

International Webinar

on

Insect Systematics: Importance, Challenges and Way Forward

29th January 2021

An International webinar on “Insect systematics: importance, challenges and way forward” was organized by ICAR-National Bureau of Agricultural Insect Resources (NBAIR), Bengaluru on 29-01-2021 from 1.30 to 7.30 pm. The webinar was inaugurated by Dr. T. R. Sharma, honorable Deputy Director General (Crop Science), Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). Dr. N. Bakthavatsalam, Director NBAIR has welcomed the dignitaries and the participants followed by expert remarks presented by Dr. Prashanth Mohanraj, Retd. HoD, Division of Germplasm Collection and Characterization, ICAR-NBAIR. Dr. Y. P. Singh, ADG (FFC) has briefed the need of insect taxonomy for all other applied sciences and emphasized upon working on all groups of insects and in unexplored areas. Dr. T. R. Sharma, DDG (CS) in his Chief Guest’s address highlighted the importance and present status of Insect Systematics and urged the Scientists and youngsters to take forward duly integrating morphological and molecular taxonomy. DDG (CS) stressed upon the funding opportunities to the taxonomic research and opined about the revival of Network Project on Insect Biosystematics that was operational. Later Dr. Sunil Joshi, Head, Division of Germplasm Collection and Characterization, ICAR-NBAIR has presented vote of thanks.

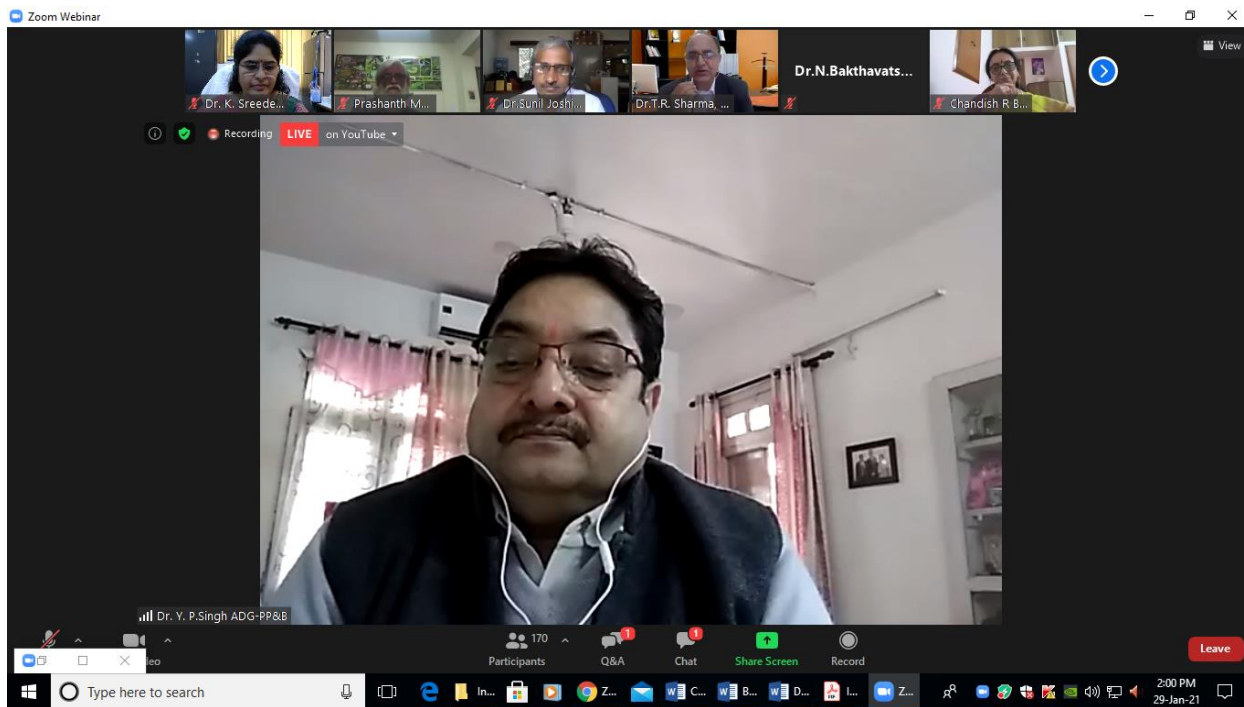
In the technical session, Dr. Dirk Ahrens, Head, Department of Arthropoda, Alexander Koenig Museum, Bonn, Germany has delivered a talk on “**Integrative Taxonomy - an outlook for the future of taxonomy**” and highlighted the importance of DNA barcoding in species recognition and delineation and biogeographical analyses. Dr. Petr Sipek, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Science, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic in his address on “**Taxonomy of immature insects – scope and challenges**” emphasized the importance of immature taxonomy and the ways and procedures to go about. Dr. R. Swaminathan, Emeritus Professor, MPUAT, Udaipur, Rajasthan, India presented an important talk on “**Orthoptera diversity in the Indian subcontinent: their pestiferous status**” wherein an overview of grasshopper diversity, locust behavioral ecology and its management was presented. The invited talks elicited several questions and queries which were duly answered and clarified by the speakers.

Brief presentation and interactive session with the young researchers on the challenges and pitfalls in Insect taxonomy and the areas to be strengthened to take forward Insect systematics as an area of specialization was conducted and Dr. P. R. Shashank and Dr. N. M. Meshram from ICAR-IARI, New Delhi, Dr. Ankita Gupta and Dr. K. J. David from ICAR-NBAIR, Bengaluru, Dr. Devanshu Gupta, ZSI, Kolkata, Dr. Sayali Seth, Modern College, Pune; Dr. Kalleshwara Swamy, UAHS, Shivamogga presented their views and opinions.



Dr. T. R. Sharma, DDG (CS), ICAR addressing the gathering

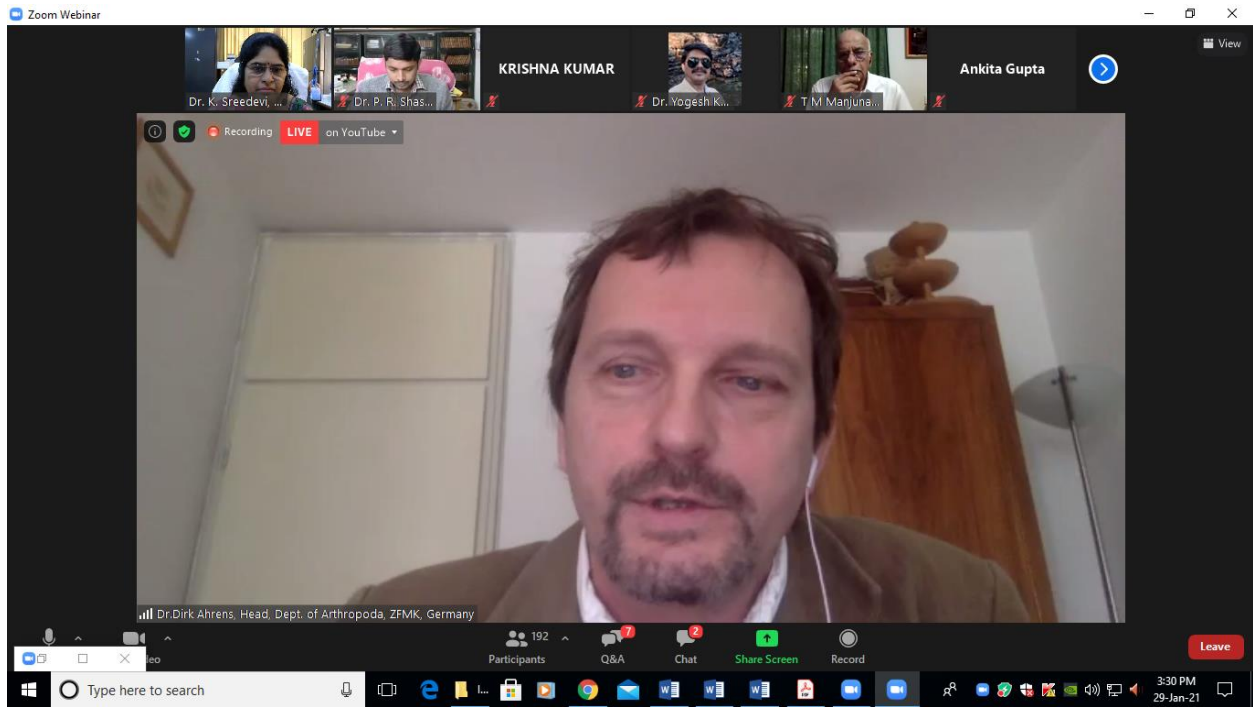
Renowned Biocontrol Scientist, Dr. T. M. Manjunath, Former Directors, ICAR-NBAIR, Dr. N. K. Krishna Kumar, Dr. Abraham Verghese, Dr. Chandish R. Ballal, Retd Professors, UAS, Bengaluru, Dr. V. V. Belavadi, Dr. S. Ramani along with galore of entomologists (around 290) working in different ICAR institutes and State Universities participated in the webinar. The Webinar ended with vote of thanks by the Organizing Secretary and Moderator, Dr. Kolla Sreedevi, ICAR-NBAIR, Bengaluru



Dr. Y. P. Singh, ADG (FFS), ICAR presenting his remarks



Dr. N. Bakthavatsalam, Director, ICAR-NBAIR presenting the welcome address



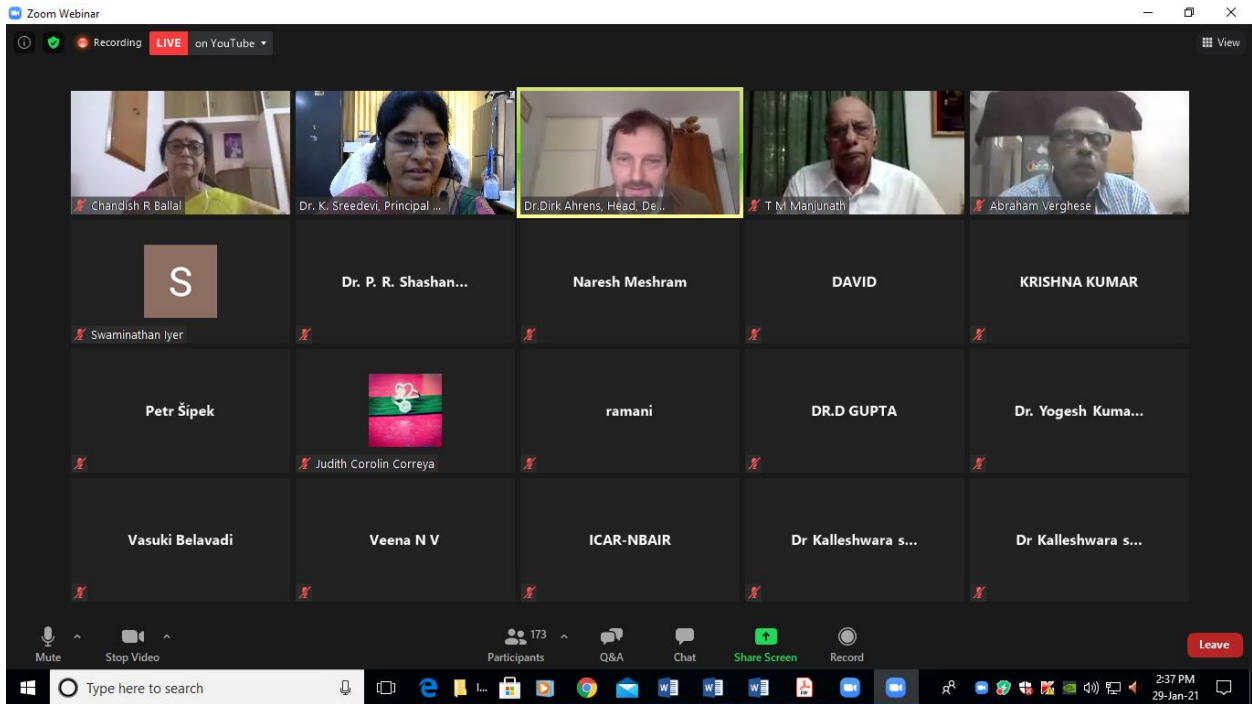
Dr. Dirk Ahrens, Head, Department of Arthropoda, ZFMK, Germany delivering talk



Dr. Petr Sipek, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic delivering talk



Dr. R. Swaminathan, Emeritus Professor, MPUAT, Udaipur, Rajasthan delivering talk



Webinar in Progress