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**TAMIL NADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY
CENTRE FOR PLANT PROTECTION STUDIES**

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SPECIAL FORECAST FOR RICE FARMERS OF TAMILNADU

Blast

Due to the abnormal weather prevailing in the coastal districts as well as in other parts of rice growing area of Tamil Nadu, there is a possibility for the outbreak of rice blast and false smut diseases in paddy. Hence farmers are advised to monitor the rice crops for the above diseases. The blast symptoms 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 do delayed application of nitrogenous fertilizer and spray immediately after observing initial infection of the blast disease with carbendazim 50WP @500 g/ha or tricyclazole 75WP @ 500g/ha or metominostrobin 20 SC @ 500ml/ha or azoxystrobin 25 SC @ 500ml/ha.

False smut

The rice grains are replaced by a mass of velvety spores due to the false smut infection, which burst open between the glumes. The inside is white in the center and has tightly woven mycelium together with the glume tissues. To control this disease farmers are advised to take two spraying of propiconazole 25 EC @ 500ml/ha or copper hydroxide 77WP @ 1.25 kg/ha at boot leaf and 50% flowering stage.

This information is given by Director, Centre for Plant Protection Studies, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore-641003.