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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:

Management techniques for organically grown submerged paddy in Cauvery Delta Zone

In the Cauvery Delta Zone, heavy rains occur during mid September to November. These heavy rains lead to stagnation of water in the paddy fields. Usually the farmers drain the water that is mixed with soil which leads to removal of micro and macronutrients from the soil. This type of practice leads to deficiency of Sulphur and Zinc in the soil finally affecting the growth of paddy crop. This problem extends up to winter season. The impact of the deficiency is seen more in organically grown paddy crop. The Tamil Nadu Agricultural University has recommended a management practice to overcome this problem.

Management technology

Inputs required:

- White albumin of Ten numbers of country bred / chick eggs
- Small onion – 1 kg

Peeled small onion is soaked in water the previous day evening. The next day morning, the soaked onions are smashed by wooden mallet and transferred to a thin gunny bag. The two corners of the bag have to be held tightly and squeezed to extract the juice. The juice collected is then transferred to a vessel. The white albumin of the eggs is taken in a separate container. Both these are then taken to the affected field of application. About 50 ml extract is prepared taking both in equal ratios in a hand sprayer of 10 – 12 litre capacity and make up the volume with water. This mixture is then sprayed to the crop. A spray volume of 120 litres is recommended for one acre of the affected crop. The spray can be repeated after a week's time.

The spray mixture consists of growth promoting substances and has antifungal property. If any symptoms of diseases are observed, addition of *Pseudomonas* @ 5 ml per litre to the above extract is suggested. Scientifically the above extract contains 13 % of protein and Sulphur in the form of methionine and cystein in form of amino acids. Presence of onion in the extract contains

allyl sulphides in the form of myrosinase enzyme may address the problem of S deficiency. Since all proteins contain Nitrogen, presence of white albumin in the extract might contribute for the growth of the rice crop.

Practicing of the above technique retrieved paddy crop affected due to submergence as witnessed by the veteran organic paddy grower, Thiru G.Sithar, Thanjavur, who is practicing organic paddy cultivation for more than 15 years.

Application of 3% neem oil as foliar spray or 5% of neem seed extract for any disease infestation and broadcasting 250 kg of vermicompost along with 80 kg of powdered neem seed kernel for nutrient management is suggested.

For further details contact:

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