



# e-NEWSLETTER



July - September 2024

Volume No. 2/2024-25



## Plant Protection Adviser's Desk

The last quarter was a period of significant events and milestones for the Directorate. It is my pleasure to share the key developments from this period.

On the joyous occasion of the 78<sup>th</sup> Independence Day, 15<sup>th</sup> August 2024, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, the Honourable Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, launched the National Pest Surveillance System (NPSS) at Dr. C. Subramaniam Auditorium, NASC Complex, New Delhi. The event was graced by the presence of Honourable Ministers of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shri Ramnath Thakur and Shri Bhagirath Choudhary. The participation of over 1000 farmers from across the country added a special resonance to the occasion.

NPSS is a remarkable digital initiative which can currently identify key pests and diseases for 61 crops and actively monitors 15 important crops. It will significantly benefit farmers by offering quick solutions to pest attacks and crop diseases, thus reducing crop losses and improving productivity.

Directorate actively participated in tree plantation drives across the country as part of the Global Campaign "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam," launched by the Honourable Prime Minister of India on World Environment Day 2024.

Directorate also organized Swachhta Hi Seva Campaign with theme "Swabhav Swachhata - Sanskaar Swachhata," to emphasize cleanliness and environmental sustainability on the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Swachh Bharat Mission.

Directorate celebrated Hindi Pakhwada during 14<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> September 2024 by organizing, various programs and competitions.

A Season Long Training Programme (SLTP) on Apple crop was conducted during 11.07.2024 to 09.08.2024 at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K), Srinagar for officers of State Horticultural Departments. The program focused on the management of Apple Leaf Blotch Miner (ALBM) and other significant pests and diseases affecting apple crops.

During the period Directorate contributed significantly in human resource development in Plant Protection through Farmers Field School and Orientation Training Programme for farmers, Farmers Producer Organizations (FPOs) and Officers of State Agriculture /Horticulture Dept.

At the end, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all the officials and associated partners whose consistent efforts led to the successful launch of the NPSS app. Our collaborative efforts will continue to play a crucial role in the advancement of Indian agriculture.

I urge all officers and officials of the Directorate to actively promote the NPSS app and its numerous benefits to farmers through our routine activities and dedicated campaigns.

- Dr. J.P. Singh  
 Plant Protection Adviser



## Catalogue:

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- 🌀 International Participations
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- 🌀 Special Achievements & Events
- 🌀 Trainings and Workshops
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## Highlights

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

- During the period **3.66** lakh ha. of crop area was surveyed.
- **1055.96** million biocontrol agents were released across **0.47** lakh ha. area for managing pests.
- Successfully conserved the natural habitat of bio agents in over **2.67** lakh ha.
- Conducted Desert Locust Survey in **50.877** lakh ha. Published & circulated **six** locust information bulletins during the quarter highlighting current locust situation in India and neighbouring countries.
- During the period **149** FFS are conducted in which **5212** farmers were trained about IPM practices.
- **45** two days HRD programmes were conducted where **2361** Nos. of AEOs, NGOs, Lead Farmers, Private Entrepreneurs were trained on IPM measures.
- **4** nos. of five days HRD programmes were conducted where 162 Nos. of AEOs of various states were trained on IPM measures.

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

- Facilitated export of Agricultural commodity and issued **1,30,840** numbers of Phytosanitary Certificates for **73.43** lakh MTs. of various Agricultural commodities.
- Issued Import clearance for **39,298** numbers of Agricultural consignments for **55.46** lakh MTs.
- **14** numbers of quarantine pests in **502** 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 **two** new market access for export.

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

Name of registrations/accreditations of Agencies	Nos.
Hot Water Immersion Treatment Facility (HWT)	1
Rice Mills / Processing Units for Rice Export to USA	2
Rice Mills / Processing Units for Rice Export to China	2
Processing Units for export of Peanut	1
Pack Houses for Export of Pomegranate Fruits to Australia	2

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

- ♣ RPTL's tested **1517** numbers of samples, out of which **32** were declared misbranded.
- ♣ The CIL tested **523** 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 **2297** pesticides out of which **79** were issued for bio-pesticides, **1724** for chemical pesticides and **494** were issued for export purpose.

### New Appointments:

02 incumbent joined as Lower Division Clerk and 01 as Deputy Director (Toxicology) in the Directorate during the quarter July to September, 2024.

*Best Wishes*

**Rajbhasha Hindi:** The quarterly meeting on Official Language was held at Hqrs. DPPQS on 09.09.2024. Dr. J. P. Singh, PPA and other officers of the Directorate attended the meeting.



Directorate celebrated **Hindi Diwas** on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2024 and **Hindi Pakhwada** during 14-18 September 2024 by organizing, various programs and competitions.



### Planning and Coordination Unit:

- Facilitated participation of 11 participants in Online Workshop on "Handling Parliamentary Matters (HPM-05)" organized by Institute of Secretariat Training & Management (ISTM) on 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> August, 2024.
- A total of 75 nos. of RTI requests and 71 of grievance requests were resolved during the quarter.
- Three officers from the Directorate participated in the "Orientation Training Program on PFMS (OTP-PFMS)" organized by Institute of Secretariat Training & Management (ISTM) on 09<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> September, 2024
- Facilitated participation of three officers from the Directorate in the Training on "Laboratory Quality Management System and Internal Audit as per ISO/IEC/ 17025:2017" organized by NIPHM, Hyderabad during 09.09.2024-13.09.2024.
- Ten officers from the Directorate participated in the "Training on Fruit Fly Surveillance" organized by NIPHM, Hyderabad during 23 to 27 September, 2024.

## International Participations

Dr. Vasudha Gautam, Joint Director (E), Dr. Pabel Mazumdar, Assistant Director (PP) and Dr. Narendra Kumar Gunda, APPO (E) participated in "Canberra Fellowships Program" held at Canberra, Australia during 26.08.2024 to 30.08.2024.

## "Canberra Fellowships Program" – Bio security visit



## Dignitary Visits

Visit of Shri Faiz Ahmed Kidwai, Additional Secretary (Plant Protection) to RCIPMC, Lucknow



Shri Faiz Ahmed Kidwai, Additional Secretary (PP), Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, visited RCIPMC, Lucknow Bio-Control and Bio-Pesticide Testing Laboratories on 4<sup>th</sup> July, 2024.

Visit of Shri Faiz Ahmed Kidwai, Additional Secretary (Plant Protection) to CIPMC, Indore



*Trichogramma Laboratory*



Shri Faiz Ahmed Kidwai, Additional Secretary (PP), Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, visited CIPMC Indore on 11<sup>th</sup> July, 2024 and had an overview of the laboratory setup and reviewed the current year action plan and proposed activities with respect to NPSS, FFS & HRD training programme.



### Visit of Dr. J. P. Singh, PPA to CIPMC, Indore

Dr. J. P. Singh, PPA visited CIPMC, Indore on 16.08.2024 and had an overview of the laboratory setup and reviewed the current year action plan and proposed activities with respect to NPSS, FFS & HRD training programmes.



## Special Events & Achievements



### Visit of Mr. Rob Strey, the Chief Technology Officer, and Mrs. Simone Strey, the Chief Executive Officer and co-founders of Plantix



Mr. Rob Strey, the Chief Technology Officer, and Mrs. Simone Strey, the Chief Executive Officer and co-founders of Plantix visited DPPQS, Headquarters on 02.09.2024.

The models are intended for integration with the National Pest Surveillance System (NPSS).

### Buyer-Seller Meet, capacity building Programme for FPO's

Dr. Rashmi Pandey, AD (E) participated in a Buyer-Seller Meet, capacity building Programme for FPO's organised by a joint collaboration of Maharashtra State Agricultural Marketing Board (MSAMB), Pune and Asian Development Bank assisted Maharashtra Agribusiness Network (MAGNET) project at YASHADA, Pune on 23rd July, 2024. A total number of 173 stakeholders of agriculture export were present at the meeting.



### Summit on Export of Fruits, Vegetables and Flowers

Dr. Brajesh Mishra, JD (E) has participated in a Summit on Export of Fruits, Vegetables and Flowers organised by joint collaboration of Maharashtra State Agricultural Marketing Board (MSAMB), Pune and Asian Development Bank assisted Maharashtra Agribusiness Network (MAGNET) project at YASHADA, Pune on 22nd August, 2024. A total number of 160 members of various FPO's attended the Summit



# Launch of National Pest Surveillance System (NPSS)

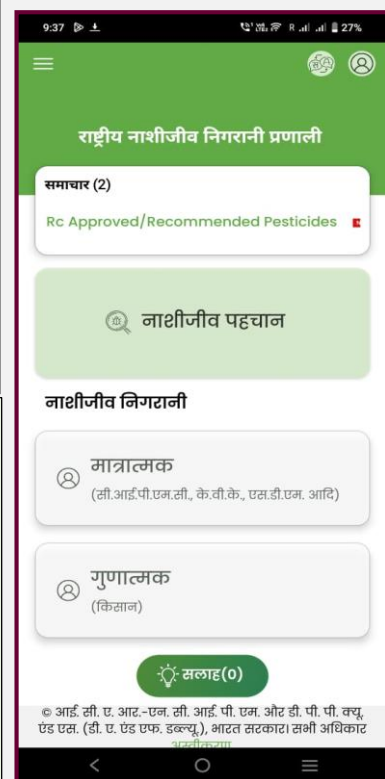


Shri. Shivarj Singh Chouhan, Honourable Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister, Government of India launched the National Pest Surveillance System (NPSS) application on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2024 at Dr. C. Subramaniam Auditorium, NASC Complex, New Delhi. During the event Shri. Ramnath Thakur & Shri. Bhagirath Choudhary, Hon'ble Ministers of State for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India were also present.

NPSS has been developed with the joint efforts of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India, Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine and Storage, Faridabad, ICAR-National Research Centre for Integrated Pest Management (NCIPM) Delhi, Plantix, and Wadhvani-AI.

NPSS utilizes latest technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) to offer timely and precise pest management advisories. The system comprises a user-friendly mobile app and a web portal, ensuring accessibility for all farmers. By leveraging real-time data and advanced analytics, NPSS enables accurate pest identification, monitoring, and management.

This app is capable of identifying important pests and diseases of 61 crops and is currently available for monitoring the pests and diseases of 15 important crops (cotton, paddy, wheat, maize, pigeon pea, moong, soybean, sugarcane, brinjal, tomato, apple, banana, grapes, pomegranate, other important crops will also be added in it in the near future.



The system's comprehensive pest incidence data and automated advisories will empower farmers with actionable insights, helping them make informed decisions and take proactive measures to protect their crops. The launch of NPSS marks a significant step forward in modernizing agriculture in India, enhancing food security, and supporting sustainable farming practices. This initiative underscores the Government's commitment to leveraging technology for the welfare of farmers and the advancement of the agricultural sector.



**Technical session in residential training on certification course on organic farming and certification**

Dr. A.K. Bohria, Joint Director, RCIPMC Nagpur participated & delivered lecture on Role of IPM in Agro Ecosystem in 21 days residential training on certification course on organic farming and certification by RCONF, Ministry of Agriculture, Nagpur on 07.08.2024.

**Participation in BRAINSTORMING on “Insect Genomics and its Prospects in Pest Management”**

Dr. D. K. Nagaraju, JD (E) participated as an expert panellist in BRAINSTORMING session on “Insect Genomics and its Prospects in Pest Management” on 23 August 2024 held at NBAIR, Bengaluru.



*The day filled with Patriotic Spirit*



The 78<sup>th</sup> Independence Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm by all the staff of the Directorate on 15<sup>th</sup> of August. The tricolor was hoisted by Dr. J. P. Singh, PPA, in the premises of CIB&RC followed by speeches by the officers and the chief guest.



## Technical session on "Phyosanitary measures in Agriculture & Plantation-Role of PQS" at Agri & Processed Food Products Export training programme

Dr. Madhu G. K., APPO(WS), RPQS, Bengaluru delivered a guest lecture in the Technical session on "Phyosanitary measures in Agriculture & Plantation-Role of PQS" at Agri & Processed Food Products Export Training Programme organized by KAPPEC in association with FIEO, Karnataka Chapter and NABARD from 23-26 July 2024 at NABARD Towers Bengaluru.



## Participation in KRISHI MANTRANA-2024

Dr. G. P. Singh, JD (E) participated in KRISHI MANTRANA-2024 International Conclave organised by Sam Higginbottom University of Agriculture, Technology and Sciences, Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh on 26-27 September 2024. He addressed the participants about the need of IPM techniques, pesticide residue issues & scope of entrepreneurship in IPM. He also explained about use of NPSS application and its importance.



# Directorate's Archive

*Apropos CIL, RPTLs and TLC....*

## 1981

### Establishment of Central Insecticide Laboratory (CIL)

The Central Insecticide Laboratory (CIL) was established under section 16 of Insecticides Act, 1968 on 28th February, 1981, under Scheme of Strengthening & Modernization of Pest Management Approach in India (SMPMA) of Insecticides Act, 1968.

## 1981

### Divisions Under CIL

CIL has four Divisions, i.e. Chemistry, Bio-Assay, Medical Toxicology and Packaging & Processing Division. CIL is accredited by National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratory (NABL) for Biological and Chemical Testing.

## 1985

### Establishment of Regional Pesticides Testing Laboratory (RPTLs)

The laboratories at Chandigarh and Kanpur were established in the year 1985 to implement the various provisions of the Insecticides Act, 1968 and Rules framed for the Chemical Testing of Technical/Formulation grade of Pesticides samples for monitoring their quality.

## 2007

### Establishment of Techno-Legal Cell (TLC)

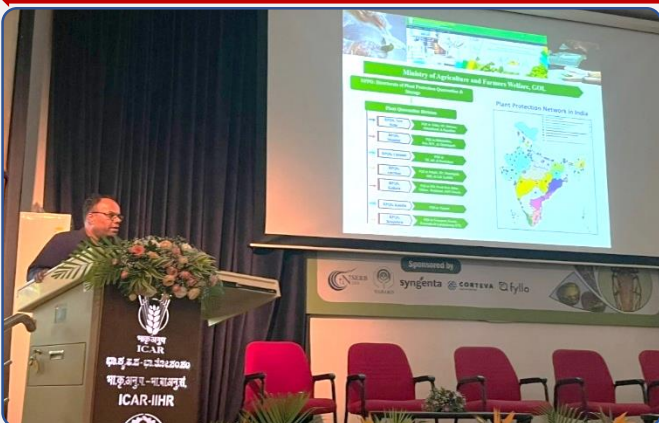
Initially, established as Chemistry Co-ordination Cell for the purpose of co-ordination between Directorate of PPQ&S and two RPTLs. In addition, Cell also coordinates between State Pesticide Testing Laboratories (SPTLs), Directorate and DA&FW. The name Co-ordination Cell was changed to Techno-Legal Cell in XI<sup>th</sup> EFC five-year plan.

*To be continued.....*



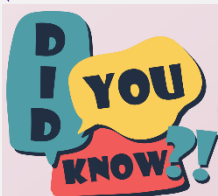
### Technical session in One-day workshop on "Plant Quarantine measures in Silkworm Seed Sector"

Dr. Madhu G. K., APPO (WS), RPQS, Bengaluru delivered a lecture in One-day workshop on "Plant Quarantine measures in Silkworm Seed Sector" organized under the commemoration of 75 years' celebrations of Central Silk Board at SSL, Kodathi Bengaluru on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2024.



### Participation in International Conference on Plant Protection in Horticulture (ICPPH-2024): Advances and Challenges

Dr. D. K. Nagaraju, JD (E) participated in "International Conference on Plant Protection in Horticulture" held at IIHR, Bengaluru during 25-27 September, 2024. He chaired a session on "Biosecurity, Invasive and Plant quarantine" and delivered a lecture on "Plant quarantine in India: Issues and Challenges".



### Lantana camara A decorative shrub turned into menace!!!!!!



Lantana was initially introduced to India in 1807 as an ornamental plant at the National Botanical Garden and as an ornamental hedge plant in Calcutta in the early nineteenth century.

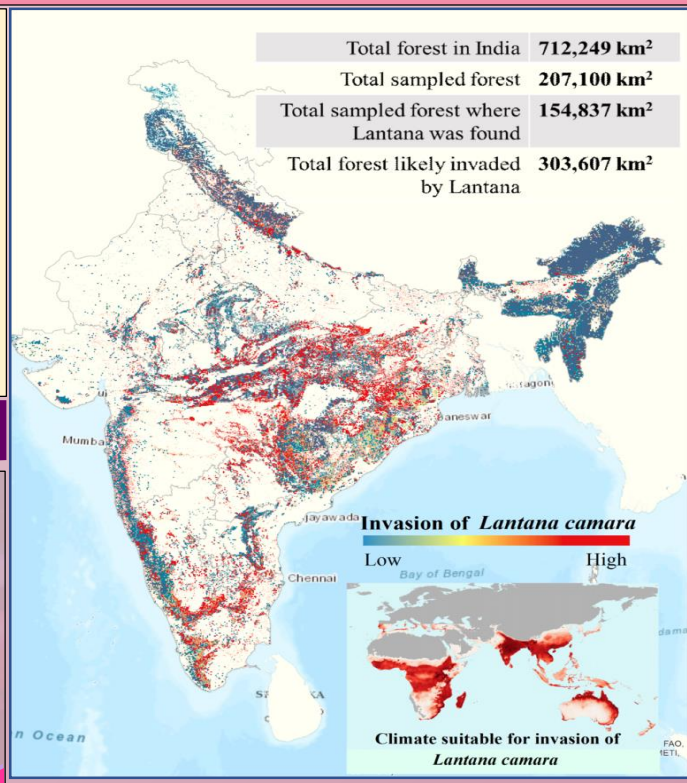
From then lantana has escaped from gardens and taken over entire ecosystems and has spread throughout the Indian subcontinent, from the Outer Himalayas to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Lantana is considered one of the world's worst invasive species. It has become a major weed in India, invading pasturelands and altering the nutrient cycle in the soil. Lantana also competes with native plants for resources and space, and its fruit is toxic to animals.

#### Indian forests: green cover is not always forest cover

A recent study reports that lantana occupies 154,000 sq.km forests (more than 40% by area) in India's tiger range. Among forests, Shivalik Hills in the North, fragmented deciduous forests of Central India, and Southern western Ghats are worst hit by its invasion.

Eradicating lantana can cost between ₹80,000 and ₹1,20,000 per hectare of densely-infested land.



Mungi et al 2020. Photo: Ninad Mungi.

### Participation in Faculty Development Program (FDP)

‘Dr. Rashmi Pandey, AD (E) and Dr. Santosh Patole, PPO (PP) participated in 3 days Faculty Development Program (FDP) from 25-27 September, 2024 organized by National Academy of Customs Indirect taxes & Narcotics (NACIN), Mumbai.



### Participation in Interactive meeting on strengthening Tamil Nadu connectivity Trichy- International Hub for Agricultural Export



CIPMC Tiruchirappalli participated in ‘Interactive meeting on strengthening Tamil Nadu connectivity Trichy- International Hub for Agricultural Export’ jointly organized by ICAR- NRC Banana and Tamil Nadu Food Processing and Agri Export Promotion Corporation (TNAPEX) at ICAR- National Research Centre for Banana (NRCB), Tiruchirappalli on 27.09.2024.

### Participation in State Pest Surveillance and Advisory Unit meeting

Dr. G. P. Singh, JD (E) participated in State Pest Surveillance and Advisory Unit Meeting under the Chairmanship of Dr. Jitendra Kumar Tomar, Director of Agriculture, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh held at Krishi Bhawan, Lucknow on 27.09.2024. He discussed about Residue issues and Safe & Judicious use of pesticides as well as Importance of NPSS app and its application in Agriculture



### Flag off ceremony: “1st consignment of pomegranate to Australia by Air”

‘First consignment of pomegranate to Australia by Air’ were sent on 31st August, 2024. During the flag off ceremony various officials from MSAMB, APEDA, and Exporter along with Plant Quarantine officials of RPQS, Mumbai were present.





राष्ट्रीय सेवा योजना  
National Service Scheme  
युवा कार्यक्रम और खेल मंत्रालय  
Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports  
भारत सरकार  
Government of India

# “Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam”

#Plant4Mother

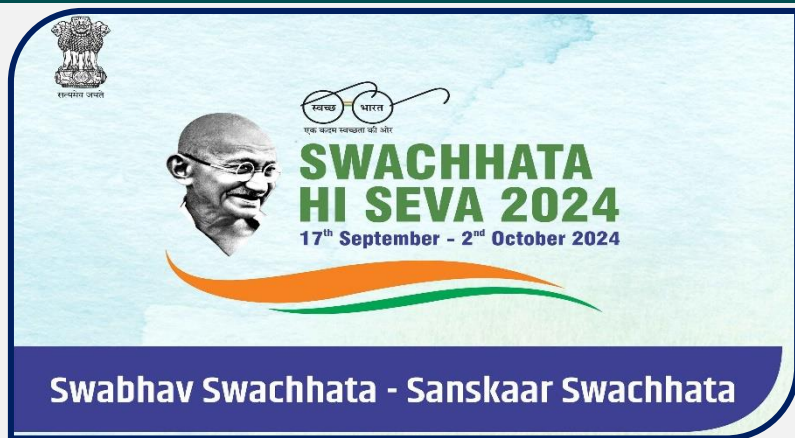


Launched by the Prime Minister of India on World Environment Day, June 5, 2024, the campaign aims to plant 1.4 billion trees by March 2025 through a collective effort involving both the government and society in India. Prime Minister also urged everyone, in India and around the world, to plant a tree as a tribute to mother nature.



"Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" is an effort that shows our respect and dedication towards our motherland and nature. The aim of this campaign is to plant a tree in the name of a mother and create a lasting memory, which will not only protect the environment but also contribute to building a greener and more prosperous future. Both mother and nature are the fundamental bases of life, and through this initiative, we are fulfilling our responsibility.



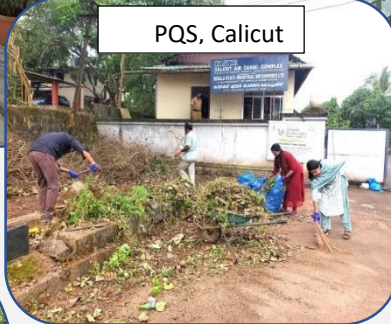
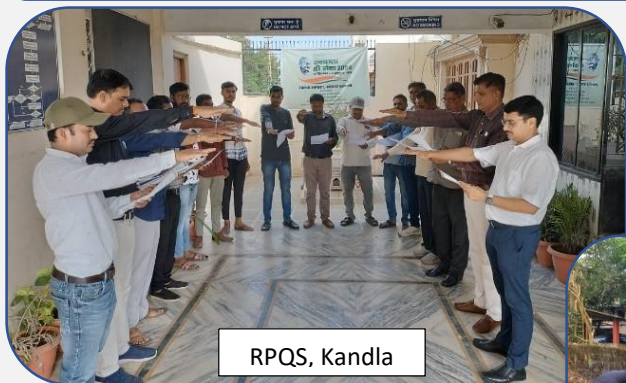


**स्वच्छता ही सेवा**  
**SWACHHATA HI SEVA 2024**  
17<sup>th</sup> September - 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2024

**Swabhav Swachhata - Sanskaar Swachhata**

India celebrated 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) as swacchta hi sewa campaign in the year 2024. On this occasion the officers in the Directorate and its subordinate offices took the Swachhata pledge.

Dr. J. P. Singh, PPA urged each and every one to participate the cleanliness drive by keeping their premises clean donating labour.



## Trainings

&amp;

## Workshops

### Exposure visit by students of DAESI course to RCIPMC Kolkata



77 students of DAESI courses of NTI-Sasya Shyamala KrishiVigyan Kendra, RKMVERI attended the one-day training programme at RCIPMC, Kolkata on 19.07.2024. They were made aware about the functioning of different sectors especially CIL & CIBRC of DPPQS, functioning of Biocontrol laboratory, demonstration of various cost effective IPM techniques, Safe and judicious handling of pesticides, demonstration on mass multiplication of Predator, Parasitoids and bio pesticides and cost effective method of preparation of fruit fly trap.

### Visit of B.Sc. (Agriculture) students to RCIPMC Nagpur

70 B.Sc. (Agri.) students from G. H. Raisoni University Saikheda, Nagpur visited RCIPMC Nagpur on 09.08.2024 and learned about Safe and Judicious use of pesticide and also practical demonstration / training on Mass production of Bio control agents *Trichoderma* sp. using farm waste organic matter



### Training programme for Diploma in Agricultural Extension Services for Input Dealers

CIPMC Gorakhpur organized training programme for Diploma in Agricultural Extension Services for Input Dealers and trained 55 numbers of Input Dealers on dated 02.08.24.

### One day hands on training programme on mass production of biocontrol agents

CIPMC Ernakulam conducted one day hands on training programme on mass production of biocontrol agents to M.Sc. Agriculture students of Kerala Agricultural University, Vellanikara on 05.09.2024 at Kendriya Bhavan, Ernakulam.



# Season Long Training Programme (SLTP) on Apple



Season Long Training Programme (SLTP) on Apple crop was organized at CIPMC, Srinagar during 11.07.2024 to 09.08.2024 in which 40 participants (State Agriculture department's officials and other extension workers) were trained as Master trainers in IPM. Dr. Sunita Pandey, JD (E) addressed the trainees on importance of Seasonal Long Training Programme on IPM in Apple.

The program focused on the management of Apple Leaf Blotch Miner (ALBM) and other significant pests and diseases affecting apple crops.

Field visits included ACHD Farm in Zainapora, Shopian, where ALBM first spread in Kashmir, as well as the Bio-control lab of SKUAST-K and the Fruit Processing Unit at Lassipora, Pulwama.

Visit to Pesticide Testing Laboratory at SKUAST-K



Demonstration of safe use of pesticides



Visit to ICAR - CITH



In Valedictory session, Dr. J. P. Singh, PPA addressed the trainees and expressed their satisfaction for successful completion of training programme on 10.08.2024.

## Five days' human resource development programme on IPM



**CIPMC, Ernakulam**

Five days' human resource development training programme on IPM was organized at CIPMC, Ernakulam for State Agriculture Department Officers/ Officials & NGOs of Kerala from 08.07.2024 to 12.07.2024, wherein a total of 40 participants from different districts participated. The technical sessions were mainly focused on reduction of application of harmful chemical pesticides & mass production of biocontrol agents.

**RCIPMC, Nagpur**

Five days' human resource development training programme on IPM was organized at RCIPMC, Nagpur from 29.07.2024 to 02.08.2024 in which 40 Agriculture Extension /Technical Assistant /Agriculture Officers/Officials from Maharashtra (23 trainees) and Madhya Pradesh (17 trainees) states were present.



**RCIPMC, Lucknow**

Five days' human resource development training programme on IPM was organized at RCIPMC, Lucknow from 05th -9th, August-2024. In this training programme, 40 no. of state Agriculture department officers of Uttar Pradesh were participated and trained on IPM practices and oriented about NPSS. The technical sessions were mainly focused on reduction of application of harmful chemical pesticides & mass production of biocontrol agents.

Five days' human resource development training programme on IPM was organized at RCIPMC, Bengaluru from 26.08.2024 to 30.08.2024 at District Agriculture Training Centre (DATC) Mysuru. In this training programme, 40 no. of state Agriculture department officers of Karnataka were participated and trained on IPM practices and oriented about NPSS.

**RCIPMC, Bengaluru**



## Interaction cum Training Session

Interaction cum training session on diagnosis of pests, pest risk analysis, pest surveillance & phytosanitary treatments with 28 no. of plant quarantine officials from the country Uzbekistan was held on 19-09-2024, at PQS, Hyderabad.



## Interaction with stakeholders

Interactive meeting with stakeholders on export & import certifications was conducted at PQS, Hyderabad on 23.09.2024 in which 12 no. of Exporter, Importer, CHA's were present.

## Meeting with Stakeholders

A meeting with Officials/officers of RPQS, Mumbai, APEDA, MSAMB staff and exporters of Fresh fruits and vegetables to European Union (EU) was held at RPQS, Mumbai on 30.09.2024.



## Meeting with Stakeholders

A meeting with stakeholders regarding sensitization of Noncompliance and Additional declaration to EU & other countries was held at PQS, Trivandrum on 23.08.2024.





# The Gazette of India Notifications

**S.O. 2914(E) dated 22nd July, 2024:** Amendment of Schedule VI. - In the Schedule VI to the Plant Quarantine (Regulation of Import into India) Order, 2003 *Sechium edule* (Chayote), whole plant for consumption, Nepal respectively inserted.

**S.O. 2986(E) dated 24th July, 2024-** Schedule VI to the Plant Quarantine (Regulation of Import into India) Order, 2003; *Bromeliaceae spp.*, Seedlings, The Netherlands, Free from: (a) *Diaspis bromeliae* (Pineapple scale) (b) *Frankliniella occidentalis* (Thrips) (c) *Exserohilum rostratum* (Leaf spot), Post-entry quarantine for a period of 45-60 days.

**G.S.R. 507(E) dated 16th August, 2024-Draft Rules**

1971 In the Insecticides Rules, 1971 (hereinafter referred to as the said rules), In Rule 10 :-

(1) In sub-rule (1B), the word “or renewal of existing license” shall be omitted.

(2) In sub-rule (1C), for the word “ninety”, the word “thirty” shall be substituted.

(3) In sub-rule 4, clause (iii) the following proviso shall be inserted namely:- “Provided no such endorsement for any additional insecticide is required in the license to sell, stock or exhibit for sale of insecticides commonly used for house hold purpose for the control of cockroaches, mosquitoes, housefly and bed bugs”

(4) In sub-rule (4A) after clause (iv) the following clause shall be inserted namely:- “(v) The principal certificate as stated in clause (i) to (iv) is not applicable for the license to sell, stock or exhibit for sale of insecticides commonly used for house hold purpose for the control of cockroaches, mosquitoes, housefly and bed bugs only

In rule 18, sub rule (1), after clause (u), the following proviso shall be inserted, namely:- Provided that QR Code may be placed on retail pack (Primary or Secondary pack as the case may be) of insecticides commonly used for house hold purpose (for the control of cockroaches, mosquitoes, housefly and bed bugs) at suitable place where on scanning the QR code by scanning equipment like mobile phone, a web link or link for opening the URL of the Manufacturing company will appear, which on pressing or clicking, will take the user to the entire unique information of leaflet and the QR code shall contain all the contents of sub rule (1) of rule 18.

In the said rules, in the “FIRST SCHEDULE” the “FORM II, Application for Grant of License to Sell, Stock or Exhibit for sale

Insecticides commonly used for House hold purpose for the control of cockroaches, mosquitoes, housefly and bed bugs only” shall be inserted.

In the said rules, in the “FIRST SCHEDULE” the “FORM III, License to Sell, Stock or Exhibit for sale Insecticides commonly used for Household purpose for the control of cockroaches, mosquitoes, housefly and bed bugs only” shall be inserted.

**S.O. 3551(E) dated 22nd August, 2024** Amendment in Schedule VI to the Plant Quarantine (Regulation of Import into India) Order, 2003, Blue berry and Cranberry (*Vaccinium spp.*), Fresh fruit for consumption, Poland *Vaccinium corymbosum* ( Blue berry), Free from: a) *Acalitus vaccinii* (Blueberry bud mites) b) *Pseudomonas viridiflava* (blossom blight), **Special conditions of import** a) Sourcing of Blueberry fruit from NPPO, Poland registered orchards, Pest Management in orchards for the concerned Quarantine pests & processing in NPPO, Poland registered packhouses. b) Free from soil and other plant debris.

**S.O. 3890(E) dated 10th September, 2024-** Amendment in Schedule VI to the Plant Quarantine (Regulation of Import into India) Order, 2003,

i) Citrus spp. (Lemon, lime, orange, grapefruit, mandarins, etc. and other Rutaceous) and Fresh fruits for consumption- Australia- Free from: (a) *Aspidiotus nerii* (aucuba scale) (b) *Bactrocera aquilonis* (c) *Bactrocera jarvisi* (d) *Bactrocera neohumeralis* (e) *Bactrocera tryoni* (Queensland fruit fly) (f) *Ceratitis capitata* (Mediterranean fruit fly) (g) *Epiphyas postvittana* (light brown apple moth) (h) *Guignardia citricarpa* (citrus black spot) (i) *Pseudococcus calceolariae* (scarlet mealybug) (j) *Unaspis citri* (citrus snow scale)

**S.O. 3890(E) dated 10<sup>th</sup> September, 2024-** Amendment in Schedule VI to the Plant Quarantine (Regulation of Import into India) Order, 2003

**i) Citrus spp. (Lemon, lime, orange, grapefruit, mandarins, etc. and other Rutaceous),** Fresh fruits for consumption- Australia- Free from: (a) *Aspidiotus nerii* (aucuba scale) (b) *Bactrocera aquilonis* (c) *Bactrocera jarvisi* (d) *Bactrocera neohumeralis* (e) *Bactrocera tryoni* (Queensland fruit fly) , (f) *Ceratitis capitata* (Mediterranean fruit fly) (g) *Epiphyas postvittana* (light brown apple moth) (h) *Guignardia citricarpa* (citrus black spot) (i) *Pseudococcus calceolariae* (scarlet mealybug) (j) *Unaspis citri* (citrus snow scale).

**ii) Vaccinium spp. (Blue berry and Cranberry -** Fresh fruit for consumption, Australia, *Aspidiotus nerii* (Aucuba scale) b) *Bactrocera tryoni* (Queensland fruit fly) c) *Guignardia vaccinii* (Berry speckle) d) *Pseudomonas viridiflava* (Bacterial leaf blight of tomato (USA)) e) *Ceratitis capitata* (Mediterranean fruit fly).

iii) Stone fruits (plum, peach, cherry, apricot, almond, nectarine) (*Prunus spp.*), Fresh fruits for consumption, Australia, Free from: a) Oriental fruit moth (*Cydia molesta*) b) Gypsy moth (*Lymantria dispar*) c) Mediterranean fruit fly (*Ceratitis capitata*) d) Manchurian fruit moth (*Cydia inopinata*) e) Cherry fruit worm (*Cydia packardii*) f) Plum moth (*Cydia prunivora*) g) Peach fruit moth (*Carposina niponensis*) h) Queensland fruit fly (*Bactrocera tryoni*).

**S.O. 3950(E) dated 13<sup>th</sup> September, 2024:** —In exercise of the powers conferred by section 20 of the Insecticides Act, 1968 (46 of 1968), read with rule 26 of the Insecticides Rules, 1971, and in supersession of the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare) published in Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-3, Sub-section (i), vide number G.S.R.745 (E), dated 14th October, 2021, except as respects things done or omitted to be done before such supersession, the Central Government hereby appoints the officers of the Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine and Storage as Insecticide Inspectors with jurisdiction.

**S.O. 4261(E) dated 27<sup>th</sup> September, 2024:** Amendment to Chapter-II - clause-3 (14) (i) (a) and (d) will be substituted with the following entries, namely:-

(a) All consignments of seeds and plants for propagation and regulated articles such as live insects, microbial cultures, bio-control agents, soil, growing media (with soil, peat or other organic materials) and peat or sphagnum moss shall only be imported into India through Regional Plant Quarantine Stations, Amritsar, Chennai, Kolkata, Mumbai, New Delhi, Bengaluru, Kandla or through any other points of entry as may be notified from time to time for this purpose, provided that import of germplasm/ transgenic plant material and genetically modified organisms shall be permitted only through New Delhi Airport.

(d) Plant Quarantine Station, Kandla is renamed as Regional Plant Quarantine Station, Kandla for import of seeds, and plants for propagating and for consumption materials.

## Media Coverage



Dr. Sunita Pandey Joint Director (E), delivered a talk in DD Kisan on “**Integrated Pest Management of Swarming caterpillar in Rice.**” on 18.09.2024.

Dr. G. P. Singh, Joint Director (E) RCIPMC, Lucknow delivered radio talk on **pest and disease management in fruit crops** at Akash Vani, Lucknow Uttar Pradesh on 13.09.2024.



Dr. V.D Nigam, DD (E) delivered a talk in DD Kisan on “**Integrated Pest Management**” on 11.09.2024.

## Apple Leaf Blotch Miner

giving tough time to Apple growers

Apple Leaf Blotch Miner (ALBM), an invasive pest, was first reported during 2020-21 in various apple orchards from South and North Kashmir.

It is believed that the pest has been introduced along with import of various high density planting materials. ALBM was a relatively inconspicuous pest. However, 2023 has witnessed an exponential spike in its population, with sightings reported across almost every corner of the valley.



### Symptoms:

- The leaf miner starts feeding on the leaf mesophyll leading to the development of mines/ blotches, further resulting in necrosis and secondary infection and finally affecting photosynthesis.
- Leaf damage affects overall tree health and triggers fruit fall too.



### Control Measures:

In an effort to assess and tackle this growing threat, a team from the Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine, and Storage, Faridabad, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India, in collaboration with scientists from the Division of Entomology, Faculty of Horticulture, SKUAST-K, and other local experts, conducted a special survey and developed an advisory for apple growers.



- ❖ Monitor for presence of mines on leaf, remove and destroy infested leaves
- ❖ Sanitation in orchard to prevent overwintering of the pest
- ❖ Mechanical destruction of pupae & larvae from bark and trunk region
- ❖ Pruning to improve air circulation in orchard and prevent shade, as the pest lays eggs in shaded area of leaves
- ❖ Avoid excess fertilization and Installation of yellow sticky traps
- ❖ A detailed advisory on management of pest is available at :

[https://ppqs.gov.in/sites/default/files/advisory\\_for\\_apple\\_leaf\\_blotch\\_miner.pdf](https://ppqs.gov.in/sites/default/files/advisory_for_apple_leaf_blotch_miner.pdf)

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