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## Report on Parthenium Awareness Program (16 to 22 -08-2021)

A programme to enhance awareness about the alien, invasive weem, Parthenium was organized from 16-22 August, 2021 at ICAR-Indian Institute of Rice Research (ICAR-IIRR), Rajendranagar, Hyderabad. The program was inaugurated on 16 August 2021 by the Director, Dr. R.M. Sundaram and the staff actively participated in mechanical and manual removal of *Parthenium hysterophorus* in the office premises. The young vegetative stage plants of Parthenium were put in the compost pit (for organic manure) and plants in flowering and seeding stage were heaped and burnt in open field outside the premises. All the staff also attended a webinar on Parthenium organised by ICAR-Indian Institute of Weed Research (ICAR-IIWR), Jabalpur.



Removal of the Parthenium at Campus premises



Manual removal of the Prthenium

On 17<sup>th</sup> August, a campaign for mechanical and manual removal of Parthenium was organized in the A, B and C Blocks of Research Farm of ICAR-IIRR, Rajendranagar. The wee was in 2-3 leaf stage to flowering and seed maturity stage. Live samples of *Cassia tora*, *Tephroseapurpurea*, *Amaranthus*, *Tageta spp* with their allelopathic effect on parthenium were demonstrated by Dr. R. Mahendra Kumar, Principal Scientist & Head (Agronomy) and OIC-Rajendranagar farm of ICAR-IIRR and Dr. B. Sreedevi, Principal Scientist (Agronomy) in the field along with Dr. Amtul Warris, Principal Scientist (Agricultural Extension).



Removal of the Parthenium at IIRR Farm



Team members of committee active participation in the Parthenium removal at IIRR Farm



Participation of IIRR staff in the Parthenium awareness week

On 18<sup>th</sup> August, in the Research Farm of ICAR-IIRR, in Ramachandrapuram (ICRISAT), the Farm staff organized a campaign for mechanical and manual removal of *Parthenium hysterophorus*. A poster in local language (i.e. Telugu) was prepared, given and explained to the farm staff and farm labourers. Further, the problem of Parthenium weed, its invasive nature and spread across India, its enormous capability of spreading, health issues posed by the weed and remedies, different control methods for Parthenium including, manual, mechanical, chemical and biological control methods, integrated Parthenium Management was explained in detail. Dr. AVSR Swamy, Principal Scientist (Plant Breeding) and Dr. J. Aravind Kumar, OIC-Ramachandrapuram farm actively coordinated the campaign



Team participation at IIRR- ICRISAT farm

On 19<sup>th</sup> August, Campaign on chemical control by spraying of non-selective contact herbicide Glupfosinate Ammonium on Parthenium on field bunds, Borewells and field drain channels and road side area was conducted in Rajendranagar farm.



Herbicide control in the parthenium mnagement

On 21<sup>st</sup> August 2021, in the ICAR-IIRR Research Farm premises, in order to create awareness among the farm labourers, a talk about the harmful effects of Parthenium and its control methods was organized. The biological control agent, mexican beetle *Zygomabicolorata* which is naturally infesting the Parthenium weed (which were sent by Director, ICAR-IIWR) was released on Parthenium in B Block of the farm and the effectivity of the beetles in control of Parthenium was demonstrated. A poster in local language Telugu was made and explained to farm staff and farm labourers about the problem of Parthenium. A decision was taken to make Parthenium free campus in the coming days.



Education on Parthenium problems to Farm Staff  
Closing ceremony of the Parthenium Awareness week

**Dr. Sreedevi, Dr. Amtul Waris, Dr. Y. Sreedhar, Dr. Aravind, Mangal deep Tuti and M.B.B. Prasad Babu and Dr. R. M.Kumar and Staff of IIRR**