



Tamil Nadu Agricultural University
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To
2011
The Editor,

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Sir,

I request that the following matter may kindly be published in your esteemed daily:

Pest and Disease Surveillance & Forecast report for April 2011

Rice

The incidence of rice leaf folder is noticed in Salem, Villupuram, Tirunelveli, Dharmapuri, Erode, Coimbatore and Thiruvarur districts. If the damage is severe, farmers are advised to spray Neem Seed Kernel Extract 5% or profenophos 50EC or chlorpyriphas 20 EC 500ml/acre. Set up light traps to monitor the adult movement of stem borer and leaf folder.

Groundnut

In Villupuram, Tirunelveli and Dharmapuri districts, the incidence of Tikka leaf spot is noticed. If necessary, farmers are advised to spray carbendazim @ 1g/lit of water.

Sugarcane

In Erode, Coimbatore and Villupuram districts, watch for incidence the internode borer and if necessary, release *Trichogramma* egg parasitoid @ 6cc/ac in 6 releases starting from 45th day onwards with 15 days interval @ 1 cc at a time. The wooly aphid infestation is seen in some parts of the state. The farmers are

requested to monitor the crop. If there is any infestation, the farmers are requested to avoid spraying and to conserve the natural enemies.

Cotton

Watch for the incidence of cotton stem weevil in summer cotton in Salem, Erode, Srivilliputhur and Tirunelveli districts. To avoid stem weevil damage, apply neem cake 50 kg/acre at the time of ploughing.

Papaya mealybug

In Erode, Kanyakumari and Salem districts, papaya mealybug is noticed in tapioca, papaya, mulberry and vegetable crops. To manage this pest, TNAU is mass producing the parasitoid, *Acerephagus papaya* in all the Colleges of TNAU located at Coimbatore, Madurai, Trichy, Killikulam, Periyakulam, Mettupalayam and Kumulur and all the 36 Research Stations and 14 Krishi Vigyan Kendras located in the State. The farmers are advised to monitor the crop regularly. If needed, the farmers can obtain the parasitoid **at free of cost** in the nearby TNAU Centre and release the same in the mealybug infested fields.

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