

## Celebration of “Productive Insect Conservation Week” by State Forest Research Institute Jabalpur

On the occasion of “Productive insect conservation week” and “International Day of Biodiversity”, one day orientation cum training workshop on lac production was organized by State Forest Research Institute, Jabalpur in Donger Badeda, Panagar Range under Jabalpur Forest Division on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2023. More than 60 farmers and van samiti members, women members of Donger Badeda village in Panagar Range of Jabalpur Division were participated in this workshop.

The conservation of these productive insects leads to the maintenance and protection of the natural biodiversity. Many lac insects and associated fauna have become endangered where lac cultivation has been abandoned or habitat destroyed. Promoting and encouraging lac culture will not only check environmental degradation but also conserve associated fauna and flora for posterity. Most of the people are unaware of the beneficial insects so they have negative perceptions of insects. Efforts should be taken to spread awareness about the benefits of insects as they are pollinators, physical decomposers, bio control agents etc.

During the awareness cum training workshop it was informed that Lac is resinous secretions of one of the beneficial insect *Kerria lacca*. Lac consists of resin, wax and dye, thus has a wide range of applications in food, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, perfumes, varnishes, paints, polishes, adhesives, jewelry and textile dyes.

From SFRI, this awareness cum training workshop was conducted by Dr Aniruddha Majumdar, Scientist, Balram Lodhi, Bharat Aarmo and Jashndeeep Singh Thakur under the guidance of Mr Amitabh Agnihotri (Director, SFRI), Mr Ravindra Mani Tripathi (Dy. Director & HOD, SFRI). Sarpanch Pathara, Chairman of Ranital and Badera Village Forest Committees and Forest staff of Panagar Range of Jabalpur Forest Division were also participated in this training programme.

