



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 June 2013

Based on the pest and disease surveillance reports from different districts of Tamil Nadu, the following forecast are made **for the month of June 2013** by the Centre for Plant Protection Studies, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore. By and large the pest and disease incidence is below Economic Threshold Level (ETL).

South west monsoon is expected during second week of June. Farmers having facility for using underground water will be raising paddy nursery / transplanting for the ensuing months. They are advised to monitor for the presence of thrips in the nursery and leafhopper, caseworm, leafhoppers and brown spot in the early stage transplanted crops. To manage these problems farmers are advised to adopt the following recommendations.

I. Disease management

Wet seed treatment

- a. Treat the seeds with carbendazim 2 g/kg (or) *Pseudomonas fluorescens* @ 10 g/kg of seed in one litre of water over night.
- 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 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 seedling for 30 minutes and transplant.

II. Insect management

1. Apply neemcake @ 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.

Sucking pest management in Agricultural and Horticultural crops

If dry weather continuous due to delay in monsoon setting there is a possibility for multiplication of jassids, thrips, whitefly, spiraling whitefly and different species of mealybug including papaya mealybug.

Hence farmers are advised to monitor the sucking pests by installing yellow sticky traps @ 5 / acre and if needed they can spray neem seed kernel extract 5% (or) fish oil resin soap @ 1 kg in 40 lit of water.

Papaya mealybug

Tapioca, Papaya and mulberry farmers are advised to watch for the incidence of papaya mealybug, *P.marginatus*. There is a possibility for outbreak of papaya mealybug in crops viz., papaya, mulberry and tapioca due to prevailing summer. Hence farmers are advised to monitor the pest in the above crops. The farmers are requested not to spray any pesticide for this pest. If any incidence is noticed, farmers are requested to contact nearby TNAU colleges / Research stations / KVK's for obtaining the Papaya mealybug parasitoids, free of cost for field release.

Nematode management in vegetables

The farmers raising vegetable crop (Tomato, Bendi, Brinjal, Cucurbits) are requested to do summer ploughing and expose the main field to sunlight for 10-15 days in order to minimize the incidence of nematodes which is a serious pest in the above vegetable crops.

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

For further details contact:

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