ARADHANA PANDA
DIVISION OF ENTOMOLOGY,
FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE, Wadura, SKUAST-KASHMIR

Aradhana Panda is currently pursuing her Ph.D. from Division of Entomology, Faculty of Agriculture, Wadura, SKUAST-Kashmir. She is doing her work on molecular studies and organic management of oriental armyworm, *Mythimna separata* on wheat under the guidance of Dr. Ishtiyaq Ahad (Associate Professor-cum-Senior scientist, Division of Entomology, Faculty of Agriculture, SKUAST-Kashmir). Oriental armyworm has been reported to be severely infesting various cereal crops like rice, wheat, oats and maize in Kashmir condition, which keeps on shifting from one crop to the next. She is working on generating DNA barcodes of armyworm and its natural enemies followed by screening of various armyworm infested wheat genotypes. She will also determine the genes responsible for the resistance and susceptibility of wheat against this notorious insect pest. Besides, she is studying the impact of several organic measures taken up against the insect for its timely management. In the future, she is willing to continue her research work on different molecular studies against the herbivorous insect pest along with their natural enemies and their organic management. Shifting nature of the pest, degree of damage and double cropping system in temperate conditions of Kashmir, necessitates organic management of this polyphagous pest for the welfare and sustainability of marginal farmers in the area.

D SAICHARAN
DEPARTMENT OF ENTOMOLOGY
PJTSAU, HYDERABAD

Saicharan is currently pursuing Ph.D. in Entomology at Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University in Rajendranagar (PJTSAU), Hyderabad with the research work entitled "Valorisation of organic wastes through Black Soldier Fly, *Hermetia illucens* (L.) (Diptera: Stratiomyidae)" under the guidance of Dr. V. Anitha, Professor of Entomology and Dean of Post Graduate Studies at PJTSAU, Hyderabad. The objective of his research is to upcycle organic waste into a valuable, protein-rich substrate using black soldier fly larvae. These flies have the ability to decompose organic waste and increasingly recognized as a good source of food and feed for poultry and fisheries. D. Saicharan graduated from the College of Horticulture, Rajendranagar, SKLTSHU. Following that, he obtained his M.Sc. in Agricultural Entomology as an ICAR-JRF from the University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad, College of Agriculture, Vijayapur. During his master's program, he focused on the sorghum endemic pest, Sorghum Shoot Bug (*Peregrinus maidis*), under the guidance of Dr. S. S. Karabhantanal, Principal Scientist at AICRP on Sorghum, RARS, Vijayapur, Karnataka. Throughout his academic journey, D. Saicharan has been the recipient of various fellowships, including ICAR-JRF, ICAR-SRF, UGC NET JRF, and National Fellowship for Scheduled Tribe. In the future, he is interested in working on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) aspects to minimize the environmental pesticide load in pest management.

MEGHA
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL ENTOMOLOGY,
UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES, DHARWAD

Megha, a Ph.D. student working on management of major insect pests of fodder sorghum and chickpea under organic agriculture systems at Bio resource farm (organically certified since 2006), Institute of Organic Farming, Dharwad, Karnataka. The investigation's objective is to assess the insecticidal properties of locally accessible medicinal flora and compare them to indigenous technological knowledge of farmers. The main focus of the project proposal is the creation of a practical, inexpensive, cost-effective organic plant protection model that is both scientifically sound and practically feasible in farmer's fields. Additionally, the choice of the fodder crop is a positive for the research field that helps in understanding the importance of chemical-free fodder cultivation in safeguarding the health of the livestock. During her M.Sc. program, she worked on effect of climate change on biotic potential of two major insect pests of cowpea *i.e.*, pod borer, *Maruca vitrata* and aphid, *Aphis craccivora* at center for agro-climatic studies, Main Agricultural Research Station, University of Agricultural Sciences, Raichur, Karnataka. Megha is primarily interested in selecting an area of investigation based solely on current agricultural challenges such as climate change and its impact on agriculture, particularly on the insect population, as well as the future scope of conservation agriculture in sustainable development under pesticide-free organic production systems.

Mr. Kishore Chandra Sahoo and Miss. Akshatha, Student Associate Editors of IE compiled the information for this section.