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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 January 2014

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

Rice

In Coimbatore, Erode, Thiruvallur, Kanniyakumari, Ramanathapuram, Theni, Pudukkottai, Thirunelveli and Salem districts, Leaf folder and stemborer incidence are noted in rice. Hence farmers are advised to set up light traps and if needed they can spray Neem seed Kernel extract 5%, phosalone 35 EC 1500 ml or Profenophos 50 EC 1000 ml/ha.

Brown spot incidence was found in rice at Theni and Ramanathapuram, district. Hence, farmers are advised to spray mancozeb (2.0g/lit) 2 to 3 times at 10 - 15 day intervals, based on the intensity of disease.

Bacterial leaf blight incidence was found in rice at Trichy, Thanjavur, Thiruvarur, Nagapattinam, Ramanathapuram and Theni district. Hence farmers can take proper plant protection measures and spray copper hydroxide @ 2.5g/litre.

Neck blast incidence were noticed in Trichy district and hence farmers are advised to spray *Tricyclozole* 500 g/ha.

Sugarcane

In Pudukkottai, Erode, Salem and Theni districts, borer pest complex observed were below ETL level. Hence the farmers are advised to release the egg parasitoid

Trichogramma from 4th month onwards at 15 days interval @ 1cc/acre/release up to 6th month.

Groundnut

In Ramanathapuram, Madurai, Tirunelveli and Pudukottai Districts leafminer incidence was found to damage the crop. Farmers are advised to monitor leaf miner adults, using light traps, if needed farmers can spray neem seed kernel extract at 5 per cent.

Tikka Leaf spot incidence was found in Pudukkottai, Salem and Ramanathapuram districts. Hence farmers are advised to spray carbendazim (0.1%) or mancozeb (0.2%) or chlorothalonil (0.2%).

Cotton

Cotton mealybug incidence was noticed in Theni, Dharmapuri and Madurai Districts. To manage this pest, farmers are advised to spray fish oil rosin soap at the rate of 1 kg in 40 lit of water. If needed, farmers can spray neem seed kernel extract 5 per cent @ 25 kg/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 lit. / ha) or chlorothalonil (1.25 kg / ha) twice at weekly intervals.

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

Public Relations Officer