



**ICAR-NATIONAL BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL
INSECT RESOURCES**

भाकृअनुप - राष्ट्रीय कृषि कीट संसाधन ब्यूरो



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Dr. M. Nagesh
Director (A)

F. NBAIR/PME-37/2021
Date: 25.10.2021

To,

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Subject: Reply to Safety of Black Soldier Fly (BSF) (*Hermetia illucens*) from NBAIR-reg.

Reference: Letter dated: 8.10.2021 on the Safety query for Black Soldier Fly (BSF) (*Hermetia illucens*).

Dear Sir,

The larvae of black soldier fly (BSF), *Hermetia illucens* is known world over as a organic waste decomposer. ICAR-NBAIR has conducted extensive research exploring its application to compost and reduce organic wastes as well as utilization of the pre pupae as a valuable animal feed. ICAR-NBAIR used indigenous strain of *H. illucens* and standardised larval rearing on different substrates, techniques on larval collection, adult maintenance, improved mating and egg production and egg collection. In addition, numerous microbial strains (insect derived and free living) capable of composting waste have been characterised. ICAR-NBAIR developed black soldier fly rearing technology for small entrepreneurs with the possibility of income generation without high investment costs, and concurrently reducing the environmental impact.

- ❖ With reference to the above referral, please find the information to the questions raised by you.

1. Is Black Soldier Fly (BSF) present in Indian ecology?

The Black Soldier Fly (BSF) is cosmopolitan, present naturally in Indian ecosystems.

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2. **Is Black Soldier Fly (BSF) a pest, obnoxious insect, or beneficiary insect?**

It is a detritivorous insect and beneficial by nature and habit

3. **Does it cause any harm to human beings or any other organisms otherwise when used in large scale organic waste management for the benefit of the Country/State/Town/Village?**

As per literature and one working experience with BSF, the BSF does not harm the human beings and other organisms.

4. **Can Black Soldier Fly (BSF) be used for food waste management?**

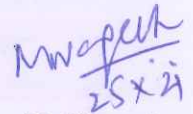
It can be used for decomposition of food waste, organic waste from farm and other sources. It is now advocated for "Waste to Wealth" in many countries across the world and by ICAR-NBAIR, Bengaluru

5. **Can Black Soldier adult or larvae be a possible threat to crops and plants?**

It does not feed on living crop plants or any plant species.

Thanking You,

Yours faithfully



M. Nagesh

निदेशक/ Director
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