

'Need to strengthen research on vertebrate pest management'

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THE Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR)'s group meeting stressed on the need to strengthen the research on vertebrate pest management in view of economic, social and legal issues.

The meeting on 'All India Network Project on Vertebrate Pest Management' was organised at College of Horticulture, Vellanikara. It was inaugurated by ICAR Assistant Director General (Plant Protection and Biosafety) Pranjib K Chakrabarty, said a release. Chakrabarty emphasised the need for advanced research viz. in proteomics, immunosuppressive reproduction of target species and specific pest control methods. KAU Director of Research P Indira Devi highlighted the need to manage

wild animals, such as the wild boar and peafowl, from destroying crops through an ecologically and economically viable methodology.

During the meeting, it was pointed out while not as pervasive as insects and diseases, vertebrate pests - such as rodents, wild boar, porcupine, etc - can cause 15-20 per cent crop damage in general and a total damage in isolated cases. D B Ahuja, Director, NCIPM, New Delhi; R S Tripathi, Network Coordinator, AINP-VPM, Central Arid Zone Research Institute (CAZRI), Jodhpur; V Vasudeva Rao, Co-coordinator, AINP-VPM, PJTSAU, Hyderabad spoke. College of Horticulture Associate Dean C George Thomas welcomed the gathering and KAU AINP-VPM Principal Investigator Mani Chellappan proposed the vote of thanks.