Sub: Current status of Tobacco Caterpillar (Spodoptera litura) on Groundnut crop at Odisha state - Advisory reg.

Sir,

During Joint Survey carried out during 15th December 2018, the incidence of Tobacco Caterpillar on Groundnut crop has been reported at Moderate to severe level in Athamallik block of Anugul district of Odisha state. Its incidence may further spread in other Groundnut growing areas of state if favourable weather conditions prevail.

Keeping in view of the severity of the pest, it is advised that the all Groundnut growing areas of Odisha state may be intensively monitored during Rapid Roving Survey for assessment of infestation of Tobacco caterpillar. Therefore, strong linkage among State Agriculture Department, State Agricultural University, ICAR Institutes and farmers to implement Integrated Pest Management (IPM) at village level need to be developed.

The following practices of IPM strategies may be followed for management of Tobacco caterpillar in Groundnut crop

1. Farmers must be educated to identify, conserve and augment the natural enemies available in the Groundnut fields. Such as parasitoids like Trichogramma chilonis, Tetrastichus spp., Telenomus spp., Chelonus blackburni, Carcelia spp., Campoletis chlorideae, Eriborus argentipilosus, Microplitis sp. etc. and predators like Chrysoperla carnea, coccinellids, King crow, common mynah, wasp, dragonfly, spider, robber fly, reduviid bug, praying mantis, fire ants, big eyed bugs (Geocoris sp.), pentatomid bug (Eocanthecona furcellata), earwigs, ground beetles, rove beetles etc.
2. Collect and destroy egg masses and early instar larvae present in the field.
3. Install pheromone traps @ 5/ha in field for monitoring and trapping of S. Litura.
4. Release *Telenomus remus* @ 50000/ha in 4 times (7-10 days interval) based on pheromone trap catching.

5. Use bio-pesticides such as *Beauveria bassiana*, *Metarhizium* sp. etc.

6. Spray *S. litura* NPV @ 250 LE (6 x 10^9/LE)/ha or Bt @ 1 kg/ ha when large number of egg masses and early instar larvae are noticed.

7. Spray 5% Neem Seed Kernel Extract.

8. Farmers should be advised through extension functionaries to use only recommended doses of fertilizers, bio-fertilizers, pesticides & bio-pesticides as per approved label claims by CIB&RC.

9. A strong and foolproof quality control system for fertilizers, bio-fertilizers, pesticides & bio-pesticides needs to be enforced.

10. Regular training programme for the extension workers, pesticide dealers and farmers should organized by the SAUs/ICAR institutes/CIPMCs/ KVKs for up-gradation of their knowledge and skill regarding management of Tobacco caterpillar.

11. Insecticides must be used as per label claim approved by the Central Insecticides Board and Registration Committee, Detailed information is available at [http://ppqs.gov.in/divisions/cib-rc/major-uses-of-pesticides](http://ppqs.gov.in/divisions/cib-rc/major-uses-of-pesticides) However, and list of recommended pesticides for Tobacco caterpillar is attached. *(Annexure-I)*

12. IPM package of practices for groundnut need to be promoted. The IPM package of practise may be downloaded from web-link. [http://ppqs.gov.in/sites/default/files/groundnut.pdf](http://ppqs.gov.in/sites/default/files/groundnut.pdf)

In view of the above, it is advised to undertake monitoring of groundnut crop on regular basis and if any more infestation of *Tobacco caterpillar* is reported by the farmers, extension functionaries and even through the newspapers or other source, survey of the affected area may be conducted immediately and the concerned officials at the Division/District/Block may be advised to take suitable plant protection measures immediately. The detailed status report may be sent to this Directorate through Fax (Nos. 0129-2412125 or 011-23384182) or e-mail: ppa@nic.in or appa.ipm-ppqs@gov.in urgently to apprise Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare.

Yours faithfully,

(Rajesh Malik)
Plant Protection Adviser

**Copy to:**

1. Joint Secretary (PP), DAC&FW, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
2. Agriculture Commissioner, Room No. 231, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
3. PS to PPA.
4. Officer I/C of CIPMC-Bhubaneswar is instructed to keep close watch on the infestation of Tobacco caterpillar in groundnut and be in touch with the state Government for follow up action.
5. IT- Cell for uploading on DPPQ&S, website.
# APPROVED USES OF REGISTERED INSECTICIDES FOR TABACCO CATERPILLAR ON GROUNDNUT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crop</th>
<th>Common name of the pest</th>
<th>Dosage / ha</th>
<th>Formulation</th>
<th>Dilution in Water (Liter)</th>
<th>Waiting Period (days)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>METHOMYL 40% SP</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>a.i (gm)</td>
<td>Formulation (gm/ml)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Groundnut</td>
<td><em>Spodoptera litura</em></td>
<td>300-350</td>
<td>750-850</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>QUINALPHOS 20% AF</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Groundnut</td>
<td><em>Spodoptera</em></td>
<td>250-375</td>
<td>1250-1775</td>
<td>750-1000</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thiamethoxam 12.6% + Lambda cyhalothrin 9.5% ZC</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Groundnut</td>
<td>Leaf eating caterpillar</td>
<td>27.5</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>