



Tamil Nadu Agricultural University
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To
The Editor,

Date: 26-4-2012

Sir,

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

Pest and Disease Surveillance & Forecast report for May 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 the Economic Threshold Level (ETL) in Tamil Nadu. Hence, farmers are advised to monitor their crops for pest activities by setting up light traps in their fields.

Rice

The following recommendations are made for the benefit of rice farmers growing Sornavari and early Kar rice varieties. Thrips, Leaf folder, Caseworm, Leaf hoppers are the major pests in the nursery. In early stage transplanted crops, diseases like Brown Spot are expected in the nursery during Sornavari and early Kar season. To manage these problems farmers are advised to adopt the following recommendations:

Wet Seed Treatment

- a) Treat the seeds with carbendazim 2 g/kg (or) *Pseudomonas fluorescens* @ 10 g/kg of seed in one litre of water overnight.
- b) Application of *P. fluorescens* @ 1.5 kg/ 20 cent nursery along with 30 kg farm yard manure, 48 hours before pulling out of seedling is advocated.

(or)

c) 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 Insect management in rice nursery and early stage planting

1. Apply neem cake @ 12.5 kg / 20 cent nursery as basal dose.
2. Set up light trap to monitor the adult moths and other insect pests.
3. Spray Neem Seed Kernel Extract (NSKE) 5% with sticking agent @ 5ml / lit.
4. Spray Chlorpyrifos 20 EC @ 80 ml/20 cent nursery, if necessary.

Papaya mealy bug

Tapioca, papaya and mulberry farmers are advised to watch for the incidence of papaya mealy bug (*P. marginatus*). If any incidence is noticed, farmers are requested to contact the nearby TNAU College / Research Station / KVK for obtaining the Papaya mealy bug parasitoids free of cost for field release.

For further details contact:

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