

PEST FORECAST FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 2018

Rice

The incidence of stem borer was prevalent in rice growing areas of Thanjavore, Thirunelveli, Trichirappalli districts. But the incidence was below threshold level in the field. Any one of the chemicals *viz.*, chlorpyrifos 20 EC 500 ml/ac or cartap hydrochloride 50 SP 400g/ac or chlorantraniliprole 18.5 SC 60 ml/ac can be used. Due to prevailing weather conditions and increased temperature leaf mite incidence is expected in summer rice crops. Hence, farmers are advised to monitor the damage of leaf mite and use the acaricide dicofol @200ml/acre.

Brown spot incidence may appear in the forthcoming months in rice throughout Tamil Nadu. To control brown spot disease it is recommended to spray with hexaconazole 4% zineb +68%WP @ 1000g/ha.

Pulses

Pod borer incidence was noticed in Dindigul district below ETL level. If the incidence of pod borer damage crosses ETL, chlorantraniliprole 60ml/acre is to be applied.

In redgram, blackgram and greengram, root rot is expected in all pulse growing districts. The farmers are advised to give spot drenching with carbendazim 1g/litre of water.

Groundnut

For the management of stem rot tebuconazole (ST) @ 1.5 g/kg + soil application of *P. fluorescens* @ 2.5kg enriched in 50 kg FYM/ha will be effective.

Cotton

Cotton leaf hopper occurrence was recorded below ETL in Dindigul district. If more damage is noticed spraying of Imidacloprid 17.8 SL @ 40ml/ac is to be applied. The incidence of pink boll worm was prevalent in the cotton growing tracks of Erode and Perambalur districts. Application of profenophos @ 800 ml/ac is recommended to manage the boll worm incidence.

Sugarcane

Sugarcane woolly aphid incidence is observed in Erode district of TamilNadu. For the management of the pest, the farmers are advised to conserve the naturally occurring predators like *Dipha aphidivora* and *Micromus* spp.

Mango hoppers

In Krishnagiri, Salem and Dharmapuri districts, mango growers are requested to watch for the movement of mango hoppers during this season. If needed, spray dimethoate 1.6 ml/lit. of water, first spray at the time of panicle emergence and the second at two weeks after the first spray.

Banana

In banana, sigatoka leaf spot is observed in Coimbatore, Erode, Trichy, Tirunelveli and Theni districts. The farmers are advised to spray carbendazim @ 0.1 % (1 gram in% one litre of water) or propiconazole @ 0.1 % (1 ml per litre of water) or mancozeb @ 0.2 (2 gram per litre of water along with teepol (1 ml/litre) 3 times at 10-15 days interval. Besides, Fusarium wilt is also expected during this season. Corm injection of 3 ml of 2 % carbendazim on 3, 5, and 7th month after planting. Drench infected plants with 0.1 % carbendazim (1 gram in one litre of water) at 2, 4th and 6th month after planting should be followed.

Papaya

Ring Spot Virus

Papaya ring spot virus is observed in all the papaya growing districts of TamilNadu. For the management of the disease, the farmers are advised to raise two rows of maize as border crop one month prior to planting, place yellow sticky traps (12 nos. /ha) swabbed with grease or castor oil to attract the aphids, spray neem oil 1% or acephate 1.5 g/lit or imidacloprid 0.075% (7 ml per 10 litres of water) up to 4 months of planting, spray boron 0.1%(1 gram per litre) and zinc sulphate 0.5 % (5 grams per litre) in 3rd and 7th month to sustain yield of infected plants.

Tomato

Incidence of fruit borer and pin worm was noticed in tomato. For the management of fruit borer and pin worm in tomato, set up pheromone traps @ 5/ha and release *Trichogramma chilonis* @ 20,000/ac/release, coinciding with flowering time. Based on ETL of 10% damage, spray azadirachtin 2.0 ml or indoxacarb 0.5 ml or flubendiamide 0.5g per one liter of water.

Early leaf blight disease is predominant in tomato growing areas. For the management of this disease, remove and destroy the infected crop debris. Spray the crop with chlorothalonil (2g/l) or mancozeb (2g/l) or copper hydroxide (2g/l) at fortnight intervals for effective disease control.

Onion

Purple blotch disease is predominant in onion growing areas. For the management of this disease, remove and destroy the infected crop debris. The field should be well drained. Three foliar sprayings with copper oxychloride 2.5g/l or chlorothalonil 2g/l or mancozeb 2g/l.

Sucking pests' management in horticultural crops

Due to dry weather leaf hoppers, thrips, whitefly, spiraling whitefly are anticipated. Hence, farmers are advised to monitor the sucking pests by installing yellow sticky traps @ 5 / acre and if need be neem seed kernel extract 5% (50 g/lit. of water) or fish oil rosin soap @ 25 gm/lit. of water is to be applied.

Incidence of papaya mealybug *Paracoccus marginatus* is anticipated in tapioca, papaya, mulberry and ornamental plants, which could be managed by releasing inoculative release of *Acerophagus papayae*.

Coconut-Rugose spiralling whitefly

Spiralling whitefly incidence is reported in Thanjavur, Coimbatore and Thiruppur districts hence farmers are advised to

- i. Conserving the natural enemies like *Encarsia* parasitoids, chrysopids and coccinellids in coconut ecosystem by avoiding insecticides.
- ii. Placing yellow sticky traps @ 10/ac smeared with castor oil/ horticultural mineral oil can be used for monitoring the population.
- iii. Spraying water forcibly on the under surface of the palms would have a significant impact in reducing the population build up of the target pest to certain extent.
- iv. If needed spraying with neem oil @ 3% (30 ml/lit.of water) or NSKE @ 5% (50g/lit.of water) would be helpful in minimising the population build up.
- v. Spraying with boiled maida paste @ 25 g/ lit. of water will remove flakes of sooty mould from the upper surface of the leaves.
- vi. Avoid use of synthetic insecticides

Root knot nematode in guava

In guava, root knot nematodes are widely prevalent in Tiruvannamalai, Dindigul and Madurai districts. The nematode infested plant shows yellowing and bronzing of leaves, stunting and patchy growth. Roots of such plants will reveal extensive galling and drying up due to rotting caused by fungus *Fusarium* sp. that are predisposed by nematodes. The farmers are advised to apply *Purpureocillium lilacinum* and *Pochonia chlamydosporia* in moistened farm yard manure @ 1kg of bioagent mixed in 100 kg of FYM / neem cake/ vermicompost, kept in shade for two to three weeks and incorporated @ 500 g per plant at every alternate month. In serve case apply 60g carbofuran followed by application of carbendazim 2g/ litre + phytalon (blue copper) 2g/ litre to be drenched (3 litres per plant) around the basin.

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