

PEST FORECAST FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST' 2018

Rice

Stem borer and whorl maggot incidence was prevalent in rice growing areas of Thanjavur, Coimbatore and Kanyakumari district in young crop at tillering stage. Chlorantraniliprole 18.5 SC @ 60ml/ac and cartap hydrochloride 50SP 400g/ac respectively can be used for the management these insects. Leaf mite incidence is noticed in Thanjavur district and it can be managed by timely application of acaricide, dicofol 200ml/ac. During this month, brown spot incidence may appear in the nursery and transplanted crops. For the control of brown leaf spot disease, mancozeb @ 2.0g/lit is recommended.

Millet

In maize leaf blight incidence may appear during the period. Farmers are advised to spray mancozeb or zineb @ 2g/lit to control this disease.

Pulses

Seed treatment of black gram and green gram with dimethoate 30 EC @ 5ml/kg is recommended for the management of stem fly. In Thiruvapur district aphid and yellow mosaic virus disease have been recorded in black gram. Whitefly acts as vector for yellow mosaic virus disease. Imidacloprid 18.5 SL @ 100ml/ac can be sprayed to manage aphid and whitefly.

Groundnut

Pod borer is prevalent in ground nut fields at Dindigul district. Malathion 5 % dust formulation can be applied @ 10 kg/ac for managing the pod borer. Leaf spot incidence is seen in Tirupur district. To control this foliar disease, farmers are advised to spray carbendazim @2g/lit or hexaconazol @ 2ml/lit.

Cotton

Seed treatment with Imidacloprid 600 FS @ 10ml/kg of seed can be done to manage sucking pests like aphids, leafhopper and whitefly during this sowing season.

Insect pests in horticultural crops

Sucking pest like whitefly, mealy bug, thrips and spiraling whitefly are expected in horticultural crops viz., guava, tomato, brinjal and bhendi. Hence, farmers are advised to monitor the sucking pests by installing yellow sticky traps @ 5 / acre and if needed spray NSKE 5% (50 g/lit. of water) or fish oil rosin soap @ 25 g/lit.of water.

Coconut

Rugose spiraling whitefly incidence continues in various coconut growing areas of Tamil Nadu. Wherever, the natural enemies are used the population was reduced. Hence farmers are advised to,

- i. Conserve the natural enemies like *Encarsia* parasitoids, chrysopids and coccinellids in coconut ecosystem by avoiding insecticides. The parasitoid *Encarsia* is found effective in controlling these insects at Aliyar Nagar areas. The parasitoid *Encarsia* is available at Coconut Research Station, Aliyar Nagar. Chrysopids can be obtained from the Department of Agricultural Entomology, TNAU, Coimbatore.
- 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 leaves 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) can be done to minimise the population build up.
- v. As far as possible insecticides can be avoided.

Eriophyid mite incidence has been recorded widely in Pollachi block. Profenophos or triazophos @ 5 ml/lit can be sprayed on the buttons or nuts for the management of eriophyid mite.

In Coimbatore and Tirupur districts bud rot, leaf spot and basal stem rot incidence have been observed. Root feeding of carbendazim @ 2 g or hexaconazole @ 2 ml + 100 ml water (3 times at 3 months interval) is recommended to control bud rot and leaf spot diseases. Application of 200g *Pseudomonas fluorescens* along with 50 kg of FYM + 5 kg of neemcake/ palm/ year is also recommended to control bud rot and leaf spot diseases. For managing the basal stem rot the following management strategies are to be taken up.

- ✓ Removal and destruction of the severely affected dead palms
- ✓ Basin irrigation should be done for each palm separately to avoid spreading of pathogen to the healthy palms.
- ✓ Soil drenching with 1 per cent Bordeaux mixture @ 40 litres/ palm
- ✓ Application of FYM @ 50 kg and Neem cake @ 5 kg per palm per year

- ✓ Application of *Trichoderma viride* @ 200 g along with 10 kg of farm yard manure per palm once in 6 months interval for one year.
- ✓ Root feeding of hexaconazole @ 2ml in 100 ml of water thrice at 3 months interval

Nematode management

Tuberose

In tuberose, root knot nematodes infestation is expected in Coimbatore, Erode, Krishnagiri, Dindigul and Madurai districts, which would cause a yield loss of 10-15 per cent. The nematode infested field shows day wilting symptoms and also galls in the root tips. The farmers are advised to give bulb treatment with carbosulfan 25 ST @ 2ml/lit and apply neem cake @ 150kg/ac during planting and also to apply *Purpureocillium lilacinum* @ 1kg/ac mixed with 40 kg FYM at 15 days after planting.

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