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To
The Editor,

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Sir,

I request that the following matter may kindly be published in your esteemed daily:

Pest and Disease Forecasting for the month of March 2014

Rice

In Coimbatore, Erode, Salem, Thanjavur, Tirunelveli, Ramanathapuram and Villupuram districts leaf folder and stem borer incidence were noticed in paddy. Hence farmers are advised to spray Neem seed Kernel extract (NSKE) 5 per cent and set up light trap to monitor the movements of adults.

Bacterial leaf blight incidence was noticed in paddy in Tirunelveli and to manage this problem, farmers are advised to spray copper hydroxide 2.5 g / litre of water.

Blackgram

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

Cotton

In Dharmapuri, Salem, Theni and Tirunelveli districts farmers are advised to set up yellow sticky trap to monitor the population of jassids and thrips and if needed they can spray Neem seed Kernel extract 5 per cent.

Sugarcane

In Cuddalore, Tindivanam, Erode and Theni districts, borer pests were noticed. Hence farmers are advised to release egg parasitoids, *Trichogramma* from 4th month onwards @1 CC/release at 15 days interval. Six releases, are to be made.

Groundnut

In Coimbatore, Erode, Salem, Ramanathapuram and Thiruvarur districts leaf miner incidence was noticed in groundnut. Hence farmers are advised to monitor the adult insects using light traps. If normal rain is not received during this month, then there is a possibility for outbreak of the pest. To manage this pest farmers can spray NSKE 5 per cent.

Rust and Tikka leaf spot diseases are noticed in the above groundnut growing areas. Hence to control these disease farmers are advised to spray hexaconazole 1 ml / lit. or mancozeb 2 g/lit.

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.

This is for the favor of kind information. Necessary control measures may please to be adopted.

Public Relations Officer