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To
The Editor,

Date: 28-9-2012

Sir,

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

Pest and Disease forecast for the month of October 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, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore.

Paddy

In Dharmapuri, Madurai, Pudukkottai, Tirunelveli and Villupuram districts, leaf folder and stemborer pest incidence were noticed. To manage these pests, set up light traps @ 1 per acre to attract and kill the adult moths. Spray Neem Seed Kernel Extract (NSKE) 5 per cent @ 25 kg / ha (or) if needed spray any one of the following insecticides: Phosalone 35 EC 1500 ml / ha (or) Phosphamidon 40 SL 600 ml / ha or Profenphos 50 EC 1000 ml / ha.

In Pudukkottai, Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, Nagapatinam and Trichy districts, thrips incidence was noticed. Farmers are advised to spray NSKE 5 percent or Phosphamidon 40 SL 50 ml (or) Monocrotophos 36 SL 40 ml for 20 cent nursery area.

Cotton

Sucking pests viz., Thrips in Dharmapuri and Mealybug in Madurai were observed. Farmers are advised to set up yellow sticky traps @ 5 per acre for monitoring the sucking pests. Farmers are advised to spray fish oil rosin soap at the rate of 1 kg in 40 litres of water. If the sucking pests incidence crosses the Economic Threshold Level (ETL), farmers may spray Triazohos 40 EC 2.0 l / ha (or) Acephate 75 SP @ 1.30 kg / ha or Methyldemeton 25 EC @ 500 ml / ha.

In Tirunelveli district, Pink boll worm incidence was noticed. Farmers are advised to set up pheromone traps to monitor and kill the adults at the rate of 5 per acre. If needed farmers can spray Chlorpyriphos 25 EC 2.0 l / ha (or) Phosalone 35 EC 2.5 l / ha or Carbaryl 50 WP 2.5 kg / ha.

Groundnut

In Pudukkottai, Ramanathapuram and Tirunelveli districts, leaf miner incidence was noticed. Hence, farmers are advised to setup light traps to monitor and to kill the adult moths. If needed spray any one of the following insecticides: Phosphamidon 40 SL 750 ml / ha (or) Chlorpyrifos 20 EC 1250 ml / ha (or) Phosalone 35 EC 750 ml / ha.

Sugarcane

In Pudukkottai and Villupuram districts Top shoot borer incidence was noticed. Farmers are advised to release *Trichogramma* egg parasitoid @ 6 cc per acre.

I. General Recommendations for Samba Rice

Management of Pest and Diseases in rice nursery and early stage transplanted crops:

Thrips, leaf folder, caseworm and leaf hoppers are the major pests in nursery and in early stage transplanted crop. Diseases like brown spot are also expected in nursery during this season. To manage these problems farmers are advised to adopt the following recommendations.

Wet Seed Treatment Method

- a) Treat the seeds with Carbendazim 2g / kg (or) *Pseudomonas fluorescens* @ 10g / kg of seed in one litre of water 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.

Seedling root dip Method

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

1. Apply neem cake @ 12.5 kg / 20 cent nursery as basal dose.
2. Set up light traps to monitor the adult moths and other insect pests.
3. Spray NSKE 5% with sticking agent @ 5ml / lit.
4. If needed spray any one of the following insecticides:
Phosphamidon 40 SL – 50 ml / 20 cent of nursery
Monocrotophos 36 SL – 40 ml

II. For managing Sucking Pests problem

Failure of southwest monsoon in many districts of Tamil Nadu may accelerate the multiplication of sucking pests viz., jassid, whitefly, spralling whitefly and papaya mealybug population. Hence, farmers are advised to set up yellow sticky traps and light traps in the agricultural and horticultural crops to monitor the movements of these pests. If needed they can spray NSKE 5% or fish oil rosin soap @ 1 kg in 40 litres of water.

III. For Managing Papaya mealybug

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 / Research Station / KVK for obtaining the Papaya mealy bug parasitoids free of cost for field release.

For further details contact:

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