

# Neem for sustainable pest management in agriculture -Indian experience

A.Regupathy

Department of Entomology Tamil Nade Agricultural University

Coimbatore-641 003. India

E-mail:cfc\_nri@vsnl.in

## **Introduction**

Neem (Indian Lilac, *Azadirachta indica* A. Juss., synonymous *Melia azadirachta* L., *M. indica* (A. Juss) Brandis; Family Meliaceae), is a highly esteemed tree for the people in the region. For centuries its derivatives have found use in agriculture, public health, medicine, toiletries, cosmetics, and livestock production and health. Neem is believed to be a native of upper Burma and possibly to the Siwalik Deccan and other parts of south India. Indian settlers have introduced neem in the African countries. It is now abundant in the tropical belt from Somalia in the east to Mauritiana in the west. It was taken to Fiji Islands and has spread from there to other Islands in the South Pacific. Neem is reported to occur in Trinidad and other West Indian Islands and also in some countries of central and South America. Large scale plantations of neem have come up in Malaysia and the Philippines.