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VISIT OF DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL (HORTICULTURE SCIENCE), ICAR, NEW DELHI TO REGIONAL STATION OF THE INSTITUTE, CENTRAL HORTICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION, GODHRA (GUJARAT)

Dr. N.K. Krishna Kumar, Hon'ble Deputy Director General (Horticulture Science), ICAR, New Delhi visited Regional Station of the Institute, Central Horticultural Experiment Station, Godhra (Gujarat) on 6th July 2015 where he laid down the foundation stone of Scientist Home. This station was established in the year 1979 by the then Prime Minister Shri Morarjibhai Desai for development of dry land horticultural technologies for the welfare of tribal farmers of western parts of India covering the states of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. This station did not have any facilities for staying the Scientists during meetings and other scientific gatherings, even after passing of 35 years of its establishment. Due to the rigorous efforts of the DDG (Horticulture Science), Rs. 164 Lakhs were sanctioned for constructing Scientist Home at the station. Dr. S. K. Sharma, Director, ICAR-CIAH, Bikaner welcomed all the guests and apprised them about the achievements of the Station. Hon'ble DDG (Horticulture Science) called a meeting of the Scientists and discussed about the potential and future line of research work being carried out at the station. Dr S. Rajan, Director, ICAR-CISH Lucknow, Dr. Jitendra Kumar, Director, ICAR-DMAPR, Boriavi, Anand, Dr. S.K.Sharma, Director, CIAH-CIAH Bikaner, Dr. P. R. Bhatnagar, Head, Indian Institute of Soil and Water Conservation, Regional Centre, Vasad, Dr. B.G. Bagle, Ex-Head, CHES, Godhra (Gujarat) were also present during the meeting. Hon'ble DDG suggested to develop Block- I as an organic farming system for demonstration of the technologies developed by the Station. He also suggested to promote Goma Priyanka variety of jamun in different suitable agro-climatic zones of India and also emphasized to work on medicinal values of bael with large plant multiplication of Goma Yashi variety of bael for high density planting under rain fed conditions of western India. During field visit, Hon'ble DDG appreciated the management work of experimental blocks of different crops at the station.

RESEARCH SPECTRUM

1. At Bikaner

Digama hearseyana (Noctuidae: Lepidoptera) a new threat to karonda (Carissa carandus): For the first time, D. hearseyana was observed on Karonda tree at Bikaner. During the present study, the average incidence of D. hearseyana on trees ranged between 10.00 to 60.00 and 11.67 to 63.33 per cent during 2014 and 2015, respectively. The incidence and numbers of D. hearseyana were higher in 1st fortnight of July to 1st fortnight of September and the maximum incidence 60.00 and 63.33 per cent were recorded in 2nd fortnight of August and minimum in 2nd fortnight of October (16.67 and 18.33%) during 2014 and 2015, respectively. Thus, the highest mean numbers of D. hearseyana per tree were recorded in 2nd fortnight of August (5.77 and 5.97/ plant) followed by 1st fortnight of August (4.8 and 4.83/ plant) and the lowest was during 2nd fortnight of October (16.67 and 18.33/ plant) during 2014 and 2015, respectively.

Fig. Incidence of caterlippar, *Digama hearseyana*

Fig. Adult male and female of *Digama hearseyana*