



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:

### **Special Forecast for Farmers of Tamil Nadu**

Due to abnormal weather and due to depression in different districts of Tamil Nadu, there is possibility for the outbreak of various pests and diseases in rice crop. Hence, the special forecast is given by the Directorate of Centre for Plant Protection Studies, TNAU, Coimbatore for monitoring and management of insect pests and diseases on rice crop in major rice growing areas of Tamil Nadu.

#### **Diseases**

##### **Blast**

Due to the abnormal weather prevailing in the coastal districts as well as in other parts of rice growing area of Tamil Nadu, there is a possibility for the outbreak of rice blast and brown leaf spot diseases in paddy. Hence farmers are advised to monitor the rice crops for the above diseases. The blast symptoms appear as spindle-shaped lesions with white to gray-green darker borders. Older lesions are whitish to grey with necrotic borders. Farmers are advised to do delayed application of nitrogenous fertilizer and spray immediately after observing initial infection of the blast disease with carbendazim 50WP @500 g/ha or tricyclazole 75WP @ 500g/ha or metominostrobin 20 SC @ 500ml/ha or azoxystrobin 25 SC @ 500ml/ha.

For the control brown spot disease farmers are advised to spray mancozeb (2.0g/lit) 2 to 3 times at 10 - 15 day intervals, based on the intensity of disease.

## **Insect Pests**

### **Brown planthopper**

This sucking pest is a serious problem in the areas where drainage problem is more. The insects multiply rapidly and suck the sap from the base of the plants. The field become burnt up appearance and typical damage symptom in the plants called 'hopper burn' will be noticed. The nitrogenous fertilizers can be split into 3-4 doses. Avoid resurgence causing and synthetic pyrethroid group of insecticides. The botanical compound 3 % neem oil can be used @ 15 litre/ha with soap oil. The insecticides dichlorvos 76 % SC 500 ml/ha or buprofezin 25 % EC @ 800ml/ha or fipronil 5 % SC 1000ml/ha can be used. Farmers should be insisted that before spraying chemicals for the management of brown planthopper, water should be drained from the field. The spraying should be done to target the base of the stem portion.

### **Rice leaffolder**

Due to continuous rains and cloudy weather leaffolder incidence may become severe in the rice crops at the vegetative stage. Already the incidence of leaffolder was recorded around 1000 ha in the rice fields of Thirupur district by team of scientists from Directorate of CPPS. The larvae feed on the leaves of rice by rolling the leaves and leaving scrapping symptoms which will appear white in colour from distance. The affected leaves will dry and in severe cases plants will wilt. The adult moth activity will be more in the affected fields. Farmers are advised to use less nitrogenous fertilizers when leaffolder incidence occurs. Wherever possible light trap can be used to attract adult moths. Spraying of azadirachtin 0.03% @ 1000 ml/ha can be done in the initial stage of damage. Application of chemical insecticides *viz.*, cartop hydrochloride 50 % SP @ 1000g/ha or chlorpyrifos 20% EC 1250 ml/ha or flubendiamide 20% WG 250g/ha can be done.

### **Rice stem borer**

Usually rice stem borer incidence will be more in the samba season crops and this pest may occur during dry spell after the rains. The pest will occur at vegetative stage as well as reproductive stage. The incidence can be noticed by the damage symptoms, dead heart in young crops and white ear in the matured crops. The central shoots become dry and plants will dead in the early stage of the crop. The grains become chaffy and yield will be

reduced. Farmers are advised to monitor the adult activity and egg mass in the crop. The adults moths are yellow in colour and it lay egg mass on the tip of the leaves. At the time of transplanting the leaf tips can be clipped off to remove egg mass. Farmers are advised in the transplanted field also the egg masses can be removed periodically to avoid the insect pest incidence. The insecticide viz., chlorpyrifos 20 % EC 1250 ml/ha or chlorantraniliprole 18.5 SC 150ml/ha or thiacloprid 21.7 % SC 500ml/ha can be sprayed.

### **Rice army worm**

There is a possibility for outbreak of rice army worm. Hence, farmers were requested to monitor the gregarious caterpillar feeding on the rice plants and if needed farmers can spray dichlorvos 76% SC 470 grams per ha.

### **Rice fallow pulses**

Wet root rot incidence to be expected in low lying areas in rice fallow pulses. If needed to manage this disease advised to drench the affected areas with carbendazim @ 1 gm/lit.

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

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