



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 forecasting for the month of April 2013**

Based on the pest and disease surveillance reports from different districts of Tamil Nadu, the following forecast are made by the Centre for Plant Protection Studies, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore. By and large the pest and disease incidence is below Economic Threshold Level (ETL).

**Rice**

Incidence of leaffolder and stemborer was noticed in Dharmapuri, Karur, Tiruvallur, Pudukkottai, Ramanathapuram, Tirunelveli, Coimbatore and Erode Districts. Farmers are advised to set up light traps to monitor and to kill the adult moths. If the damage is severe, farmers are advised to spray neem seed kernel extract 5% or profenophos 50 EC 400 ml (or) chlorpyriphos 20 EC 500 ml / acre.

**Groundnut**

In Coimbatore, Tirunelveli, Ramanathapuram, Pudukkottai and Dharmapuri Districts, the leafminer incidence was sporadically recorded. Hence, the farmers are advised to monitor the insect using light traps. If needed farmers can spray neem seed kernel extract 5%.

**Sugarcane**

In Karur, Coimbatore and Erode districts internode borer incidence was sporadically recorded. Hence farmers are advised to release the egg parasitoid *Trichogramma* @ 6 cc / acre.

**Cotton**

In Tirunelveli and Coimbatore districts, sucking pests viz., leaf hopper was noticed. Hence, farmers are advised to setup yellow sticky trap (5/acre) to monitor the pest population and if needed farmers can spray neem seed kernel extract 5%.

## **Special forecast for sucking pests**

Due to the continuous drought prevailing in many parts of Tamil Nadu, there is a possibility of flare up of sucking pests like papaya mealybug, spiraling whitefly attacking agricultural and horticultural crops, woolly aphid in sugarcane, aphids in pulses and the hoppers and mealybugs in cotton.

Hence farmers are advised to monitor for movement of sucking pests by installing yellow sticky traps @ 5 / acre.

For managing papaya mealybug, the farmers can obtain the parasitoids free of cost from TNAU Colleges / Research Stations / KVKs and release it in the fields. For managing other sucking pests give NSKE 5% spray or use any neem formulations.

This is for the favour of your kind information. Necessary control measures may please be adopted.

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