



Tamil Nadu Agricultural University
Coimbatore – 641 003

Dr. M. Jegadeesan, Ph.D.,
Assistant Public Relations Officer
Mobile: 94890 56730

Phone: 0422 - 6611302
Fax: 0422 – 2431821
E-mail: pro@tnau.ac.in

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 January 2016

Paddy

In Tirunelveli, Salem, Kanyakumari, Theni, Thiruvarur, Villupuram, Dharmapuri, Madurai, Thanjavur and Pudukottai districts, the leaf folder and stemborer incidence was found in Paddy, hence farmers are advised to spray neem seed kernel extract 5% along with sticking agent 1 ml/lit and also set up light traps (one/ac) to monitor the pest population. If needed spray any one of the following insecticides: Phosphamidon 40SL 225 ml/ac or Profenofos 50EC 400 ml/ac.

Apart from the above pests, there is a possibility for the outbreak of paddy blast due to high humidity. Hence, the farmers are advised to spray 0.1 % tricyclazole 75 WP (200 g/ac) twice at weekly intervals. Besides, foliar application of 0.5% (1 kg/ac) *Pseudomonas fluorescens* talc formulation at fortnightly interval is recommended to increase the yield.

For managing bacterial leaf blight incidence farmers can spray copper hydroxide 500 g/ac. Nitrogen must be applied in minimum of three splits.

For managing brown spot incidence, farmers are advised to spray mancozeb (400-500 g/ac) 2 times at 10-15 days intervals first on 40 DAP and second on 55 DAP.

Sugarcane

In Coimbatore, Erode, Dharmapuri, Nagapattinam, Sivaganga, Villupuram, Salem and Tiruchirapalli districts, the internode borer incidence was noticed. Hence farmers are advised to release *Trichogramma chilonis* egg parasitoid @ 1 c.c / acre 6 times starting from 4th months onwards at 15 days interval.

Cotton

In Dharmapuri, Villupuram, Theni and Salem districts jassid incidence was noticed. Farmers are advised to set up yellow sticky trap @ 5 / acre for monitoring the sucking pests and to spray fish oil rosin soap at the rate of 1 kg in 40 lit of water.

In Tirunelveli and Dharmapuri districts, pink boll worm incidence was noticed. Hence, farmers are advised to set up pheromone trap to monitor and kill the adults at the rate of 5 / acre. Continuous monitoring is needed for whitefly incidence on Bt varieties.

Groundnut

In Erode, Salem, Sivagangai, Thiruvannamalai, Villupuram, Pudukottai and Ramanathapuram districts, leaf miner incidence was sporadically recorded. Hence, the farmers are advised to monitor the insect using light traps. If normal 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% along with sticking agent @ 1 ml/lit.

Besides, dry root rot was noticed here and there. Hence, the farmers are advised to drench the soil with 0.1% (1 g in 1 litre water) carbendazim.

Maize

In Coimbatore, Tiruppur, Madurai, Pudukottai and Dharmapuri districts, sporadic incidence of stem borer was noticed. Farmers are advised to monitor the adult moths by setting up light traps and if needed spray neem seed kernel extract 5% along with sticking agent @ 1ml /lit.

Greengram / Blackgram

Yellow mosaic virus is a serious problem in these crops. To suppress the vector causing the disease, dimethoate 20 EC – 200 ml / ac or methyl demeton 25 EC – 200 ml / ac can be used.

Vegetables

Tomato

For the management of fruit borer in tomato, grow simultaneously 40 days old American tall marigold and 25 days old tomato seedlings @ 1:16 rows, Set up pheromone traps @ 12/ha and release *Trichogramma chilonis* @ 50,000/ha/ release, coinciding with flowering time. Based on ETL of 10% damage, spray *Bacillus thuringiensis* 2g/l or any one

of the following insecticides, azadirachtin 1.0 % EC (10000 ppm) 2.0 ml/ l or indoxacarb 14.5 % SC 8 ml/10 l or flubendiamide 20 WG 5 g/10 l.

If Serpentine leaf miner damage is noticed spray Neem Seed Kernel Extract 5% and for managing whitefly

1. Install yellow sticky traps @ 12 /ha to attract the adult.
2. Remove alternate weed host *Abutilon indicum*
3. Apply carbofuran 3 G @ 33 kg /ha at the time of planting or spray any one of the following insecticides, buprofezin 25 SC 1 ml/l or dimethoate 1 ml /ha.

Bhendi:

Yellow vein mosaic virus: Spray systemic insecticides like methyl demeton or imidacloprid 17.8 SL 2 ml/10 l or dimethoate @2 ml / l to kill the insect vector, whitefly.

Chillies

Fruit borer: Integrated pest management of fruit borer:

1. Set up pheromone traps for *Helicoverpa armigera* / *Spodoptera litura* @ 5 no. / ac.
2. Collection and destruction of damaged fruits and grown up caterpillars.
3. Spray *Bacillus thuringiensis* @ 2 g / lit.

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

Further contact:

1. The Director,
Centre for Plant Protection Studies,
TNAU, Coimbatore – 641 003.
Phone No: 0422-6611237.
2. The Professor and Head,
Department of Agrl. Entomology,
TNAU, Coimbatore – 641 003.
Phone No: 0422-6611214 / 6611414.
3. The Professor and Head,
Department of Plant Pathology,
TNAU, Coimbatore – 641 003.
Phone No: 0422-6611226.

Asst. Public Relations Officer