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To  
2012  
The Editor,

Date: 28-5-

Sir,

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

**Pest and Disease Surveillance & Forecast report for June 2012**

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

Generally, the pest and disease incidence were found below economic threshold level in all the districts of Tamil Nadu. Hence, farmers are advised to monitor their crops for pest activities by setting light traps and yellow sticky traps in their fields.

**Jasmine Bud Worm**

To manage bud worm problem in Jasmine, farmers are advised to spray Profenophos 50 EC @ 1 ml / litre (or) Monocrotophos 36 WSC 2 ml / litre.

**Papaya Mealy Bug**

The pest is under control in Papaya, Mulberry, Tapioca and in other crops because of regular monitoring and release of the papaya mealy bug parasitoid *P.marginatus*. Since summer rains are not uniform in all places there is a possibility for multiplication of papaya mealy bug. Hence, farmers are requested to monitor their crops for the incidence of papaya mealy bug regularly. If any incidence is noticed, farmers are requested to contact the nearby TNAU College / Research Station / KVK for obtaining the parasitoids free of cost for release in their fields.

## Recommendations for Rice farmers

The following recommendations are made for the benefit of rice farmers in Cauvery Delta Zone and other rice growing areas in the state.

### Integrated Pest and Disease management in Rice

**In the nursery**, thrips and caseworm are the major insect pests. In addition, diseases like brown spot and blast are expected in the nursery during this **kuruvai** rice crop. To manage these problems farmers are advised to adopt the following recommendations:

**Wet Seed Treatment:** Treat the seeds with Carbendazim 2 g / kg (or) *Pseudomonas fluorescens* 10 g / kg of seeds in one litre of water overnight. Application of *P.fluorescens* @ 1.5kg / 20 cent nursery along with 30 kg Farm Yard Manure, 48 hours before pulling out of seedlings is advocated  
(or)

**Seedling root dip:** Select 25 sq. m area in the main field and stagnate water upto a depth of 2.5 cm at one corner and dissolve 2.5 kg of *P.fluorescens*. In this stagnated water, dip 20 cent nursery seedlings for 30 minutes and transplant.

### For managing the insects

- Set up light trap to monitor the adult moths and other insect pests.
- Spraying Neem Seed Kernel Extract (NSKE) 5% with sticking agent (@ 5ml / lit).
- Apply neem cake @ 12.5 kg / 20 cent nursery as basal dose.
- Spray either Neem oil 3% or Chlorpyrifos 20 EC @ 2 ml / litre in nursery stage if needed.

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