

Dr (Ms) Chandish R Ballal

Director, ICAR-NBAIR, Bangalore &

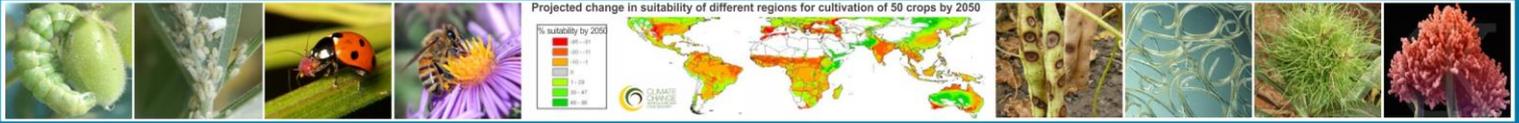
Project Coordinator, All India Coordinated Research Project on Biocontrol

Bangalore, India

Email: ballalchandish@gmail.com

Biography – Dr (Ms) Chandish R Ballal

Dr Ballal received her B Sc, M Sc and M Phil Degrees from Calicut University and Ph D from Mysore University. She was a Merit Scholarship holder throughout her education and a University first rank holder for her M Phil degree. Her first posting as ICAR scientist was in the Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, Bangalore in 1985 and later she moved on to the Project Director of Biological Control, which is now upgraded to ICAR-National Bureau of Agricultural Insect Resources. She was the Head of the Division of Insect Ecology from 2013 to 2016, and from 2016 has occupied the chair as Director, ICAR-NBAIR, Bangalore. She has always laid a lot of emphasis on environmental safety and sustainability by focusing her research efforts on conservation of biodiversity and “Biological control” a non-chemical mode of insect pest management. She has standardized continuous and effective production technologies for beneficial insects, which are being widely adopted by commercial units, researchers and students. She holds the largest live insect repository in Asia, with 127 different insect cultures. The prompt and continuous supply of quality live insect cultures made, and production protocols developed by her are valuable services to the student community, bio-control researchers and commercial insectaries. By interacting with farmers and conducting demonstration trials in farmers’ fields, she has created confidence in farmers on the non-chemical mode of pest management. She has handled around 40 research projects and has more than 300 research publications to her credit. She has received international travel grants from DST, IOBC, CSIR, CABI, ICAR, FAO and Beijing Academy of Sciences to present her research papers in international conferences in India, Greece, China, Srilanka, USA, Nepal, Bangkok, etc. She is an elected fellow of several Professional Societies and is the recipient of Prof. T N Ananthakrishnan Award 2006, Dr Sithanantam Award 2010-11, NBAIR scientific excellence Award 2015, Dr S P Singh Biocontrol Lifetime Achievement Award 2016, the ICAR Panjabrao Deshmukh Outstanding Woman Agricultural Scientist Award 2015, Dr S Pradhan Memorial Award 2018 from IARI and Dr (Ms) Prem Dureja Endowment Award 2018 from NAAS.



Presentation title:

Biological Control: Expect the unexpected

Abstract:

Globally, biological control practitioners have documented several success stories primarily through classical biological control strategies. Were these successes expected? Were there unexpected failures? What were the reasons for the successes / failures? Is it wise to concentrate on the indigenous natural enemies than on importing exotic ones? What are the negative non target side effects of biological control? These are some of the questions which persistently nag researchers in general and biocontrol researchers in particular. Through this paper, some of these issues are addressed. More than 7,000 introductions involving almost 2,700 species of exotic arthropod agents for control of arthropod pests in 196 countries or islands during the past 120 years rarely have resulted in negative environmental effects. Biocontrol workers are encouraged by some of the following facts. In several countries indigenous species are being commercialised and replacing exotic ones. In the 1970s, no researcher had anticipated that growers would accept biological control strategies, however, the utilisation of natural enemies in 80% of Dutch Gerberas and the use of Tricho cards and entomopathogenic nematodes by sugarcane farmers in India indicate the acceptance by farmers at field level. The significantly lesser number of pests in the unsprayed fields and yield levels on par with the sprayed fields led to increasing the confidence levels of researchers and farmers. The focus has always been on preventing those actions which can lead to unexpected indirect and long-term effects on the environment and health of farmers and consumers.

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