



Tamil Nadu Agricultural University
Coimbatore – 641 003

Dr. M. Jegadeesan, Ph.D.,
Assistant Public Relations Officer
Mobile: 94890 56730

Phone: 0422 - 6611302
Fax: 0422 – 2431821
E-mail: pro@tnau.ac.in

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 Forecasting for the Month of May 2015

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

The following recommendations were made for the benefit of rice farmers growing Sornavari and early Kar rice varieties.

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

In the nursery, thrips, leaf folder, caseworm and leaf hoppers are the major pests in nursery and in early stage transplanted crops of rice. Brown spot and blast disease incidence are expected in nursery during this Sornavari and early Kar season. To manage these problems farmers are advised to adopt the following recommendations.

Wet Seed Treatment:

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

c) Seedling root dip:

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 in rice nursery and early stage planting:

1. Apply neem cake @ 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 (@ 5ml / lit)
4. Spray the insecticides, Chlorpyrifos 20 EC 80 ml/20 cent nursery, if needed

Due to abnormal weather and 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 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 @ 400g/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 % SC @ 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 fallow pulses

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

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

Further contact:

1. The Director,
Centre for Plant Protection Studies,
TNAU, Coimbatore – 641 003.
Phone No: 0422-6611237.
2. The Professor and Head,
Department of Agrl. Entomology,
TNAU, Coimbatore – 641 003.
Phone No: 0422-6611214 / 6611414.
3. The Professor and Head,
Department of Plant Pathology,
TNAU, Coimbatore – 641 003.
Phone No: 0422-6611226.

Asst. Public Relations Officer