

PEST FORECAST FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2016

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

Rice

In Thanjavur, Thiruvarur, Tirunelveli, Salem, Kanyakumari, Theni, Nagapattinam, Villupuram, Dharmapuri, Madurai, Cuddalore and Pudukottai districts, the leaf folder and stem borer incidence were noticed in rice growing tracts of Tamil Nadu. For managing the above insect pest, spray Neem seed kernel extracts 5 % (50 g / lit. of water) (or) carbosulfan 25 EC @ 400 ml/ac or flubendiamide 20% WG 50 g/ac.

To manage the thrips incidence in nursery, spray phosphamidon 40 SL @ 50 ml in 20 litres of water.

In the forthcoming rainy season, blast and false smut diseases in rice are expected. Hence, farmers are advised to monitor the rice crop for the above diseases. The blast symptoms will appear as spindle-shaped lesions with white to gray-green darker borders. Older lesions are whitish to gray with necrotic borders. Farmers are advised to delay application of nitrogenous fertilizer and spray tricyclazole 75 WP @ 200 g/ac or carbendazim 50WP @ 200 g/ac immediately after observing initial infection of the blast disease.

The farmers are advised to use the bioagents for the management of rice diseases. Bioagents can be applied as: seed treatment with TNAU Pf 1 liquid formulation @ 10 ml/kg of seeds, seedling root dipping with TNAU Pf 1 liquid formulation (500 ml for one hectare seedlings), soil application with TNAU Pf 1 liquid formulation (500 ml/ha) and foliar spray with TNAU Pf 1 liquid formulation @ 5ml/lit.

Cotton

Sucking pests like leaf hopper, aphid, whitefly and thrips in cotton were noticed in Coimbatore, Dharmapuri, Madurai, Perambalur and Tirunelveli districts, hence farmers are advised to setup the yellow sticky traps @ 5/ac to monitor the pest population. Apply acetamiprid 20 SP @ 40 g/ac or clothianidin 50 WDG @ 20 g/ac. for effectively managing the sucking pests.

To manage cotton bollworms, set up pheromone trap @ 5 Nos. / acre depending upon the type of bollworm. If needed, spray azadirachtin 0.03% EC @ 200 ml/ac or chlorantraniliprole 18.5 SC @ 60 ml/ac. or chlorpyrifos 20 EC @ 500 ml/ac.

Sugarcane

In Salem, Sivagangai, Theni, Thiruvannamalai, Pudukottai, Cuddalore and Villupuram districts, though the borer pest complex was found below ETL, however, farmers are advised to release the egg parasitoid *Trichogramma* @ 2.5 cc/ha for the management of internode borer.

Groundnut

In groundnut growing tracts viz., Erode, Salem, Sivagangai, Thiruvannamalai, Villupuram, Cuddalore, Pudukottai and Ramanathapuram districts, leaf miner incidence was sporadically recorded. Hence, the farmers are advised to monitor the insect using light traps. Failure to get normal rainfall would lead to crossing ETL when neem seed kernel extract @ 5% along with sticking agent @ 1 ml / lit is to be applied.

Besides, dry root rot was noticed sporadically. Hence, the farmers are advised to drench the soil with 1 ml/lit. carbendazim.

Maize

In Coimbatore, Tiruppur, Madurai, Perambalur, Pudukottai and Dharmapuri districts, sporadic incidence of stem borer was noticed. Farmers are advised to monitor the adult moths by setting up light traps and if required spray neem seed kernel extract 5% (50 g/lit.) along with sticking agent @ 1ml /lit. Application of dimeothoate @ 2 ml/lit or methyl dematon @ 2 ml/lit or quinolphos @ 2ml/lit is also recommended.

Tomato

In tomato early blight incidence is expected during the rainy season. Hence, the farmers are advised to spray mancozeb @ 2 g/ lit of water, twice at weekly interval. Thrips and whiteflies suck the sap and transmit viral diseases. Application of phosalone @ 1.5 ml/lit or dimethoate @ 2 ml/lit is recommended. Fruit borers could be managed with setting up pheromone traps, and applying Novaluron @ 0.7 ml/litre.

Bhendi

For the management of powdery mildew incidence in bhendi, dust sulphur 10 kg /ac or apply wettable sulphur 2 g/lit immediately after noticing the incidence and repeat 15 days interval. Whiteflies, leaf hoppers are expected could be managed with imidacloprid (1 ml / 5 lit.) or dimethoate (2 ml/lit).

Onion

In onion leaf blotch will occur during the rainy season. The farmers are advised to spray mancozeb 2g /l or copper oxychloride 2.5 g/l for managing the leaf blotch incidence. Thrips are the key pests which could be managed with dimethoate 0.7 ml /lit.

Turmeric

In Erode, Coimbatore and Tiruppur districts, turmeric leaf spot incidence was noticed. Hence, the farmers are advised to spray mancozeb @ 400 g/ ac, or propiconazole 200 ml/ac twice at weekly interval.

Coconut

Spiralling whitefly incidence is reported in Pollachi tract where drought spell prevails. Stray incidence of chrysopids and coccinellids also co-occur. Hence, the above natural enemies are expected to take care of the pest. If required, the same can be obtained from TNAU, Coimbatore and released.

Black headed caterpillar reported in Krishnagiri and Dharmapuri Districts was managed with released of *Bracon* parasitoids. In case of re occurrence of epidemics the same parasitoids can be used.

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