



Tamil Nadu Agricultural University
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To
The Editor,
Sir,

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I request that the following matter may kindly be published in your esteemed daily:

Pest and Disease Surveillance & Forecast report for March 2012

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

Rice

In Theni, Kanyakumari, Pudukottai, Salem and Virudunagar districts the leaf folder and stemborer incidence are noticed nearing 50% ETL (Economic Threshold Level) and in Tirunelveli, Thanjavur, Tiruvarur and Ramanathapuram districts the pests were found below ETL. Farmers are advised to monitor the movement of adult moths by installing light traps. If needed, they can spray Neem Seed Kernel Extract (NSKE) 5 per cent or Chlorpyrifos, 1,250 ml / hectare (ha) (or) Profenophos 50 EC 1,000 ml / ha.

In Kanyakumari district whorl maggot incidence was noticed and hence farmers are advised to spray NSKE 5 per cent.

Cotton

In Virudunagar and Theni districts, the sucking pests viz., jassids and thrips were found to cross 50 per cent ETL. In Salem and Tirunelveli districts the population is found below ETL. Farmers are advised to monitor the sucking pests using yellow sticky traps. If needed they may spray NSKE 5 per cent or Imidacloprid 200 SL at 100 ml / ha or methyl demeton 25 EC 500 ml/ha (use 1000 l spray fluid / ha).

Cotton boll worm incidence are noticed in Salem, Theni and Virudunagar districts. Farmers are advised to set up pheromone traps to monitor the adult moth activity. If needed they may spray NSKE 5 per cent (or) Phasalone 35 EC 2.5 l / ha (or) Traizophos 40 EC 2.5 l / ha.

Root rot incidence is noticed in Theni district. Hence farmers are advised to apply 2.5 kg / ha of *Trichoderma viride* with 50 kg of farmyard manure.

Sugarcane

In Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, Salem and Virudunagar districts the borer pest complex was noticed below ETL. Farmers are advised to release the egg parasitoid *Trichogramma* from 4th month onwards at 15 days interval @ 1 CC / acre per release upto 6th month.

Groundnut

Leaf miner incidence is noticed in Ramanathapuram and Virudunagar districts. Farmers are advised to monitor leaf miner adults using light traps. If needed farmers can spray NSKE at 5 per cent.

Leaf spot incidence is prevalent in Ramanathapuram, Pudukottai and Tiruvarur districts. Farmers can spray Carbendazim 0.1 per cent (or) Chlorothalonil 0.2 per cent.

Papaya mealy bug

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

For further details contact:

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