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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 forecast for the month of December 2013

Based on the pest and disease surveillance reports from different districts of Tamil Nadu the following forecasts are made.

Paddy

In Coimbatore, Erode, Pudukkottai, Thiruvallur, Kanyakumari, Tirunelveli and Thanjavur districts leaffolder, stemborer and thrips incidence were noticed. To manage the leaffolder and stemborer, set up light trap @ 1 / acre to attract and kill the adult moth. Spray neem seed kernal extract 5 per cent @ 25 kg/ha (or) if needed, spray any one of the following insecticides: Phosalone 35 EC 1500 ml / ha or Phosphamidon 40 SL 1250 ml/ha or Thiomethoxam 100 g / ha.

In Kanyakumari district, mealybug, brown plant hopper and gall milge incidence was noticed. Hence, farmers are advised to spray Phosalone 35 EC 1500 ml / ha or methyldemetan 25 EC 1000 ml / ha.

Cotton

Cotton mealybug incidence was noticed in Theni, Dharmapuri and Madurai districts. To manage this pest, farmers are advised to spray fish oil resin soap at the rate of 1 kg in 40 lit of water. If needed, farmers can spray triazophos 40 EC 2.0 l/ha or profenophos 50 EC 1000 ml/ha.

In Perambalur district, sucking pests incidence was noticed. Hence, farmers are advised to set up yellow sticky trap @ 5 / acre to monitor the adult insects moth. If needed, farmers can spray neem seed kernal extract 5 per cent @ 25 kg/ha.

Outbreak of *Alternaria* leaf blight has been noticed in all Bt cotton hybrids cultivated at Perambalur and Ariyalur districts. To manage the same, all the farmers are advised to take up foliar application of Trifloxystrobin + Tebuconazole @ 500 g / ha or Tebuconazole

750 ml per ha or Propiconazole (1.25 ml / ha) or Chlorothalonil (1.25 g / ha) twice at weekly intervals.

Groundnut

In Erode, Coimbatore, Virudhachalam, Tindivanam, Ramanathapuram, Madurai and Tirunelveli districts leafminer incidence was noticed. Hence, farmers are advised to setup light trap to monitor and kill the adult moths and if needed, spray any one of the following insecticides: Dimethoate 30 EC 660 ml / ha or chlorpyrifos 20 EC 1250 ml/ha or quinalphos 25 EC 1500 ml/ha.

Sugarcane

In Coimbatore, Erode, Cuddalore, Vellur, Pudukkottai and Thiruvallur districts, internode borer incidence was noticed. Hence, farmers are advised to release *Trichogramma* egg parasitoid @ 1cc / acre six times at an interval of fifteen days starting from 45 Days after Planting.

Special forecast for coastal district rice farmers:

Blast

Due to the abnormal weather prevailing in the coastal districts as well as in other parts of rice growing area of Tamil Nadu, there is a possibility for the outbreak of rice blast and false smut diseases in paddy. Hence, farmers are advised to monitor the rice crops for the above diseases. The blast symptoms appear as spindle-shaped lesions with white to gray-green darker borders. Older lesions are whitish to gray with necrotic borders. Farmers are advised to do delayed application of nitrogenous fertilizer and spray immediately after observing initial infection of the blast disease with carbendazim 50WP @500 g/ha or tricyclazole 75WP @ 500g/ha or metominostrobin 20 SC @ 500ml/ha or azoxystrobin 25 SC @ 500ml/ha.

False smut

The rice grains are replaced by a mass of velvety spores due to the false smut infection, which burst open between the glumes. The inside is white in the center and has tightly woven mycelium together with the glume tissues. To control this disease, farmers are advised to take two spraying of propiconazole 25 EC @ 500ml/ha or copper hydroxide 77WP @ 1.25 kg/ha at boot leaf and 50% flowering stage.

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

Public Relations Officer