

PEST AND DISEASE FORECASTING FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 2016

Based on the pest and disease surveillance reports received from different districts of Tamil Nadu the following forecast is made by the Centre for Plant Protection Studies, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore.

Rice

In Theni, Kanniyakumari, Pudukkottai, Salem and Virudhunagar districts, leaf folder and stem borer incidence are noticed in rice. Hence, farmers are advised to set up light traps and if needed they can spray Neem seed Kernel extract (NSKE) 5% or cartap hydrochloride 50% SP @ 400 g/ac (or) chlorpyrifos 20% Ec @ 500 ml/ac.

In Kanniyakumari district whorl maggot incidence was noticed hence, farmers are advised to spray NSKE 5 per cent.

Brown Plant Hopper

BPH incidence was noticed in Polur, Kalasapakkam, Chetpet, Cheyyar, Anakkavoor, Vembakkam, Vandavasi and Thellar blocks in Tiruvannamalai district. To manage BPH, farmers are advised to provide proper drainage, and drain the excess moisture. Avoid spraying synthetic pyrethroids in severe case, farmers are requested to spray any one of the following chemicals such as, Dichlorvos 76 % SC 200 ml/ac or Pymetrozine 50 WG @ 120g/ac or Buprofezin 25 % SC @ 325 ml/ac or Fipronil 5 % SC 400 ml/ac or Imidacloprid 17.8 % SL 40 ml/ac or Thiamethoxam 25 WG @ 40g/ac to contain the BPH.

In all rice growing districts of Tamil Nadu, brown spot incidence was noticed. Hence farmers are advised to spray Mancozeb 400-500 g/ac 2 to 3 times at 10 - 15 day intervals based on the intensity of disease.

Blackgram

Yellow mosaic virus incidence was noticed in Pudukkottai and Thiruvavur districts. Hence to suppress the vector causing the disease farmers are advised to spray dimethoate 20 EC – 2 ml / litre of water or methyl demeton 25 EC – 2 ml / litre of water.

Cotton

In Virudhunagar and Theni districts the sucking pests like jassids and thrips were found crossing 50 per cent ETL and in Salem, Thirunelveli districts the population is found below ETL.

Hence the farmers are advised to monitor the sucking pests using yellow sticky traps. If needed spray NSKE 5 percent or Imidacloprid 200 SL at 100 / ml/ha or methyl demeton 25 EC 1200 ml/ha (use 1000 l spray fluid / ha).

Cotton boll worm incidence are noticed in Salem, Theni and Virudhunagar districts. Hence the farmers are advised to set up pheromone traps to monitor the adult moth activity and if needed spray NSKE 5 per cent (or) Phasalone 35 EC 2.0 l/ha (or) Traizophos 40 EC 2.0 l/ha.

Root rot incidence is noticed in Theni district hence farmers are advised to apply *Trichoderma viride* 2.5 kg/ha with 50kg of farmyard manure.

Sugarcane

In Thanjavur, Thiruvarur, Salem and Virudhunagar districts the borer pest complex were noticed below ETL. Hence continuous drought without rainfall favourable weather is expected in the coming months for the borer pest complex, farmers are advised to release the egg parasitoid *Trichogramma* from 4th month onwards at 15 days interval @ 1 CC/acre per release upto 6th months.

Groundnut

Leaf miner incidence are noticed in Ramanathapuram and Virudhunagar districts. Hence farmers are advised to monitor leaf miner adults, using light traps, if needed farmers can spray neem seed kernel extract at 5 per cent.

Tikka leaf spot incidence is prevalent in Ramanathapuram, Pudukkottai and Thiruvarur districts.

Hence farmers if need can spray Carbendazim 0.1 percent (or) Chlorothalonil 0.2 per cent.

Coconut

Farmers are advised to watch for the incidence of black headed caterpillar. If any incidence is noticed, release bracon and bethylid parasitoids for managing the pest.

Sucking pest management

In general dry weather is expected in all the districts of Tamil Nadu. Hence farmers are requested to be alert in monitoring sucking pests like white fly, mealy bug, jassids and thrips in various cropping systems.

Farmers can install yellow sticky trips @ 5 traps / acre and light trap @ one per field to monitor the movements of various sucking pests and if control measure is needed, they can spray NSKE 5 per cent or neem oil 3 per cent or triazophos 2ml / litre of water.

Papaya mealy bug:

Tapioca, Papaya and mulberry farmers are advised to watch for the incidence of papaya mealybug *P.marginatus*. If any incidence is noted, farmers are requested to release parasitoids for managing this pest.

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