

**First International Conference on Biological Control (ICBC 2018)
inaugurated by Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra, Secretary DARE and
Director General ICAR at Bengaluru.**

Honourable Secretary DARE and Director General ICAR Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra inaugurated the First International Conference on Biological Control (ICBC 2018) at Hotel Le Meridien, Bengaluru on 27.09.2018. The ICAR sponsored conference is hosted by ICAR-National Bureau of Agricultural Insect Resources and Society for Biocontrol Advancement with support from CABI (Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International), IAPPS (International Association for the Plant Protection Sciences), *Tuta absoluta* and IOBC *Parthenium* Working Groups. Dr. Chandish R Ballal Director, NBAIR welcomed the guests. Speaking on the occasion Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra recalled the food scarcity that existed in the 1950's and 1960's where it was 'shipment to mouth' with dependence on other countries mainly USA for food grains. But now we have surplus with capacity to export and earn around Rs. 30,000 crores every year and this is mainly due to the research efforts of agricultural scientists. He cautioned that though India uses less chemical pesticides when compared to other developed countries we tend to overuse and misuse chemicals under certain cropping conditions. With the greater emphasis on organic agriculture there is a huge task of achieving larger area coverage of biological control agents where he suggested that an effective and simple method may be evolved combining different biocontrol agents and their economic viability assessed. He asked scientists to study the molecular level interactions that exist between host and predator / parasite so that pathways can be modified and increase efficiency. He requested scientists to quickly identify efficient predators/ parasites for combating the recently identified invasive pest *Spodoptera frugiperda*. Dr. David Smith of CABI, UK spoke about the efforts of CABI in promoting biocontrol and Dr. R. Muniappan of Virginia Tech. USA detailed the efforts taken to promote biological control with the involvement of several countries. Dr. S. K. Jalali, organizing secretary ICBC 2018 proposed the vote of thanks. Total of 240 delegates including 43 research scientists from other countries are participating and presenting their research work related to biological control of insect pests and weeds under the 10 different scientific sessions.



Secretary DARE and Director General ICAR Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra lighting the lamp



Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra with Dr. David Smith and Dr. R. Muniappan to his right. Director NBAIR Dr. Chandish R. Ballal and Dr. S. K. Jalali are to his left during the conference ICBC-2018 at Bengaluru.