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To
The Editor,

Date: 18-7-2014

Sir,

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

Pest and Disease forecast for the month of July 2014

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

The following recommendations were made for the benefit of rice farmers in Cauvery delta zone and other rice growing areas in the state.

Rice

Sporadic incidence of leaf folder and stemborer were noticed in Tirunelveli, Dharmapuri, Dindigal, Pudukkottai, Thanjavur, Tiruvallur, Erode and Salem districts. To manage these pests, set up light trap @ 1 / acre to attract and to kill the adult moth. If needed, spray neem seed kernel extract (NSKE) 5% (or) spray any one of the insecticides, phosalone 35 EC 1500 ml / ha (or) quinalphos 25 EC 1000 ml / ha (or) profenophos 50 EC 1000 ml / ha.

For managing thrips in the nursery and early transplanted rice in different districts, the farmers are advised to spray NSKE 5% (or) phosphamidon 40 SL 50 ml for 20 cent nursery area. If green leafhoppers are noticed spray, phosphamidon 40 SL 50 ml for 20 cent nursery area. If green leafhoppers are noticed in the main field spray phosphamidon 40 SL 250 ml / ha (or) profenophos 50 EC 1000 ml / ha.

In coastal areas of Tamil Nadu because of cloudy weather the farmers are advised to take up spraying of copper hydroxide 2.5 g / l of water for management of bacterial leaf blight of rice.

Integrated pest and disease management in rice

In the nursery, thrips and caseworm are the major insect pests and diseases like brown spot and blast are expected in the nursery during this **kuruvai** rice crop. To manage these problem, farmers are advised to adopt the following recommendations:

Seed Treatment: Treat the seeds with carbendazim 2g/kg (or) *Pseudomonas fluorescens* 10g/kg of seeds in one litre of water for overnight.

Application of *P.fluorescens* @1.5kg/20 cent nursery along with 30kg Farm Yard Manure, 48 hours before pulling out of seedlings is advocated (or)

Seedling root dip: Select 25 sq. m area in the main field and stagnate water up to a depth of 2.5 cm at on corner and dissolve 2.5 kg of *P.fluorescens*. In this stagnated water, dip 20 cent nursery seedlings for 30 minutes and transplant.

For managing the insect

- Set up light trap to monitor the adult moths and other insect pests
- Spraying NSKE 5% with sticking agent (@.5 ml/lit)
- Apply neem cake @ 12.5 kg/20 cent nursery as basal dose
- Spray any one of the following in nursery stage
Phosphamidon 40 SL 50 ml & Profenophos 50 EC @ 1000 ml/ha if needed.

Groundnut

Virudhachalam district farmers are advised to set up light traps to monitor red hairy carterpillar. If needed, spray any one of the insecticides dichlorvos 70 WSC 625 ml / ha (or) phosphamidon 40 SL 750 ml / ha (or) chlorpyriphos 20 EC 1250 ml / ha (or) phosalone 35 EC 750 ml / ha.

The groundnut farmers of Salem and Dharmapuri districts are advised to spray carbendazim 0.1% for management of Tikka leaf spot of groundnut.

Cabbage

Krishnagiri district farmers are advised to set up pheromone trap to monitor the Spodoptera adults. If needed spray flubendiamide @ 50 ml/ha for the control.

Maize

Farmers of Coimbatore and Tiruppur districts are advised to spray metalaxyl + mancozeb 2.5g / l of water against downy mildew as the weather conditions are conducive for the onset of the diseases due to monsoon rains.

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

Public Relations Officer