



Tamil Nadu Agricultural University  
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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 Forecast for the Month of May 2016**

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* 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 are 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 seedling 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 @ 5ml / lit
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 these 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 kocide (Copper hydroxide) 101 @ 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**

In Sivaganga, Karur and Erode districts, borer pest complex were 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.

**Cotton**

In Tirunelveli district, spotted bollworm incidence was found sporadically. Hence farmers are advised to monitor the insect using light trap @ 1 / acre. If needed spray NSKE 5%.

**Pulses**

Yellow mosaic virus disease was recorded in rice fallow pulses in Tiruvallur and Thanjavur 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.

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

**Further contact:**

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