

## Central Institute for Cotton Research, Nagpur

### Twenty-Fourth Weekly Advisory for Cotton Cultivation 10<sup>th</sup> November to 16<sup>th</sup> 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, Propaquizafop ethyl is effective and Pyriithiobac 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
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>115.69</b>

Source: Director, DOCD, Mumbai

Weather forecast for 12<sup>th</sup> Nov to 15<sup>th</sup> Nov 2013

Zones/ Weather parameter	Temperature ( Min, Max)				Rainfall			
	12/11	13/11	14/11	15/11	12/11	13/11	14/11	15/11
Punjab	10,26	10,25	9,25	9,25	Mainly clear sky	Partly cloudy sky		
Haryana	10,27	9,27	10,27	10,26	Mainly clear sky		Partly cloudy sky	
Rajasthan	11,28	11,29	10,29	10,29	Clear sky			
U.P.	11,27	11,26	11,26	12,26	Fog			
Gujarat	20,33	19,32	19,32	18,32	Mainly clear sky			
Maharashtra	17,30	16,30	16,29	15,29	Clear sky			
Madhya Pradesh	13,28	13,28	13,28	13,28	Clear sky			
Odisha	16,30	16,30	17,29	17,29	Mainly clear sky			
Andhra Pradesh	19,31	19,31	19,32	19,32	Haze		Mist	
Karnataka	16,30	15,29	15,29	15,29	Haze			
Tamil Nadu	23,31	23,31	23,30	22,31	Light rain			

Source: www.imd.gov.in

## STRATEGIES FOR MANAGEMENT OF PESTS, DISEASES &amp; 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 *Sysiropa 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 Hazardous 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 Pyriithiobac sodium

## GENERAL CROP HEALTH MANAGEMENT

- **Optimize nutrient management** for macro and micronutrients. Foliar spray of MgSO<sub>4</sub>, 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

Cotton crop is in end of picking stage. In general, the crop is healthy. Avoid picking of moist cotton during cloudy and rainy weather. Start the picking of cotton crop when the dew is dried up. Dry the kapas before storage to avoid micro-organism damage. Farmers are advised to monitor their crop regularly.

### CENTRAL INDIA

**Odisha:** The cotton crop is at boll development to maturity stage (132-142 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 the recommended dosage. Regular monitoring should be done for incidence of Spodoptera and leaf folders. To control grey mildew, spray recommended fungicides.

### SOUTH INDIA

**Karnataka:** The overall situation in this part of the State is good with incidence of sucking pest in some areas and which is under control.

**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 and square formation stage. The weather prevailed during the reporting period was moderately cool. Lesser quantity of North East Monsoon rainfall was received in some parts. 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 recommended dosage of insecticide during early morning or in the evening is advised. Early infestation of spotted bollworm and American bollworm were noticed. Monitoring of bollworm shall be done using pheromone traps.

### COTTON WEEKLY ADVISORY TEAM: 2013

Weekly Advisory Report Coordinating Team			
Scientists		Address	
Dr K R Kranthi		Director, CICR, Nagpur	
Dr A H Prakash		PC and Head, CICR, Regional station, Coimbatore	
Dr. D Monga		Head, CICR, Regional station, Sirsa	
Dr. P K Chakrabarty		Head, Div of Crop Improvement, CICR, Nagpur	
Dr Sandhya Kranthi		Head, Div of Crop Protection, CICR, Nagpur	
Dr Blasé De souza		Head, Div of Crop Production, CICR, Nagpur	
Dr. Isabell Agrawal		Sr. Scientist CICR, Coimbatore	
Sh. M.Sabesh		Scientist (SG), CICR, Coimbatore	
Scientists In-charge for Weather Report (AICCIP Centres)			
Scientists	Address	Mobile No	E Mail ID
Dr. Paramajit Singh	Punjab Agricultural University, Bathinda, Punjab	9463628801	rsmeenars@gmail.com
Dr. Pankaj Rathore	Punjab Agricultural University, Faridkot, Punjab	9464051995	pankaj@pau.edu

Dr. Jagdish Beniwal	CCS-Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar 125 004, Haryana	09416325420	cotton@hau.ernet.in
Dr.S.L.Ahuja	CCS-Haryana Agricultural University, Sirsa, Haryana	09255947380	slahuja2002@yahoo.com
Dr.K.N.Bhatia	Swami Keshwanand Rajasthan Agricultural University, Sriganganagar, Rajasthan	09352700411	bsmeena1969@rediffmail.com
Dr.Harphool Meena	Maharana Pratap University of Agri. & Technology, Udaipur – 313 001, Rajasthan	09460246043	hpagrnon@rediffmail.com
Dr. Narendra Kumar	CSA University of Agri. & Technology, Kanpur – 208 002, Uttar Pradesh	09335699132	jagdishk64@yahoo.com
Dr. Gofaldu	Navsari Agricultural University, Navsari – 396 450, Gujarat	09662532645	girishfaldy@rediffmail.com
Dr.M.D.Khanpara	Junagadh Agricultural University, Junagadh – 362 001, Gujarat	09426990070	cotton@jau.in
Dr.R.W.Bharud	Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri – 413 722, Maharashtra	09850244087	cotton_mpkv@rediffmail.com
Dr. B . R. Patil	Panjabrao Deshmukh Krishi Vidyapeeth, Akola – 444 104, Maharashtra	09657725801	srsccottonpdkv1@yahoo.co.in
Dr.P.R.Zanwar	Marathwada Agricultural University, Parbhani – 431 402, Maharashtra	07588151244	crsred@indiatimes.com
Dr. Satish Parsai	RVS Krishi Vishwa Vidhyalaya, Gwalior – 474 002, Madhya Pradesh	09406677601	aiccpkhandwa@gmail.com
Dr. B.S.Nayak	Orissa University of Agriculture & Technology, Bhubaneswar – 751 003, Orissa	9437321675	bsnayak2007@rediffmail.com
Dr.S.Bharathi	Acharya N. G. Ranga Agricultural University, LAM, Guntur, AP	0949072341	bharathi_says@yahoo.com
Dr. Sharma	Acharya N. G. Ranga Agricultural University, Nandyal, AP	08514-242296	sharmarars@gmail.com
Dr.Aladakatti	University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad – 580 005, Karnataka	09448861040	yaladakatti@rediffmail.com
Dr. Bheemana	University of Agricultural Sciences Raichur – 584 102, Karnataka	09448633232	bheemuent@rediffmail.com
Dr. Amala Balu	Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Srivilliputhur, Tamil Nadu		
Dr. M Gunasekaran	Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu	09443631359	gunasekaran.pbg@gmail.com

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