

PEST FORECAST FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER 2017

Rice

Leaffolder and stemborer incidence were recorded in Tirunelveli, Salem, Kanyakumari, Theni, Thiruvavur, Villupuram, Dharmapuri, Madurai, Thanjavur and Pudukottai districts. Due to continuous rains in various districts both these insect pests will be expected to cause more damage in rice crop. Farmers are advised to set up light traps (one/ac) and keep watching on adult activity in the field. If damage noticed above ETL, spray acephate 75 SP 400 g/ac or cartap hydrochloride 50 SP 400 g/ac or chlorantraniliprole 18.5 SC 60 ml/ac. along with sticking agent 1 ml/lit of water. Moderate brown planthopper (BPH) incidence was noticed in Kanyakumari district. The climatic factors are now conducive for BPH multiplication in all locations of the state, hence, continuous monitoring of insects as well as hopper burn symptoms in the field is required to manage the pest. Application of dichlorvos 250 ml/ac or imidacloprid 60 ml/ac is recommended in the initial stage of infestation.

In the forthcoming rainy season, blast and false smut diseases in rice are expected. The blast symptoms will appear as spindle-shaped lesions with white to gray-green borders. Delay application of nitrogenous fertilizer and spray tricyclazole 75 WP @ 200 g/ac or carbendazim 50WP @ 200 g/ac immediately after observing initial infection of the blast disease. Use bioagents for the management of rice diseases. Soil application with TNAU Pf 1 formulation (2.5 kg/ha) and foliar spray with TNAU Pf 1 liquid formulation @ 5ml/lit is also recommended.

Pulses

In blackgram and greengram, powdery mildew and leaf spot are expected in all pulse growing districts. The farmers are advised to spray propiconazole 500 ml/ha at initiation of the disease and 10 days later for the management of powdery mildew. For leaf spot, spraying carbendazim 500 g/ha or mancozeb 1000g /ha at initiation of the disease and 10 days later is recommended.

Maize

Spray NSKE 5% or quinelphos 1 ml / lit. of water to control stem borer. Apply mancozeb 2 g/lit. of water to manage leaf blight disease.

Groundnut

Spraying of tebuconazole (ST) 1.5g/kg + 0.1% Tebuconazole spray (twice) was found to be the best for the management of foliar diseases. For the management of stem rot tebuconazole (ST) @ 1.5 g/kg + furrow application of *T.viride* @ 4kg enriched in 50 kg FYM/ha is effective.

Sunflower

In this crop, powdery mildew disease is expected in Coimbatore and Karur districts of Tamil Nadu. The farmers are advised to spray difenoconazole (0.05%) 250 ml/ha.

Cotton

Stem Weevil and root rot complex was noticed in cotton field of Virudhunagar district. Hence, farmers are advised to drench with combination of chlorpyrifos @ 2.5ml + carbendazim 1g/lit at 15 days interval.

In cotton, *verticillium* wilt disease is expected. The symptoms are seen when the crop is in squares and bolls. The first symptoms can be seen as bronzing of veins. It is followed by interveinal chlorosis and yellowing of leaves. Finally the leaves begin to dry, giving a scorched appearance. At this stage, the characteristic diagnostic feature is the drying of the leaf margins and areas between veins, which gives a "Tiger stripe" or "Tiger claw" appearance. In management, spot drenching of carbendazim 0.2 per cent or benomyl 0.05 percent at the base of affected plants as well as surrounding healthy plants. Application of *Trichoderma* – 2.5kg/ha + 50 kgs FYM infected field is also suggested.

Sugarcane

In sugarcane internode borer was noticed. Hence, farmers are advised to release the egg parasitoid *Trichogramma* @ 2 cc / acre (6 releases) at 15 days interval starting from 45 days onwards.

Banana

In banana, sigatoka leaf spot is expected in Coimbatore, Erode, Trichy, Tirunelveli, Theni and in all banana growing districts during the rainy season. The farmers are advised to spray carbendazim @ 0.1 % or propiconazole @ 0.1 % or mancozeb @ 0.25 % along with teepol (1 ml/litre) 3 times at 10-15 days interval. Besides, Fusarium wilt is also expected during this season. Dip the suckers in 0.1 % carbendazim (1g/lit) for 30 min or *Pseudomonas fluorescens* 10g/sucker at the time of planting. Corm injection of 3 ml of 2 % carbendazim on 3, 5, and 7th month after planting. Drench infected plants with 0.1 % carbendazim at 2, 4th and 6th month after planting should be followed.

Papaya

Papaya ring spot virus is expected in all the papaya growing districts of TamilNadu. For the management of the disease, the farmers are advised to raise two rows of maize as border crop one month prior to planting, place yellow sticky traps (12 nos. /ha) swabbed with grease or castor oil to attract the aphids, spray neem oil 1% or acephate 1.5 g/lit or imidacloprid 0.075% up to 4 months of planting, spray boron 0.1% and zinc sulphate 0.5 % in 3rd and 7th month to sustain yield of infected plants.

Brinjal

In Coimbatore and Tiruppur districts, sporadic incidence of papaya mealybug and brinjal mealybugs were noticed. Farmers are advised to release parasitoid, *Acerophagus papaya* (50 Nos.) and predator cryptolaemus (600 / ac) and also to conserve other predators and parasitoids. If required spray neem seed kernel extract 5% (50 g/lit.) along with sticking agent @ 1ml /lit.

Onion

In onion, leaf blotch and basal rot is expected in all onion growing regions of Tamil Nadu. The farmers are advised to spray mancozeb @ 2g/l or copper oxychloride @ 2.5 g/l for managing the leaf blotch incidence. For the management of basal rot, seed or bulb treatment with *Trichoderma viride* @ 4g/kg and basal application of *T. viride* @ 2.5 kg/ha should be followed.

Coconut

Spiralling whitefly incidence is reported in Pollachi area where alternate dry and wet spell prevails. Conserve the natural enemies like *Encarsia* parasitoids, chrysopids and coccinellids.

Several natural enemies viz., *Chrysoperla* sp., Coccinellids and a nymphal parasitoid *Encarsia* sp. (Aphelinidae: Hymenoptera) have been noticed to prey upon the different whitefly life stages which is being monitored continuously. Additionally, yellow sticky traps @ 25/ha smeared with castor oil/ horticultural mineral oil can be used for monitoring the population. Spraying a jet of water forcibly on the under surface of the palms would have a significant impact in reducing the population build up of the target pest to certain extent. Besides this, if needed spraying with neem oil @ 3% or NSKE @ % would be helpful in minimising the population build up. Avoid spraying insecticides. Moreover, spraying with boiled *maida* paste @ 25 g/ lit of water will remove flakes of sooty mould from the upper surface of the leaves.

Basal stem rot was observed in Thanjavur and Ramanathapuram districts. Farmers are advised to go for root feedings with hexaconazole 2 ml + 100 ml water for the management.

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

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