

PEST FORECAST FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2017

Rice

Leaf folder and stem borer incidence are observed in rice. Hence farmers are advised to set up light traps and if needed they can spray neem seed kernel extract 5% or chlorpyrifos 20 EC 1250 ml/ha or flubendiamide 20 WG 250 g/ha.

The blast symptoms will appear as spindle-shaped lesions with white to gray-green borders. Farmers are advised to delay application of nitrogenous fertilizer and spray tricyclazole 75 WP @ 500 g/ha or carbendazim 50 WP @ 500 g/ha 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.

Tomato

In tomato early blight, late blight and peanut bud necrosis virus incidence is expected during the season. The farmers are advised to spray mancozeb @ 2 g/lit of water, twice at weekly interval for the management of leaf spot. For the management of virus diseases, the farmers are advised to spray dimethoate 30 EC @ 1 ml/l or methyl demeton 25 EC @ 1 ml/l along with neem oil @ 2 ml/l of water.

Bhendi

For the management of powdery mildew in bhendi, dust sulphur @ 25 kg/ha or apply wettable sulphur @ 2 g/lit immediately after noticing the incidence and repeat 15 days interval.

Chillies

In chillies, powdery mildew is noticed during this season. For the management, spray wettable sulphur 80 % WP @ 2.5 kg/ha or hexaconazole @ 60 g/ha.

Onion

In onion, leaf blotch and basal rot is expected. The farmers are advised to spray mancozeb @ 2 g/l or copper oxychloride @ 2.5 g/l for managing the leaf blotch incidence. For the management of basal rot, seed or bulb treatment with *Trichoderma viride* @ 4g/kg and basal application of *T. viride* @ 2.5 kg/ha should be followed.

Pulses

In Blackgram and greengram, powdery mildew is expected. Spray propiconazole @ 1 ml/l or wettable sulphur @ 2.5 g/l twice at 15 days interval. In redgram, root rot and yellow mosaic is expected. The farmers are advised to drench carbendazim @ 0.1 % and spray dimethoate 30 EC or methyl demeton 25 EC @ 2 ml/l along with neem oil @ 2 ml/l of water.

Sesame

In sesame, powdery mildew and leaf spot is expected. Apply sulphur dust @ 25 kg/ha or wettable sulphur @ 2 g/l to manage powdery mildew and spray mancozeb @ 2 g/ lit of water, twice at weekly interval to manage leaf spot.

Groundnut

The incidence of aphids was observed on groundnut at Sivaranthagam, Pudupattu villages of Villupram district. The presence of coccinellid beetles were also observed.

Anyone of the following insecticides should be applied on need basis.

- Chlorpyrifos 20%EC 1000 ml/ha
- Imidacloprid 17.8% SL 100-125 ml/ha
- Methyl demeton 25% EC 1000 ml/ha

In groundnut, rust and late leaf spot is expected. The farmers are advised to spray carbendazim + mancozeb @ 1 kg/ha or chlorothalonil @ 1 kg/ha to manage rust and leaf spot.

Turmeric

In Erode, Coimbatore and Tiruppur districts, turmeric leaf spot incidence was noticed. Hence, the farmers are advised to spray mancozeb @ 1 kg/ha or propiconazole @ 500 ml/ha twice at weekly interval.

Cotton

Cotton crops are harvesting stage and the pink bollworm infestation may continue through stubbles remained in the field. After harvested the field may be ploughed or cut the stems and burnt immediately even Bt cotton. If it is observe in the field need based application of profenophos 50% EC @ 600 ml/ac. or triazophos 40 EC 1000 ml/ac or quinalphos 25 EC @ 800 ml/ac or thiodicarb 75% W.P. @ 400 g/ac. Hence the farmers are advised to set up pheromone traps to monitor the adult activity.

Sugarcane

Inter node borer(INB) and top shoot borer(TSB) damages were noticed in Thirukandeeswaram, Melkavarapattu, Palur and Sitarasur areas in Cuddalore district.. The following management practices are suggested to reduce the damage.

The farmers have to monitor the moths of inter node borer and top shoot borer in the crops at grand growth phase by installing sex pheromone trap @ 20/ha.

Release of egg parasitoids, *Trichogramma chilonis* @ 2.5 CC/ha and *Trichogramma japonicum* @ 2.5 CC/ha at fortnightly intervals so as to reduce the damage of INB and TSB respectively. Water logging should be avoided in the fields. Detrashing should be done for the crops at grand growth phases at 5th and 7th month after planting. Propping should be done to avoid the incidence of borer complex.

The incidence of whitefly were noticed in Cuddalore, Melkavarapattu and Palur villages of Cuddalore district.

The following management practices are suggested to reduce the damage.

1. Water logging should be avoided in the fields.
2. Detrashing should be done for the crops at grand growth phases at 5th and 7th month after planting.
3. Judicious application of nitrogenous fertilizers.

Sett treatment for early season planting.

Planting of sugarcane with setts for the early season should have to be completed by the farmers during February 2017.

The following practices should be adopted to prevent the incidence of pests and diseases.

1. Selection of healthy seed canes of six to seven months old.
2. Seed canes infested with pests viz., internode borer, mealy bugs, scales, whiteflies, termites and diseases like red rot, smut should be avoided.
3. The setts should be soaked in 100 litres of water dissolved with 50g carbendazim, 200 ml malathion and 1 kg urea for 15 minutes.

Banana

In banana, sigatoka leaf spot is expected during the rainy season. The farmers are advised to spray carbendazim @ 0.1 % or propiconazole @ 0.1 % or mancozeb @ 0.25 % along with teepol 3 times at 10-15 days interval. Besides, fusarium wilt is also expected during this season. Dip the suckers in 0.1 % carbendazim (1g/lit) for 30 min or *pseudomonas fluorescens* 10g/sucker at the time of planting. Corm injection of 3 ml of 2 % carbendazim on 3, 5, and 7th month after planting. Drench infected plants with 0.1 % carbendazim at 2, 4th and 6th month after planting.

Mango

In mango, anthracnose is expected during the season. Spray carbendazim 0.1% or mancozeb @ 0.2% at flowering stage and at fruiting stage twice at 15 days interval.

Papaya

Papaya ring spot virus is expected. 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% up to 4 months of planting, spray boron 0.1% and zinc sulphate 0.5 % in 3rd and 7th month to sustain yield of infected plants.

Coconut

Severity of spiralling whitefly incidence is getting declined. 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.

In coconut, leaf blight is expected, for which farmers are advised to spray bordeaux mixture @ 1% or copper oxychloride @ 0.25 % or mancozeb @ 0.2 % (2 times at 45 days interval), root feeding of carbendazim 2 g or hexaconazole 2 ml + 100 ml water (3 times at 3 months interval) along with application of an additional quantity of 2 kg of MOP.

Cashew

Tea mosquito bug incidence was observed in Cuddalore district. Hence, farmers are advised to spray profenophos (0.05%) (or) chlorpyriphos (0.05%) at flowering stage.

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