

PEST AND DISEASE FORECASTING FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER 2015

Due to abnormal weather, rain forecast and onset of north east monsoon 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.

Pest management in rice

Rice leaffolder

Due to continuous rain and cloudy weather leaffolder incidence may become severe in the rice crops at the vegetative stage. The larvae feed on the leaves of rice by rolling the leaves and leaving scarring symptoms which will appear white in colour from distance. The affected leaves will dry and in severe cases plants will wilt. The adult moth activity will be more in the affected fields. Farmers are advised to use less nitrogenous fertilizers when leaffolder incidence occurs. Wherever possible light trap can be used to attract adult moths. Spraying of azadirachtin 0.03% @ 400 ml/ac can be done in the initial stage of damage. Application of chemical insecticides *viz.*, cartop hydrochloride 50 % SP @ 400 g/ac or chlorpyrifos 20% EC 500 ml/ac can be done.

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 spraying / using resurgence causing and synthetic pyrethroid group of insecticides. The botanical compound 3 % neem oil can be used @ 6 lit/ac with soap oil. The insecticides dichlorvos 76 % SC 200 ml/ac or buprofezin 25 % SC @ 325ml/ac or fipronil 5 % SC 400ml/ac or imidacloprid 17.8 % SL 40 ml/ac 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.

Disease management in rice:

During depression formation in coastal districts, if continuous cloudy weather without sun for more than 3 or 4 days along with high humidity prevailed, there is a

possibility for blast incidence. Rice farmers growing high yielding varieties should watch for the incidence of blast. To manage this disease farmers are advised to spray 0.1% tricyclazole or carbendazim 50% WP 1.5 – 3.0 g/l or carbendazim 12% + mancozeb 63% WP 5 g/l immediately after the appearance of disease and if necessary a second spray can be given after 10 days.

For managing bacterial leaf blight incidence farmers can spray 2 times with copper hydroxide 77 WP @ 8 g/l litre of water. Nitrogen must be applied in minimum of three splits.

For managing brown spot incidence, farmers are advised to spray mancozeb (2.0 g/lit) 2 times at 10-15 days intervals first on 40 DAP and second on 55 DAP.

Cotton

In Dharmapuri, Villupuram, Theni and Salem districts jassid incidence was noticed. Farmers are advised to set up yellow sticky trap @ 5 / acre for monitoring the sucking pests and to spray fish oil rosin soap at the rate of 1 kg in 40 lit of water.

In Tirunelveli and Dharmapuri districts, pink boll worm incidence was noticed. Hence, farmers are advised to set up pheromone trap to monitor and kill the adults at the rate of 5 / acre. Continuous monitoring is needed for whitefly incidence on Bt varieties.

Groundnut

In Villupuram, Erode, Tindivanam, Madurai, Sivaganga, Tirunelveli, Ramanathapuram and Salem districts, the leaf miner incidence was noticed. Hence, farmers are advised to setup light trap to monitor and to kill the adult moths and watch for the incidence of red hairy caterpillar. If needed, spray Neem seed kernel extract 5%.

In Erode, Tindivanam and Pudukkottai districts, leaf spot incidence was noticed. To manage this disease, spray carbendazim 200 g (or) mancozeb 400 g (or) chlorothalonil 400 g/ac. If necessary give the second round 15 days later.

Sugarcane

In Coimbatore, Erode, Dharmapuri, Nagapattinam, Sivaganga, Villupuram, Salem and Tiruchirapalli districts, the internode borer incidence was noticed. Hence farmers are advised to release *Trichogramma chilonis* egg parasitoid @ 1 c.c / acre 6 times starting from 4th months onwards at 15 days interval.

Cashew

In Cuddalore district Tea mosquito bug incidence was noticed. Hence, farmers are advised to spray profenophos (0.05%) (or) chlorpyriphos (0.05%) or carbaryl (0.1%) for tea mosquito bug.

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

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