



Tamil Nadu Agricultural University  
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To  
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 2012**

Based on the pest and disease surveillance reports from different districts of Tamil Nadu the following forecast is made by the Centre for Plant Protection Studies of this University:

In general dry weather is expected in all the districts of Tamil Nadu. Hence, farmers are requested to be alert in monitoring sucking pests like white fly, mealy bug, jassids and thrips affecting different cropping systems.

Farmers are advised to install yellow sticky trap @ 5 traps / acre, and light trap @ one per field to monitor the movement of sucking pests. If control measure is needed they can spray Neem Seed Kernel Extract (NSKE) 5 %.

**Rice**

In Tirunelveli, Ramanathapuram and Villupuram districts, leaf folder and stem borer incidence were noticed in paddy. Hence, farmers are advised to spray NSKE 5 % and set up light trap to monitor the movements of adults.

Bacterial leaf blight incidence was noticed in paddy in Theni district. To manage this problem farmers are advised to spray copper hydroxide (or) cocide 2.5 g / litre of water.

**Blackgram**

Yellow Mosaic Virus incidence was noticed in Tiruvarur district. To suppress the vector causing the disease farmers are advised to spray dimethoate 20 EC – 2 ml / litre of water or methyl dematon 25 EC – 2 ml / litre of water.

**Cotton**

Theni and Tirunelveli district farmers are advised to set up yellow sticky trap to monitor the population of jassids and thrips. If needed they can spray NSKE 5 %.

### **Sugarcane**

In Theni district borer pests were noticed. Hence, farmers are advised to release the egg parasitoid *Trichogramma* from 4<sup>th</sup> month onwards @1 CC / release, at 15 days interval, for six releases.

### **Groundnut**

In Ramanathapuram and Tiruvarur districts, leaf miner incidence was noticed in groundnut. Hence, farmers are advised to monitor the adult insects using light traps. If normal rain is not received during this month, there is a possibility for outbreak of the pest. To manage this pest farmers can spray NSKE 5 %.

### **Papaya mealy bug**

Tapioca, papaya and mulberry farmers are advised to watch for the incidence of papaya mealybug *P.marginatus*. If any incidence is noticed, farmers may contact the nearby TNAU Research Station / Krishi Vigyan Kendra / College for obtaining the parasitoids free of cost, for release in their fields.

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