



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 March 2013

Based on the pest and disease surveillance reports received from different districts of Tamil Nadu, the following forecast are made. By and large the pest and disease incidence is below Economic Threshold Level (ETL).

Rice

In Kanyakumari, Pudukkottai, Thanjavur, Coimbatore, Ramanathapuram, Tirunelveli, Thiruchirappalli and Salem districts, sporadic incidence of leaf folder and stemborer was noticed. Hence farmers are advised to monitor the movement of adult moth by installing light trap and if needed, they can spray Neem Seed Kernel Extract 5 per cent (or) use any one of the following insecticides if population exceeds ETL: Chlorpyrifos 20 EC 500 ml / acre (or) Profenophos 50 EC 400 ml / acre.

Cotton

In Tirunelveli and Virudunagar districts, sucking pests *viz.*, jassids and thrips were noticed. Hence farmers are advised to monitor the sucking pests using yellow sticky traps. If needed spray NSKE 5 per cent (or) Imidacloprid 200 SL at 40 ml / acre (or) Methyl Demeton 25 EC 200 ml / acre (use 400 litre spray fluid / acre).

Cotton bollworm incidence was noticed in Theni, Salem and Virudhunagar districts. Hence the farmers are advised to setup pheromone traps to monitor the adult moth activity and if needed spray NSKE 5 per cent (or) Phosalone 35 EC 1 lit / ac or Triazophos 40 EC 1 lit/ac.

Sugarcane

In Virudunagar and Salem districts, the borer pest complex was noticed below ETL. Dry weather is expected in the coming months hence farmers are advised to release the egg parasitoid, *Trichogramma* from 4th month onwards at 15 days interval @ 1c.c/acre.

Groundnut

Leafminer incidence was noticed in Pudukottai, Tiruchirapalli, Tirunelveli, Coimbatore, Ramanathapuram and Virudunagar districts. Hence farmers are advised to monitor leafminer adult, using light trap, if needed farmers can spray Neem Seed Kernel Extract 5 per cent.

Papaya mealybug

Tapioca, Papaya and Mulberry farmers are advised to watch for the incidence of papaya mealybug, *P.marginatus*. There is a possibility for outbreak of papaya mealybug in crops viz., papaya, mulberry and tapioca due to the onset of summer. Hence farmers are advised to monitor the crops. The farmers are requested not to spray any pesticide for this pest. If any incidence is noticed, farmers are requested to contact nearby TNAU colleges / Research stations / KVK's for obtaining the Papaya mealybug parasitoids, free of cost for field release.

For further details contact:

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