



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 Surveillance & Forecast report for July 2012

Based on the pest and disease surveillance reports received from different districts of Tamil Nadu, the following forecast is made by the Centre for Plant Protection Studies of this University.

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

Recommendations for Rice farmers

The following recommendations are made for the benefit of rice farmers in Cauvery Delta Zone and other rice growing areas in the state.

Integrated Pest and Disease management in Rice

In the nursery, thrips and caseworm are the major insect pests. In addition, diseases like brown spot and blast are expected in the nursery during this **kuruvai** rice crop. To manage these problems farmers are advised to adopt the following recommendations:

Wet Seed Treatment: Treat the seeds with Carbendazim 2g / kg (or) *Pseudomonas (P) fluorescens* 10g / kg of seeds in one litre of water, overnight. Application of *P.fluorescens* @ 1.5kg / 20 cent nursery along with 30 kg Farm Yard Manure, 48 hours before pulling out of seedlings is advocated

(or)

Seedling root dip: Select 25 sq. m area in the main field and stagnate water upto 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 managing the insects

- Set up light trap to monitor the adult moths and other insect pests.
- Spraying Neem Seed Kernel Extract (NSKE) 5% with sticking agent (@ 5ml/ lit).
- Apply neem cake @ 12.5 kg / 20 cent nursery as basal dose.
- Spray either Phosphamidon 40 SL 50 ml or Profenophos 50 EC @ 1,000 ml/ha if needed, in nursery stage.

Papaya Mealy Bug

Tapioca, Papaya and Mulberry famrers are advised to watch for the incidence of papaya mealy bug *P. marginatus*. If any incidence is noticed, farmers are requested to contact the nearby TNAU College / Research Station / KVK for obtaining the parasitoids free of cost for release in their fields.

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