

PRESS NOTE

Inauguration of ANRF- sponsored Workshop on “Taxonomy and Molecular Identification of Agriculturally Important Insects”

ICAR-IARI, New Delhi, 9 March 2026

Division of Entomology, ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, kick-started a three-day ANRF-sponsored workshop titled “**Taxonomy and Molecular Identification of Agriculturally Important Insects**” during 9-11 March 2026 at the auditorium of ICAR-National Institute for Plant Biotechnology (NIPB), Pusa Campus, New Delhi.

The workshop was inaugurated by Dr. Rabindra Nath Padaria, Joint Director (Extension), ICAR-IARI, New Delhi and delivered the inaugural address emphasizing the critical role of accurate insect identification in agricultural pest management, biosecurity, and biodiversity conservation. He highlighted the growing need to integrate classical taxonomy with modern molecular tools for the timely and precise identification of pest species affecting Indian agriculture. Dr. V.V. Ramamurthy, President, Entomological Society of India and guest of Honor during the program, emphasized the urgent need for strengthening taxonomic expertise in India. Dr. M.K. Dhillon, Head, Division of Entomology, ICAR-IARI, New Delhi, during his remarks reiterated the commitment of the Division to the basic and applied aspects of Entomology with renewed focus on integration of modern tools like molecular, digital and artificial intelligence in insect taxonomy and diagnostics. During the inaugural session, a publication related to the workshop, and the website on “*Tortricidae of India*” were released by the dignitaries.

Earlier, Dr. Shashank P.R., Course Director of the workshop, welcomed the dignitaries and participants, and elaborated on the objectives of the programme highlighting importance of capacity building in insect taxonomy and molecular diagnostics for researchers, students, and plant protection professionals. The workshop attracted 32 participants from 17 states representing different universities, research institutes, and agricultural organizations across the country. Over the next few days, the programme will include expert lectures, hands-on training sessions, and demonstrations on insect taxonomy, morphological identification, DNA barcoding, and molecular diagnostic techniques for agriculturally important insects. The initiative aims to strengthen national capacity in insect identification and promote the integration of classical taxonomy with advanced molecular approaches for sustainable agricultural pest management.





ANRF Workshop "Taxonomy and Molecular Identification of Agriculturally Important Insects" from 9-11 March 2026 at Division of Entomology, ICAR-IARI, New Delhi