ALL INDIA COORDINATED RESEARCH PROJECT ON BIOCONTROL

❖ **Year of establishment: 2015**

The losses caused by insect pests in India are estimated to the tune of 15 to 25 per cent and to contain these insect pests farmers frequently resort to chemical pesticides and end up in harmful repercussions like development of resistance to chemical pesticides, resurgence of secondary pests, pollution of air, water and soil as well as pesticide residue in food.The alternate option to overcome the deleterious effects of chemical pesticides will be the use of biological control which comprises of natural enemies (Perdators and Parasitoids) and insect pathogenic microbes (Bacteria, Fungi, Viruses and Nematodes).

All India Co-ordinated Research Project on Biocontrol (AICR on Biocontrol) was started during 2015 at MARS, Raichur as voluntary centre and it was elevated to contingent centre during 2017 with the following mandates/objectives

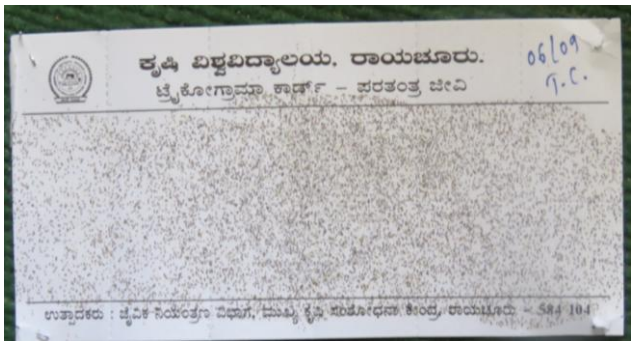
❖ **Mandate and Objectives:**

1. Collection and Identification of native biocontrol agents of major agricultural and horticultural crops of Kalyana Karnataka region.
2. To take up the large scale production of potential biocontrol agents and to supply quality biopesticides to the farmers of Kalyana Karnataka region.
3. To impart training to the rural youths of Kalyana Karnataka region on the mass production of biocontrol agents.
4. To create awareness among the farmers on the use of biocontrol agents and also to promote the Organic AAgiculture.

❖ **Achivements**

1. Successful mass production of Entomopathogens *Viz., Beauveria bassiana, Metarhizium anisopliae, Lecanicilium lecanii* and *Nomuraea rileyi*
2. Successful mass production of Trichogramma species like *T. chilonis, T. japonicum, T. pretiosm* and *T. bactrae* along with laboratory host *Corcyra cephalonica*
3. Use of *Metarhizium anisopliae* against white grub has given encouraging results in various crops like sugarcane and chickpea and has been included in Package of practices of UAS, Raichur.
4. NBAIR strain of HaNPV was included in UAS, Raichur Package of Practice for the management of *Helicoverpa armigera* in chick pea ecosystem.
5. Entomopathogenic Bacteria *Bt* (NBAIR Bt G4) was added in package of practice of practice of UAS, Raichur.

❖ **Biocontrol agents developed**



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