

Central Institute for Cotton Research, Nagpur

Twenty-Fifth Weekly Advisory for Cotton Cultivation 17th November to 23rd November 2013

"The advisory is based on inputs received from the State Agricultural Universities of the respective states"

Weed management: Wherever weeds have emerged, weedicides would provide effective and timely control. Weedicides are effective against younger (less than 10-15 days old) weeds, especially grasses. For grassy weeds, Quizalofop ethyl, Fenoxaprop ethyl, fluazifop butyl, can be used. For sedges and grasses, Propanil is effective and Pyriproxyfen sodium is effective on broad leaf weeds. Farmers may consult the technical experts of the Agricultural Universities for further details.

Water logging: Cotton is very sensitive to excess water. In many parts of Central and South India, water logging can be problematic due to excess rains. Cotton grown on deep black soils and ill drained conditions is worst affected due to water logging. Provide adequate drainage channels or water ways (particularly in heavy soils) along the slope of the land for draining excess water under heavy rainfall situations. For better soil moisture conservation, preferably in areas where rainfall is 700-900mm, the land can be reshaped into ridges and furrows with the help of a ridge plough or a bund former. This technique and sowing cotton on ridges would conserve rainwater and the furrows acts drainage channels whenever heavy rains are received particularly in heavy clays.

Drainage channels must be opened up along the field borders so that excess water is removed from the fields. If sowing hasn't yet been completed, it is strongly recommended that to take up sowing immediately on ridges and furrows by planting on top of ridges. Heavy rains will not affect the crop because the furrows will drain away excess water. Apply fertilizers if the crop becomes pale due to water logging. If heavy rains are forecast, fertilizer application may be postponed so as to prevent losses due to surface run-off.

Foliar spray with 0.5 to 1.0% DAP or 19:19:19 (soluble complex of Nitrogen) at weekly intervals will help the plants to recover from the effect of water logging.

Net Cotton Area sown as on 13-11-2013

State	Lakh hectares
Punjab	5.05
Haryana	5.57
Rajasthan	3.03
Uttar Pradesh	0.23
Gujarat	26.91
Madhya Pradesh	6.21
Maharashtra	38.72
Odisha	1.34
Andhra Pradesh	21.42
Karnataka	5.87
Tamil Nadu	1.24
Others	0.10
TOTAL	115.69

Source: Director, DOCD, Mumbai

Weather forecast for 18th Nov to 21st Nov 2013

Zones/ Weather parameter	Temperature (Min, Max)				Rainfall			
	18/11	19/11	20/11	21/11	18/11	19/11	20/11	21/11
Punjab	10,26	9,26	7,26	8,26	Mainly clear sky		Partly cloudy sky	
Haryana	10,28	11,28	10,27	11,27	Clear sky	Mainly clear sky		Partly cloudy sky
Rajasthan	9,27	8,26	8,26	7,25	Clear sky			
U.P.	7,26	7,26	8,26	8,26	Mist			
Gujarat	18,32	18,32	18,32	18,32	Clear sky			
Maharashtra	13,28	12,28	12,28	13,28	Partly cloudy sky		clear sky	
Madhya Pradesh	11,27	11,27	12,27	12,27	Clear sky			
Odisha	17,30	17,30	16,29	16,29	Mainly clear sky			
Andhra Pradesh	21,30	21,30	20,31	19,30	Partly cloudy sky with possibility of rain or thunderstorm		Mainly cloudy sky	
Karnataka	18,30	17,30	17,30	16,30	Haze			
Tamil Nadu	22,28	22,28	22,28	22,28	Generally cloudy sky with possibility of rain or thunderstorm		Light rain	Partly cloudy sky

Source: www.imd.gov.in

STRATEGIES FOR MANAGEMENT OF PESTS, DISEASES & WEEDS

INSECT PEST MANAGEMENT

General recommendations

DOs

1. Select sucking pest resistant varieties/hybrids. Sucking pest resistant Bt hybrids may require very few insecticide interventions.
2. Inter-crop with cowpea or sorghum or soybean or blackgram to encourage predators of sucking pests.
3. Seed treatment with Imidacloprid @7gms/Kg of seed.
4. Use nitrogenous fertilizers to the minimum especially for sucking pest susceptible varieties.
5. Maintain field sanitation (weed free) and remove and destroy mealy bug infested plants &.
6. **Stem application or soil application** (near the root zone) of Imidacloprid, Dimethoate or Acephate at 30-40 DAS and 50-60 DAS for effective eco-friendly control of thrips, mirid bugs, mealy bugs and other sucking pests.

DON'Ts

7. **If possible avoid chemical insecticides during the first two months of the crop** to conserve naturally occurring biological control. Ladybird grubs and beetles, *Chrysoperla* grubs and adults, Syrphid flies, *Geocoris* grubs and bugs, *Aenasius* spp., *Aphelinus* grubs and wasps, mirid bugs and Spiders are the most important naturally occurring predators and parasitoids that effectively control aphids, jassids, thrips, mirids, whiteflies and mealybugs.

8. **Do not spray against minor lepidopteran insects** such as the cotton leaf folder, *Sylepta derogata* and cotton semilooper, *Anomis flava*. The larvae cause negligible damage to cotton but serve as hosts for parasitoids such as *Trichogramma* spp., *Apanteles* spp and *Sysiroa formosa*, that attack *H. armigera* and other bollworms.
9. **Do not spray Bt-formulations on Bt cotton** to avoid further selection pressure.
10. **Avoid foliar application of neonicotinoid insecticides** such as Acetamiprid, Imidacloprid, Clothianidin and Thiomethoxam which are likely to aggravate insect resistance, since hybrid cotton seeds are treated with imidacloprid.
11. **Do not use WHO Class-I (Extremely Harzardous category) insecticides** such as Phosphamidon, Methyl parathion, Phorate, Monocrotophos, Dichlorvos, Carbofuran, Methomyl, Triazophos and Metasystox.

SUCKING PEST MANAGEMENT

Economic Threshold Level (ETL): If whitefly and/or leafhopper damage reaches economic threshold levels of grade-II damage of curling and crinkling of lower leaves and yellowing of margins in 25% plants or more, any one of the following pest control measures as suggested below can be used.

- a. Neem oil 1.0% + Neem Seed Kernel Extract 5.0% + 0.05-0.1% detergent
- b. *Verticillium lecanii* 10gms/lit of water, wherever good formulations are available from reliable manufacturers
- c. Diafenthiuron (50WP 800g /ha),
- d. Flonicamid 50 WG 200g a.i/ha or
- e. Buprofezin 25% SC 200 g a.i/ha.

Insecticides such as Fipronil or Dimethoate or Acephate or Ethion can also be used but may be considered as alternatives only, in view of factors that relate to ecological and environmental safety, efficacy and resistance.

If mirid bugs are observed to cause economic damage to squares, it is advised to spray Acephate 75 SP @ 1 g/lit or Fipronil 5 SC @ 1.0 ml/lit of water

BOLLWORM MANAGEMENT

Bt cotton is effective in controlling bollworms.

The following strategies are being recommended for non-Bt cotton

At Economic Threshold Levels (ETLs) of 50% infested plants (plants having flared squares with entry hole) for *Helicoverpa armigera*.

1. **Use HaNPV on Bt-cotton** followed by the application of **5% NSKE** a week later. **Or, use Phosalone** at 50% bollworm infested plants (plants having flared squares with entry hole) or for the management of *Spodoptera* or whitefly.
2. **Trichogramma**, if available, can be used on non-Bt genotypes at 70-80 DAS. Avoid *Trichogramma* egg parasitoid releases on Bt-cotton since maximum neonates get killed on Bt-cotton and with *Trichogramma* application becoming superfluous.
3. **Insecticides effective on Bollworms**, especially *Helicoverpa armigera*.
 - a. Chlorantraniliprole (Coragen),

- b. Flubendiamide (Fame),
- c. Spinosad,
- d. Emamectin benzoate and
- e. Indoxacarb

These insecticides have a high selective toxicity towards the target pests while being less toxic to many beneficial insects in the cotton ecosystem. These insecticides are ideally suited in eco-sustainable insecticide resistance management programmes.

4. **Pink bollworm and Spotted bollworms:** ETL level of one live larva in 10 green bolls or 8 moths per night for three consecutive nights. Spray Quinalphos 25 EC Profenophos 50 EC @ 2 ml/lit of water / Spray of Thiodicarb 75 WP @ 20 g or any pyrethroid.
5. ***Spodoptera litura*:** Collection of egg masses or application of S/NPV (*Spodoptera litura* Nuclear Polyhedrosis Virus) @ 500 LE/ha or Spray 200 ml Rimon 10 EC or 250g Larvin 75WP in 250 litres of water per acre
6. To minimize **shoot weevil** damage, spray Profenofos @ 2 ml/lit
7. In case of snail incidence in heavy rainfall areas, baiting with 2% Metaldehyde (Snail kill) @ 12.5 kg/ha has to be taken up and it is to be applied at the hideouts of the snails, on the bunds and to the soil around the crop where the damage is seen

DISEASE MANAGEMENT

Parawilt or Sudden drying (New wilt) or Wilt / Root rot: Symptoms are noticed in some fields after drought followed by rains or irrigation.

Spray cobalt chloride @10mg/litre (10ppm) on affected plants within few hours of onset of symptoms and/or Drench plants with a mixture of Copper-Oxy-Chloride 25g and 200g Urea in 10 ltr of water or Carbendazim 1g/L.

Boll Rot: Generally early formed lower bolls rot due to cloudy and drizzling conditions.

Spray Mancozeb 75 WP + Chlorothalonil 70 WP each @ 2 g/lit of water. For better results, mix 10g Selvet 99 or 50 ml Triton in 100 litres of fungicide solution.

Alternaria blight: spray Mancozeb@2.5 g per one litre of water.

Myrothecium leaf spot disease and/or Bacterial blight: Spray Streptomycin sulphate (15-20 g/ha) plus Copper oxychloride (1500-2000 g/ha) in 200-250 L of water.

WEED MANAGEMENT

Herbicides are most effective on younger weeds.

Post emergence herbicides (application rate 50 to 75 g ai /ha)

Grasses: Spray Quizalofop-ethyl or Fenoxaprop ethyl or Fluazifop butyl,

Sedges and grasses: Spray Propaquizafop ethyl

Broadleaf weeds: Spray Pyrithiobac sodium

GENERAL CROP HEALTH MANAGEMENT

- **Optimize nutrient management** for macro and micronutrients. Foliar spray of MgSO₄, 2% Urea followed by 2% DAP, to ensure proper Cry1Ac expression and also to reduce problems of leaf reddening. Sprays of 1% cobalt chloride and soil drenching with Bavistin 1 % in the initial stage of wilt was found to help in the recovery of plants.

- **Prevention of Leaf Reddening:** Spray 2 % urea, 0.5% Zinc Sulphate and 0.2 % Boron, twice at 15 days interval on 90 days old crop.
- **Retention of squares and flowers:** Spray Planofix 4.5 SL (NAA) hormone @ 21 ppm (7 ml per 15 litres of water).

COTTON CROP SITUATION

Based on inputs received from the State Agricultural Universities of the respective States

NORTH INDIA

Haryana: During preceding week, dry weather was observed. Cotton crop is in last picking stage. Start the picking of cotton crop when the dew is dried up. Dry the kapas before storage to avoid micro-organism damage.

Rajasthan: At Banswara, farmers are advised to vacate their field and apply pre-sowing irrigation. Farmers are also advised to go for sowing rabi, maize and wheat.

CENTRAL INDIA

Gujarat: The present growth of the crop is in square and flowering stage. Initial crop condition was very good but later growth was adversely affected due to submerged condition and continued rainfall. The incidence of jassids was above ETL and thrips below ETL. whereas aphid, white fly, mired bug, mealybug and mite were very low throughout the week.

Odisha: The cotton crop is at boll development to maturity stage.(139-149 days). Picking must be done on sunny days after the dew has dried from the seed cotton. Use cotton bags instead of polythene or gunny bags for picking. Dry the seed cotton on cement concrete floors or tarpaulin sheets to reduce moisture below 10%. Keep the first picked cotton separately. After harvesting, spray 2% DAP for development of the upper bolls. To check the incidence of sucking pests like aphids, jassids, thrips and whitefly spray recommended insecticides. Regular monitoring should be done for incidence of Spodoptera and leaf folders. To know the incidence of boll worms, fix pheromone traps.

SOUTH INDIA

Andhra Pradesh: The cotton crop is 100 to 140 days old and is in flowering, boll development to boll bursting and first to second picking stage. Foliar application of 2% Urea or 2% DAP or 1 to 2% KNO₃ along with 1% MgSO₄ at 2 to 3 times at weekly interval to mitigate the excess moisture stress conditions. Prophylactic sprays of fungicides should be done at weekly intervals. As curative sprays, Propiconazole @ 0.1% (1 ml/lit) or Hexaconazole @ 0.2% (2 ml/ lit) for the control of leaf spots is recommended. Wherever the crop height exceeded more than 5 ft, detopping is recommended for regulating the vegetative growth in healthy crop. For the control of leaf hoppers and whitefly appropriate management strategies should be adopted.

Karnataka: Night temperature is decreasing day by day with moderate cold weather. Hence, it is advised to continue the foliar application of 19:19:19 (1%) or DAP (2 %) with 1% MgSO₄ to reduce leaf reddening in Bt and Non Bt hybrids. Gall midge and mirid bug incidence is increasing in Bt, Non Bt hybrids and other cotton varieties also. Spray the crop with recommended insecticides. The pesticide spray may be combined with foliar nutrient application. In desi and non Bt cotton to manage *Heliothis* attack and the grey mildew disease the crop has to be sprayed with quinolphos @ 2.5ml/lit along with

Carbendazim 50 WP @ 1g/lit of water for effective control. First picked kapas has to be sold separately to get higher selling price in the market. Light irrigation has to be given after each picking wherever irrigation facilities are available.

Crop sown during the month of May and June is at peak boll opening stage. Advised to pick the kapas on rainfree days and dry properly in sunlight. The kapas has to be sent to the market pickingwise separately to get higher price. Light irrigation is to be given after kapas picking wherever the irrigation facilities are available. It is advised to spray the crop & developing bolls with Mancozeb 75 WP + Chlorothalonil 70 WP each @ 2 g/lit of water to control rotting of lower bolls in the plant wherever the crop is at peak boll formation and development stage. Along with these sprays it is advised to tank mix 1% of 19:19:19 water soluble fertiliser with 1% MgSO₄ and to the crop which is at peak boll formation stage to reduce leaf reddening. In the earliest crop sown during the month of May under irrigation, the kapas picking is almost completed. It is suggested remove the cotton stalks and to be used for compost making instead of burning or using as fuel. After removing the cotton stalks it advised to take up sowing of rabi crops like *Chickpea* or *wheat* immediately as second crop instead of keeping the land fallow till next *kharif* season.

Tamil Nadu: The rainfed and winter irrigated cotton crop in southern parts of Tamil Nadu (Parts of Tirunelveli, Virudhunagar, Ramanathapuram and Madurai District) is in vegetative stage in many parts and square formation stage in some areas. The weather prevailed during the reporting period was moderately cool with drizzles of rain. Sucking pests like aphids, thrips, whiteflies and leaf hoppers incidence were noticed in some areas for which need based plant protection measures may be followed depending on the economic threshold level (ETL). Infestation of *Spodoptera litura* and *S. exigua* were also recorded. Spraying of Chlorpyrifos 20 EC @ 2.0 lit per ha during early morning or in the evening is recommended. Early infestation of spotted bollworm and American bollworm were also noticed. Monitoring of bollworm shall be done using pheromone traps.

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