oil seeds and fodder seeds and seeds/stock material of fruit plant species for propagation shall only be permitted based on the recommendations of EXIM Committee of Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW) except the trial material of the same as specified in Schedule-XII of Plant Quarantine Order" (b) The words "Import subject to prior approval of Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare in the Ministry of Agriculture" shall be omitted under the following entries in Schedule V & VI.

**S.O. 2477(E) dated 19<sup>th</sup> June, 2024**: In the Schedule VI Dry grains for consumption, Ghana, Free from: (a) *Alectra vogelii* (Yellow witchweed) (b) *Bruchidius atrolineatus* shall respectively be inserted.



## One Disease, Many faces

## Downy Mildew of Maize

Downy Mildew is one of the destructive diseases of Maize caused by *Peronosclerospora sorghi* or *Peronosclerospora philippinensis* or *Peronosclerospora sacchari* or *Sclerophthora rayssiae var. zae* *Peronosclerospora heteropogon*. It is reported in all major maize growing areas and can cause crop loss of up to 60%.

### Symptoms:

- One of the most distinctive symptoms is the appearance of chlorotic streaks on the leaves. These streaks are yellowish-green to brown in color.
- On the undersides of the leaves, a white fuzzy growth is seen. This downy growth is a hallmark of the disease.



Due to shortening of internodes, infected plants often take on a stunted and bushy appearance.



- Development of downy growth on the bracts of unopened male flowers in the tassel
- Tassels, which are the flower-bearing structures exhibit abnormalities like presence of small to large leaves within the tassel.
- Proliferation of auxiliary buds on the stalk of the tassel and the cobs referred to as "Crazy top."
- Systemic infection results in small and poorly filled cobs.

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