

**Agromet Advisory Bulletin for Thoothukudi district**

**(From 21<sup>st</sup> March to 25<sup>th</sup> March 2018)**

(Issued jointly by AAS Unit, Agricultural Research Station, Kovilpatti, Tamil Nadu  
Agricultural University & India Meteorological Department)

**Significant past weather data for the preceding week (16.03.2018 -19.03.2018)**

Rainfall (mm)	4.4
Maximum Temperature (°C)	30-31
Minimum Temperature (°C)	25-26
Cloud cover (Octa)	3-4
RH at 08:30 hrs (%)	74-78
RH at 17:30 hrs (%)	69-76
Wind speed (kmph)	14-19
Wind direction (deg)	110-200

**Weather forecast until 08:30 hrs of 25.03.2018**

Parameters	Ensemble forecast				
	Day 1 21.03.18	Day 2 22.03.18	Day 3 23.03.18	Day 4 24.03.18	Day 5 25.03.18
Rainfall (mm)	0	0	0	0	0
Max. Temperature (°C)	30	30	31	32	32
Min. Temperature (°C)	26	26	27	27	27
Cloud cover (Octa)	4	4	4	3	3
Relative humidity (%)	65-75	65-75	65-75	60-80	60-80
Wind (kmph) (dd)	14/E	14/E	14/E	10/E	10/SE

**E- East and SE- South East**

**Agromet advisories in relation to the anticipated weather having high wind speed, moderate cloud cover and moderate humidity.**

Crop/ Ecosystem	Stage / Activities	Advisories
Chilli	Flowering to fruiting stage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In order to conserve soil moisture dust mulch through manual hoeing and crop residue mulch in the inter-row space may be adopted.</li> <li>• Fruit Rot / Die Back incidence in chilli is noticed. To control the disease spray Copper oxychloride 0.25% or Zineb 0.15%.</li> <li>• Prevailing weather condition increases the cut worms (<i>Helicoverpa armigera</i>) incidence. To control spray Indoxacarb 14.5 % SC @ 6.5 ml/10 lit.</li> </ul>

General	Wind speed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prevailing high wind speed may damage the tall plantation. Farmers are advised to do propping for Banana.</li> <li>• For irrigated crops, wind speed will increase evaporation loss. Hence, regular interval of irrigation may be given to avoid heat stress.</li> </ul>
	Temperature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crops <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Farmers are advised to go for mulching to preserve the soil moisture for the crop growth.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Animal Husbandry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Air cooling using evaporative coolers designed to reduce ambient temperatures in livestock shelters can be quite effective.</li> <li>➤ Vaccine for foot and mouth disease to the cattle is advised as prophylactic measure by utilizing the facility from nearby veterinary hospital.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Ploughing	Summer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summer ploughing is advised to improve the infiltration rate of soil as well as to control the weed growth by utilizing the unexpected rainfall during summer months.</li> </ul>
Banana	Bunch development stage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use transparent polyethylene sleeves with 4% ventilation to cover the bunch immediately after opening of last hand to blemish free fruits with uniform size and quality.</li> </ul>
Rice	Panicle initiation stage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prevailing weather condition is favorable for Bacterial leaf blight incidence. Farmers are advised to spray copper hydroxide 77 WP @1.25 kg/ha.</li> <li>• Prevailing weather condition is favourable for leaf folder incidence. Farmers are advised to spray any one of the following insecticides, Phosalon 35 EC 1500 ml / ha or Phosphamidon 40 SL 1250 ml/ ha.</li> </ul>
	Harvest technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The right stage for harvesting is when about 80% panicles have 80 % ripened spike lets and their upper portion is straw colored. The grain contains about 20% of moisture.</li> </ul>

SMS: Rain: Nil. Banana - Use transparent polyethylene sleeves with 4% ventilation to cover the bunch immediately after opening of last hand for blemish free fruits.

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