



# e-NEWSLETTER



Volume No. 1/2023-24

April - June 2023

Each division of the Directorate conducted a comprehensive review of their previous financial year's work and accomplishments and commenced their activities for 2023-24 with renewed enthusiasm in the interest of farmers of the country.

During 2022-23, Directorate has conducted 230 Nos. of Farmers Field Schools, 121 Nos. of two days and five days IPM Orientation training programmes and 14,554 numbers of farmers, extension workers, NGO's participants, Agro input dealers were trained on IPM practices. A sum of 11.01 lakh hectare cropped area were surveyed for pest monitoring, besides bio control agents were released for managing the pest in 1.77 lakh hectare and successfully conserved the natural habitat of bio-agents over 7.22 lakh hectare.

The Plant Quarantine Division of the Directorate has played an important role in facilitating the export of agricultural commodities by issuing 5,92,082 numbers of Phytosanitary Certificates. These certificates have enabled the smooth export of 509.3 lakh metric tons of agricultural/ horticultural produce. Simultaneously, the PQ stations have attentively focused on imported agricultural commodities, resulting in prevention of entering bio security risk in the form of 1005 Nos. of quarantine pests during inspections. This proactive approach has effectively safeguarded the country against the entry of exotic pests. During the last year, 3304 numbers of Phytosanitary treatments providers, processing units and pack houses were registered to support phytosanitary treatment for export and 54 numbers of accredited Phytosanitary Service Providers (PSSP) started working to support agricultural export certification.

It is a matter of great honour that the Directorate has been entrusted with the responsibility to chair the Asia Pacific Plant Protection Commission (APPPC) IPM Standing Committee for the biennium 2023-24. In line with our commitment, Directorate in association with APPPC successfully hosted five-day workshop on "Systems Approach for Management of Fruit Flies on Mango" in Mumbai during 19 - 23 June, 2023 wherein

36 delegates from 14 countries and Asia Pacific Plant Protection Commission (APPPC) Secretariat had participated. The Workshop was inaugurated by the Honourable Union Minister of State for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Sushri Shobha Karandlaje. The event served as a platform for fruitful discussions on pre-harvest integrated pest management, harvest & post-harvest handling, post-harvest treatments for tackling the challenges posed by fruit flies on mango.



*Plant Protection Adviser's Desk*

Towards International collaboration, Directorate participated in the Conferences of the Parties (COPs) to the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions met to collectively advance the sound management of chemicals and waste during 8-12 May 2023 in Geneva, Switzerland and Global Forum on Biological Control (GBFC) under FAO- Global Action Plan for Fall army worm during 26-27 June 2023 in Nairobi, Kenya.

The Directorate and its field offices actively participated in two significant events, namely the "International Yoga Day on 21<sup>st</sup> June, 2023", and the "World Environment Day on 05<sup>th</sup> June, 2023".

I am confident that Directorate continues to serve the farming community through effectively accomplishing the tasks related to pest monitoring, timely issuance of forewarning and advisories, human resource development in IPM, phytosanitary inspection and certification, pesticide registration and quality control, locust monitoring and control with great efforts and in a systematic & transparent manner.

- Dr. J.P. Singh  
 Plant Protection Adviser



## Catalogue

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## Highlights

## Integrated Pest Management (Efforts of CIPMCs):

- During the period 1.67 lakh ha. of crop area was surveyed and issued three advisories for the management of the important pests.
- 576.4 million biocontrol agents were released across 0.22 lakh ha. area for managing pests.
- Successfully conserved the natural habitat of bio agents in over 1.15 lakh ha.

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

- ♣️ Facilitated export of Agricultural commodity and issued 150190 numbers of Phytosanitary Certificates for 127.45 lakh MTs. of various Agricultural commodities.
- ♣️ Issued Import clearance for 31650 numbers of Agricultural consignments for 42.78 lakh MTs.
- ♣️ 661 numbers of quarantine pests were detected in import consignment and have been succeeded in preventing the entry of exotic pests through an effective PQ inspection system.

## Locust Warning Organization (Efforts by LWO/LCOs/FSIL):

- Conducted Desert Locust Survey in 48.507 lakh ha. and published six numbers of locust information bulletins during the quarter highlighting current locust situation in India and neighbouring countries.
- Participated in one Indo-Pak border meeting physically and one The FAO Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in South-West Asia (SWAC) meeting under preparatory Desert Locust Control Committee (DLCC) Session virtually with member countries.

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

- ♣️ RPTL's tested 640 numbers of samples, out of which 47 were declared misbranded.
- ♣️ The CIL tested 466 samples, out of which 92 were found misbranded.

## Central Insecticide Board and Registration Committee:

- The committee has issued Certificate of Registration for a total number of **39761** pesticides out of which **27** were issued for new molecules.

## New Appointments:

34 incumbent joined as Assistant Plant Protection Officers, Technical Assistant, Multi-Tasking Staff, Data Processing Assistant and lower division clerk in the Directorate during the quarter April to June, 2023.



Special prize was awarded to the office of Regional Plant Quarantine Station, Amritsar in the Official Language Shield Competition for the session 2022-23 by the City Official Language Implementation Committee, Amritsar.



### Planning and Coordination Unit:

- 37 newly recruited officials of the Dte. were given induction training at National Institute of Plant Health Management (NIPHM) Hyderabad.
- A total of 32 nos. of RTI requests and 34 of grievance requests were resolved during the quarter.

### Rajbhasha Hindi:

The Parliament committee on Official Language conducted inspection meeting of Regional Plant Quarantine Centre, Amritsar on 12.05.2023 to verify progress made on implementation of Hindi in office. Sh. Ashish Kumar Srivastava, JS (PP), Dr. J. P. Singh, PPA were also present in the meeting.



### Dignitary Visits

Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Agriculture and farmers' Welfare Sushri Shobha Karandlaje visited the integrated pack house & treatment facilities for fresh



fruit & vegetables at Vashi, Navi Mumbai. She overviewed various procedures involved in export of fresh fruit & vegetables including phytosanitary inspection & certification.



Sh. Ashish Kumar Srivastava, Joint Secretary (PP) visited RPOQS Mumbai and its sub units. He overviewed laboratory facilities, phytosanitary inspection & certification and pack house facilities.

## International Participations

### Conference of Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam & Stockholm Conventions

Dr. Archana Sinha, Joint Director (Chemistry) participated in the meeting of the “Conference of Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam & Stockholm Conventions” to collectively advance the sound management of chemicals and waste held at Geneva, Switzerland during 8-12 May, 2023.



### Global Forum on Biological Control (GBFC)

National Focal Points (NFP) for implementation of Global Action for Fall Armyworm Control in Asia and the Pacific have participated in Global Forum on Biological Control (GBFC) meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> June 2023 in Nairobi, Kenya. Dr. S. N. Sushil, Director, ICAR-NBAIR & Dr. Sunita Pandey Deputy Director (E) participated from India.



## ! International Travelers... -Beware of PQ regulations and biosecurity risk



**Security Check**

Character 1: Hello Sir!! Are you carrying with you any plant material?

Character 2: Yes!! What's the issue?

Character 1: Plant material need to be referred to plant quarantine officer.

Character 2: Why?

### PLANT QUARANTINE OFFICE

Character 1: Hello, officer

Character 2: Hello sir, how can I help you?

Character 1: I have a anthurium saplings in my baggage and it has been referred to your office by the custom officer. Why?

Character 1: Okay Sir, do you have Phytosanitary certificate?

Character 2: No, what does it mean?

Character 1: Well, phytosanitary certificate is issued by the exporting country's Plant Quarantine Officer which certify that plant material is free from quarantine pests like insects, pathogens, nematodes, weed seeds etc. And I'm sorry that your sapling will be detained as it may carry such phytosanitary risk for India.

Character 2: I got your point officer. Please proceed as per the regulations. Thank you so much for making me aware.

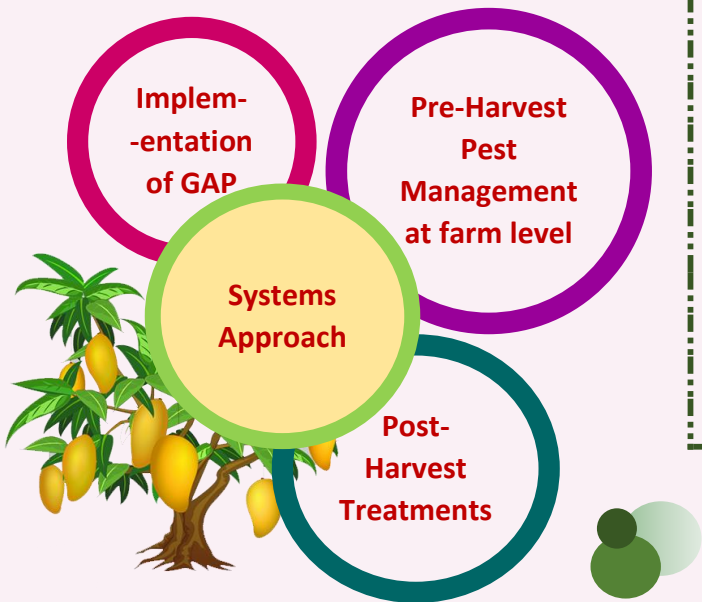
Character 1: You are welcome!!

**Trainings & Workshops**

# APPPC Workshop on Systems Approach for Management of Fruit Flies on Mango



The APPPC Workshop on Systems Approach for Management of Fruit Flies on Mango was held during 19 – 23 June 2023 in Mumbai, wherein 36 delegates from 14 Countries and Asia Pacific Plant Protection Commission (APPPC) Secretariat participated.



The Hon'ble Minister of State for Agriculture & Farmer Welfare, GOI, Sushri Shobha Karandlaje inaugurated the workshop in the presence of Shri Ashish Kumar Shrivastava, Joint Secretary (PP), Department of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare, Dr Yubak Dhoj G.C., Executive Secretary, APPPC Secretariat, Dr S.N. Sushil, Director, ICAR-NBAIR, MoA&FW and Dr J.P. Singh, PPA, DPPQS.

In the inaugural speech, Hon'ble Minister, Sushri Shobha Karandlaje has emphasised on the production of pest free as well as residue free fruits and vegetables for getting market worldwide so that farmer's income can be increased.



Workshop reviewed the Systems approach for management of Fruit fly in Mango & its successful implementation in member countries of APPPC and all relevant ISPMs. Dr. S. N. Sushil, Director, ICAR-NBAIR dealt in depth about systems approach concept and relevant International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs). The pre-harvest integrated pest management practices to be followed for pest free production of mango were explained by Dr. Abraham Verghese, Former Director, ICAR-NBAIR. Successful implementation of Systems Approach in India, record keeping, institutional support at various critical points, farmers trainings, harvest & post-harvest handling and treatment procedures involved in Hot Water Immersion, Irradiation and vapour heat Treatments were explained by the experts from DPPQS.



The participants were taken on a field trip to mango orchard and Krishi Vigyan Kendra at Narayangaon, Pune, Maharashtra to demonstrate successful adoption of Good Agricultural Practices for the management of fruit flies in India.



Participants had exposure visits to pack house and post-harvest treatment facilities viz., Hot Water Immersion Treatment, Irradiation and Vapour Heat Treatment at Vashi, Navi Mumbai.





Phytosanitary inspection & certification procedures being followed by NPPO India were also demonstrated during the visit.



In the final day of the workshop an interaction session of the participants with different stakeholders viz., APEDA, Exporters Union, Pack house facility owner, Treatment providers and Maharashtra State Mango Growers Association was arranged where they shared their experiences on mango export.



# Directorate's Archive

*Apropos Plant Quarantine....*

<p><b>1951</b></p>	<p><b>1972</b></p>	<p><b>1976-78</b></p>	<p><b>1989</b></p>	<p><b>2003-04</b></p>
<p><b>First Plant Quarantine and Fumigation Station</b></p> <p>On December 25, 1951 the first plant Quarantine and Fumigation station in India was formally inaugurated at Mumbai.</p>	<p><b>Regulation of Cotton import</b></p> <p>On 25<sup>th</sup> August 1972, Regulations for Import of Cotton into India was notified in the Gazette of India, vide, G.S.R. 393 (E) and came into force by then.</p>	<p><b>Establishment of NBPGR</b></p> <p>In August, 1976 the National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resource (NBPGR) was created and in 1978 Entomology, Plant Pathology and Nematology sections were created under PQ division.</p>	<p><b>PFS Order</b></p> <p>On 27<sup>th</sup> October 1989, the Plants, Fruits and Seeds (Regulation of Import into India) order was notified in the Gazette of India vide, S.O. 867 (E) and came into force by then.</p>	<p><b>PQ Order</b></p> <p>The Order was published in the Gazette of India, vide, S.O. 1322 (E), dated 18<sup>th</sup> November, 2003 and came into force on 01.01.2004 and has been subsequently amended thereon.</p>

*To be continued.....*



**Release of exotic parasitoids, *Anagyrus lopezi* for classical biological control of cassava mealybug**

CIPMC, Ernakulam participated in field release programme of parasitoids, *Anagyrus lopezi* against Cassava mealybug (CMB) in Madakkathara, Thrissur, Kerala on 26.04.2023 jointly organized ICAR-NBAIR, Bangaluru, ICAR-CTCRI, Thiruvananthapuram and AICRP-BC, Kerala Agricultural University, Vellanikkara.

**IPM Training Programme for Cardamom growers**

CIPMC, Ernakulam organized One Day Training Programme on Integrated Pest Management in Spices and Mass production of Bio-Control agents to the cardamom farmers of Puttady, Idukki district on 06.06.2023 as a part of the IPM outreach program.



**Farmers Exposure Visit at RCIPMC Kolkata**

A one-day exposure visit for farmers was conducted at RCIPMC Kolkata on 12.05.2023 in which nine ATMA farmers from Bhangar-II block of South 24 Parganas, W.B, participated. The programme focused on Importance of Bio-control laboratory for farming Community-Mass production techniques of Host culture (*Corcyra cephalonica*), Parasitoids (*Trichogramma spp.*) &



other Bioagents, the house hold technique for preparation of fruit fly lure(ME/CUE), House Hold/Farm level Technique for production of bio-pesticides (*Trichoderma spp.*, *Beauveria* & *Metarhizium*).

**Training Programme on “Invasive coconut whitefly identification and their management”**

Officers of CIPMC Ernakulam attended a One Day Training Programme on “Invasive coconut whitefly identification and their management” organized by ICAR- CPCRI, Kayamkulam, Alappuzha on 20.06.2023.



**Training to Self Help Women’s Group on IPM**



Self-help Women's Group of IPM progressive women's farmers, Village Gudari, Block: Masauli, Dist. Barabanki, Uttar Pradesh were taught about the IPM techniques of vegetable crops at RCIPMC Lucknow Bio Control Laboratory on 12<sup>th</sup> April, 2023.







World Environment Day is the biggest international day for the environment. Led by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and held annually since 1973, it has grown to be the largest global platform for environmental outreach. It is celebrated by millions of people across the world.

World Environment Day 2023 was hosted by Côte d'Ivoire and supported by the Netherlands and the theme was to focus on solutions to plastic pollution under the campaign #BeatPlasticPollution.

The event was celebrated in the Directorate at all of its offices throughout the country by planting saplings and creating awareness among the public to reduce plastic waste getting into the ecosystem.

@ RPQS  
Bengaluru

@ RPQS Mumbai



@ CIPMC  
Patna

@ CIPMC Ernakulam

@ CIPMC Nashik





# “Yoga for Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam”



The participants of the “APPPC Workshop on Systems Approach for management of fruit flies on mango” took part in the International Yoga Day at Mumbai.

@ RCIPMC Lucknow



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 9<sup>th</sup> edition of International Day of Yoga was celebrated on 21<sup>st</sup> June with the theme “Yoga for Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam” which beautifully captures our shared aspiration for “One Earth, One Family, and One Future.”

@ CIPMC Jalandhar



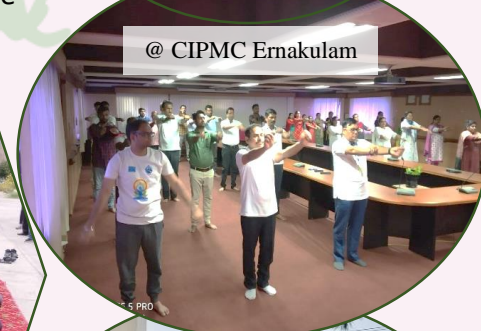
@ RCIPMC Kolkata



@ RCIPMC Bengaluru



@ CIPMC Ernakulam



@ CIPMC Sranganagar



@ Hqrs. Faridabad

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



@ CIPMC Gorakhpur

**Bilateral  
Phytosanitary  
Negotiations**



Ms. Sophio Riphung, DD(E) and Dr. Z. A. Ansari, DD(E) visited Rwanda during 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> April, 2023 for On-site verification of registered Avocado orchards and pack houses.



Dr. Neelam Chaudhary, DD (E) visited Netherlands during 5<sup>th</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> April 2023 for On-site inspection of facilities for the Import of Bromeliaceae seedlings.



**Special Events  
&  
Achievements**



An MOU was signed between DPPQ&S, Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, MoA&FW, GoI, by Dr J P Singh, PPA and Ms. Jane Karkada, Senior Director, Confederation of Indian Industry on 31.05.2023 for developing Integrated Pesticide Management System (IPMS) to:

- ✓ build national level online Pesticide Database on pesticide manufacturers, importers, dealers, retailers.
- ✓ provide traceability and monitoring of pesticide quality, registration and licensing repository.
- ✓ enable real time monitoring of pesticide supply chain in the country and
- ✓ will help in ensuring availability of quality pesticides to the farmers.



The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Shri. Yogi Adityanath inaugurated the Integrated Pack House at Karkhiyaon, Varanasi and flagged off the consignments of Langda mango and green chilli for export to Dubai and Doha on 26.06.2023.



# Annual Meeting of CIPMC's for 2022-23



Annual meeting of Central Integrated Pest Management Centers (CIPMCs) to review the activities carried out during 2022-23 and the Action Plan for 2023-24 was held under the chairmanship of Sh. Ashish Kumar Srivastava, Joint Secretary (PP) and in the presence of Dr. J. P. Singh, Plant Protection Advisor at Varanasi (UP) on 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2023.



All the CIPMC In charges presented their achievements for the year 2022-23 and action plan for 2023-24. Sh. Ashish Kumar Srivastava, Joint Secretary (PP) appreciated the DPPQS and IPM team for promotion of IPM approach in farming community in India and also visited IPM Exhibition organized by RCIPMC Lucknow.



## International Day of Plant Health (IDPH - 2023)

Sh. Bolli Venu Babu, APPO(E) awarded 2nd prize in Elocution competition conducted on the occasion of International Day of Plant Health (IDPH-2023) on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2023 held at NIPHM, Hyderabad.





**Inauguration of IPM Seva Kendra**

IPM Seva Kendra for spices has been established by CIPMC Ernakulam in collaboration with Spices board & Kerala Agricultural Development Society (KADS) PCL at KADS Village Square, Thodupuzha, Idukki district on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2023 with aim to ensure the availability of IPM inputs such as bio-control agents, light traps, rodent traps, pheromone traps, sticky traps, Nuclear Polyhedrosis Virus (NPV), bird percher, seed treatment drums, Neem/Melia seed kernel extract, cow dung ash etc. to farming community.

**Kisan Mahotsav and Exhibition**



CIPMC Jaipur participated in State Level Kisan Mahotsav and Exhibition organized by Department of Agriculture, Govt. of Rajasthan during 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> June, 2023 in Jaipur and during 26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> June, in Udaipur. Around 8000 farmers, state agriculture officials, students visited the stall of CIPMC Jaipur.

The visitors were oriented about production and use of different bio control agents such as *Trichoderma spp.*, *Metarhizium spp.*, *Beauveria bassiana*, *Pseudomonas fluorescens*, *Trichogramma spp.*, Reduviid bug etc.



**Pashu Pradarshani & Krishi Mela**



RCIPMC Lucknow participated in Pashu Pradarshani & Krishi Mela held on 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> April, 2023 at Muzaffarnagar, UP. Hon'ble Minister of State for Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Government of India, Dr. Sanjeev Balyan

& Hon'ble Minister of Animal Husbandry, Dairy development, Government of Uttar Pradesh, Sh. Dharpal Singh visited IPM exhibition stall.





**The Gazette  
of India  
Notifications**

**S.O. 1801(E), 21st April, 2023** In sub-section (1) of section 3 of the Destructive Insects and Pests (DIP) Act. 1914 (2 of 1914) in Schedule II of the Plant Quarantine (Regulation of import into India) Order, 2003 entries added.

1. Land Customs Station, Nagrakata (West Bengal)
2. Land Customs Station Kulkuli (West Bengal)

**G.S.R.315(E), 25th April, 2023**, Notification in the Insecticides Rules, 1971, in Rule 10, in Sub-Rule (1A), in the first provision, for the figures, letters and word "31st December, 2022", the figures, letters and word "31st December, 2023" shall be substituted.

**S.O. 2161(E), 9th May, 2023**—In Sub-Rule (4) of Rule 10 of the Official Language (Use for Official Purposes of the Union) Rule, 1976, the Central Government hereby notifies Plant Quarantine Station, Mangaluru under control of Directorate of Plant protection, Quarantine and storage Faridabad, an attached office of Department of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture and farmer's Welfare, 80% Staff where of have acquired the working knowledge of Hindi:- Plant Quarantine Station, Mangaluru Plot No.- 323/F-1, KIADB Industrial Area, Baikampady, Mangaluru-575011 (Karnataka).

**S.O. 2153(E). — 10th May, 2023** In sub-section (1) of section 3 of the DIP Act. 1914 (2 of 1914) In Schedule II of the Plant Quarantine (Regulation of import into India) Order, 2003 entries added,

1. Inland Container Depot, Talegaon (Pune), Maharashtra
2. Inland Container Depot, Bhamboli (Pune) Maharashtra

**S.O. 2160(E). — 10th May, 2023** Establishment of new Central Integrated Pest Management Centre at Morena, Madhya Pradesh.

**S.O. 2360(E). — 25th May, 2023** In Schedule I of the Plant Quarantine (Regulation of import into India) Order, 2003 under the heading "Airports" shall be replaced - 18. Dabolim (Goa) 26. MoPA (Goa)

**G.S.R 406(E) 31st May, 2023** - The draft rules: In the Insecticides Rules, 1971, in rule 14, sub rule(1), In case of death of the existing retailer or dealer, the family member of the deceased retailer or dealer, during the currency of the license, may apply for permission to transfer the license in his name subject to the applicability of succession laws and submission of the death certificate of the deceased dealer or retailer before the concerned licensing officer. Provided also that the family member of the deceased retailer or dealer who is without the prescribed qualification shall undergo the certificate course in insecticides management for transfer of license. The license can be provisionally transferred to the family member for a period of one year or till the family member completes the certificate course in insecticides management, whichever is earlier. During this period the applicant can employ a person with prescribed educational qualifications.

**S.O. 2680(E). 12th June, 2023**— In sub-section (1) of section 3 of the Destructive Insects and Pests Act, 1914 (2 of 1914). Amendment of Schedule VI of the Plant Quarantine (Regulation of import into India) Order, 2003. - The following serial number and entries inserted, namely: -- Shorea robusta (sal), Seeds/kernel, Nepal.



Dr. J. P. Singh, PPA delivered a talk in DD Kisan on procedures to be followed in export of Mango fruits.



Sh. Gyaneshwer Banchhor, DD (E) delivered a talk in DD Kisan on management of Fall army worm insect pest in Maize Crop.



### Media Coverage

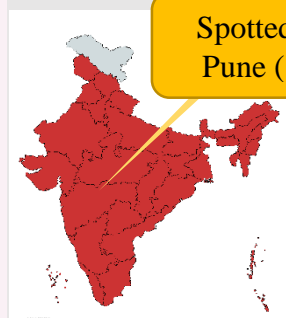
The five days APPPC Workshop on Systems Approach for management of fruit flies on mango held at Mumbai during 19-23 June, 2023 received video coverage by DD Sahyadri, Maharashtra.

## Parthenium: An Unwelcome Alien

When & How?



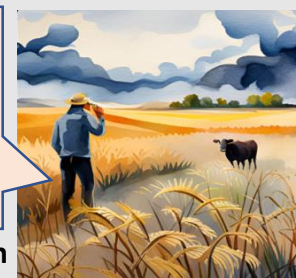
Spotted 1<sup>st</sup> in Pune (1955)



- *Parthenium hysterophorus*, aka Congress Grass or Carrot Weed.
- During 1950s India was facing a food shortage and government decided to import wheat from USA under the PL 480.
- The wheat was contaminated with seeds of the parthenium.

By then it has spread all over the country and can even be found in Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Till now it has invaded over 35 million ha. of land in India.

- Its invasion has resulted in yield losses of up to 40% in several crops and has also caused a 90% drop in forage production.
- It causes skin problems and allergies in people, the plant is also toxic to livestock causes Alopecia, loss of skin pigmentation, dermatitis and diarrhoea.



Few areas in Punjab have been declared Parthenium-free by the strict rules laid down by East Punjab Agricultural Pests, Diseases and Noxious Weeds Act, 1949.

### Action Plan

Needs community approach involving the participation public, NGOs and local civic bodies such as Gram Panchayats, municipalities, city corporations etc.

- Legal control by enhancement of acts in affected states.
- Need to create awareness among public about its side effects.

"One year's seeds, seven years' weeds"

So better act now....



Sh. Ashish Kumar Srivastava,  
Joint Secretary (PP) and Dr. J.P.  
Singh, PPA visited the Museum  
at RPQS, Amritsar.



**DID YOU  
KNOW  
?**

## Coffee Rust – Boon for TEA



In the early 17th century, Europeans got hooked on coffee. Coffeehouses had sprung up in all major cities of Europe.

Some smart Dutch businessmen saw the opportunity and began to grow coffee in their colonies beginning in Ceylon in 1658. In 1796, control of Ceylon was handed over to the British. By the 1870s, Ceylon's plantations were exporting nearly 100 million pounds of coffee a year, most of it to England. For a few decades, Ceylon was the world's top coffee producer.



### The coffee rust fungus – a perilous parasite

In 1869, the coffee rust fungus *Hemileia vastatrix* entered the stage in Ceylon and wiped out the entire plantations.

Hence the growers of Ceylon shifted from,



Ever since the raging of coffee rust, Ceylon is known as the exporter of the world's finest teas.

Thus people shifted from,



**-A terrific pest can even replace food in country's platter.**

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