



Tamil Nadu Agricultural University  
O/o the Public Relations Officer  
Coimbatore – 641 003

Dr. C. Karthikeyan, Ph.D.,  
Professor (Agrl. Extension)  
Mobile: 94890 56730

Phone: 0422 - 6611302  
Fax: 0422 – 2431821  
E-mail: [pro@tnau.ac.in](mailto: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 Forecast for the Month of May 2014**

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.

#### **Rice pest management**

The following recommendations were made for the benefit of rice farmers growing Sornavari and early Kar rice varieties from the Directorate of Centre for Plant Protection Studies.

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 diseases like brown spot 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/ka (or) *Pseudomonas fluorescens* @ 10 g/kg of seed in one liter of water over night.
- b) 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 following insecticides if needed chlorpyrifos 20 EC 80 ml/20 cent nursery

### **Groundnut Red hairy Caterpillar management**

During this summer after the receipt of summer showers there is a possibility for the out break of red hairy caterpillar in groundnut areas. Hence, farmers in Salem, Theni, Madurai and Tindivanam districts are advised to setup light trap to monitor the adult movements. For managing this pest, they can adopt the following recommendation.

- Dig out and destroy the pupae from the field bunds and shady spots prior to summer rains.
- Set up 3 to 4 light traps and bonfires immediately after receipt of rains, after sowing in the rainfed season to attract and kill the moths and also to know brood emergence.
- Collect and destroy gregarious, early instar larvae on lace-like leaves of intercrops such as redgram and cowpea.
- Collect and destroy egg masses in the cropped area.
- Avoid migration of larvae by digging a trench 30 cm deep and 25 cm wide with perpendicular sides around the infested fields.

### **Apply any one of the following insecticides per ha (for young caterpillars):**

- Fenitrothion 50 EC 750 ml/ha
- Ethion 50 EC 500 ml/ha
- Phosalone 35 EC 750 ml/ha
- Dichlorvos 76 EC 627 ml/ha

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

Public Relations Officer