

PEST AND DISEASE FORECAST FOR THE MONTH OF MAY 2017

Generally, the pest and disease incidence were found below economic threshold level in Tamil Nadu. Hence, the farmers are advised to monitor the crop for pest activities by setting light traps in their fields.

The following recommendations were made from the Directorate of Centre for Plant Protection Studies for the benefit of rice farmers growing *Sornavari* and early *Kar* and summer rice varieties.

Management of pest and diseases in rice nursery and early stage transplanted crops:

In the nursery, thrips, leaf folder, case worm, leaf hoppers are the major pests and in the early stage transplanted crop. Diseases like brown spot is expected during this *Sornavari* and early *Kar* season. To manage these problems, farmers are advised to adopt the following recommendations.

Wet Seed Treatment:

- a) Treat the seeds with carbendazim 2 g/kg (or) *Pseudomonas fluorescens* @ 10 g/kg of seed and soak in water for overnight.
- b) Application of *P. fluorescens* @ 1.5 kg/ 20 cent nursery along with 30 kg farm yard manure, 48 hours before pulling out of seedling is advocated.
(or)

c) Seedling root dip:

Select 25 sq.m area in the main field and stagnate water up to a depth of 2.5 cm at one corner and dissolve 2.5 kg of *P. fluorescens*. In this stagnated water, dip 20 cent nursery seedlings for 30 minutes and transplant.

For Insect management in rice nursery and early stage planting:

1. Apply neem cake @ 12.5 kg / 20 cent nursery as basal dose
2. Set up light trap to monitor the adult moths and other insect pests.
3. Spraying NSKE 5% with sticking agent
4. If needed, spray chlorpyrifos 20 EC 80 ml/20 cent nursery

Rice

In Dharmapuri, Karur, Pudukkottai, Ramanathapuram, Tirunelveli, Ariyallur, Erode and Coimbatore districts, the leaf folder and stem borer incidence were noticed. To manage this pests, set up light trap @ 1 / acre to attract and to kill the adult moths. If needed, spray neem seed kernel extract (NSKE) 5% or cartap hydrochloride 50% SP @ 400 g/ac (or) chlorpyrifos 20% EC @ 500 ml/ac.

Bacterial leaf blight incidence was noticed in Dharmapuri and Ramanathapuram districts. Hence, farmers are advised to spray copper hydroxide @ 2.5g/litre of water.

Groundnut

In Sivaganga, Tirunelveli, Dharmapuri, Pudukkottai, Ramanathapuram, Coimbatore and Erode districts, leaf miner incidence was sporadically recorded. Hence, the farmers are advised to monitor the insect using light traps. If normal summer rains

were not received, there is a possibility of pest to cross ETL level and if needed farmers can spray neem seed kernel extract 5%.

Sugarcane

Borer pests were noticed in sugarcane. Hence, farmers are advised to release egg parasitoids, *Trichogramma* from 4th month onwards @1 CC/release at 15 days interval. Six releases are to be made.

The woolly aphid incidence was also reported by farmers. Avoid using synthetic insecticides to conserve natural enemies to manage this pest.

Pulses

Yellow mosaic virus disease was recorded in some districts. To manage this disease farmers are advised to set up yellow sticky trap @ 5 No. / acre to monitor the movements of the vector whitefly and if the vector population is noticed farmers are advised to spray dimethoate (or) methyl demeton 200 ml / ac to manage the vector white fly.

Papaya mealy bug:

Tapioca, Papaya and mulberry farmers are advised to watch for the incidence of papaya mealybug *P.marginatus*. If any incidence is noted, farmers are requested to release parasitoids for managing this pest.

Mealybug in ornamentals

Collect and destroy the affected plant parts. Apply neem oil 30 ml/lit. of water or release coccinellid predators.

Special forecast for sucking pests

Due to the continuous drought prevailing in many places in Tamilnadu, there is a possibility of flare up of sucking pests like papaya mealybug, whitefly and spiraling whitefly attacking some agricultural and horticultural crops, woolly aphid in sugarcane, aphids in pulses, hoppers and mealybugs in cotton.

Hence, farmers are advised to monitor for movement of sucking pests by installing yellow sticky traps @ 5 / acre.

If any incidence is noted, farmers are requested to release parasitoids for managing papaya mealybug. For managing other sucking pests give NSKE 5% spray or use any neem formulations.

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

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