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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 February 2014

Based on the pest and disease surveillance reports, the following forecast are made. By and large the pest and disease incidence is below ETL.

Rice

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

Cotton

In Salem, Dharmapuri, Theni, Tirunelveli and Virudunagar districts, sucking pests *viz.*, aphids, leafhoppers 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).

Sugarcane

In Virudhachalam, Cuddalore, Erode 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 per release to manage the above pest.

Groundnut

Leafminer incidence was noticed in Madurai, Salem, Dharmapuri, 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.

Coconut

Leathel leaf blight disease was noticed in Coimbatore, Erode, Dindigul, Thanjavur, Tirunelveli, Kanyakumari and other districts of Tamil Nadu. Hence, farmers are advised to follow the preventive measures. First remove and burn the severely affected leaves to avoid further spread, spray 1% bordeaux mixture for two times at 30 days interval (or) root feeding of carbendazim 2g (or) Hexaconazole or tridemorph 2 ml + 100 ml of water (3 times at 3 months interval). Application of 200g *Pseudomonas fluorescence* along with 50 kg of FYM + 5 kgs of neem cake / palm / year. Application of an additional quantity of 2 kgs of MOP is also recommended.

Papaya mealybug

Tapioca, papaya and mulberry farmers are advised to watch for the incidence of papaya mealybug, *Paracoccus marginatus*. There is a possibility for mealybug population increase in 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 and advised to use the Papaya mealybug parasitoids.

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

Public Relations Officer