To

The Director
Directorate of Agriculture
Govt. of Tamil Nadu
Chennai-600005


Sir,

I wish to bring your kind notice that incidence of invasive and destructive pest, Rugose Spiralling Whitefly (RSW), *Aleurodicus rugioperculatus* Martin on Coconut has been reported in above ETL (Economic Threshold Level) at Coimbatore, Erode and Tiruppur districts of Tamil Nadu. It’s incidence may further spread to other Coconut growing areas if favourable weather conditions continue to prevail.

Keeping in view of the severity of the pest, it is advised that all Coconut growing areas of Tamil Nadu state may be intensively monitored during Rapid Roving Survey for assessment of population of RSW. 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 IPM strategies may be adopted for management of Rugose Spiralling Whitefly (RSW) on Coconut:

1. Install yellow sticky traps in the orchards to trap adult whiteflies.
2. Encourage build up of parasitoid (*Encarsia sp.*) in the orchards and re-introduce parasitized pupae in the whitefly infested orchards.
3. Conserve and augment predators of RSW such as *Crysoperla* and *Coccinellids* which are available in the field.
4. Apply 1 % starch solution on leaflets to flake out the sooty moulds.
5. In severe cases, spray only neem oil 0.5% or NSKE 5% and avoid spraying any form of insecticides.
6. Regular training programme for the extension workers and farmers should be organized by SAUs/ICAR institutes/CIPMCs/ KVKs for up-gradation of their knowledge and skill regarding management of RSW.

7. Regular survey and surveillance should be conducted for monitoring the incidence of RSW.

8. Sensitization and awareness programmes should be conducted to farmers and other stakeholders regarding IPM management strategies of RSW.

9. Assessment of the population of RSW should be worked out and extent of damage should be determined to advice farmers accordingly for the effective management measures.

In view of the above, it is advised that the affected areas of Coimbatore, Erode and Tiruppur districts of Tamil Nadu should be monitored for RSW in coconut orchards on regular basis and if more incidence of Rugose Spiralling Whitefly is noticed 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,

(Sh. 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. Officers I/C of CIPMCs-Trichy is instructed to keep close watch on the population of RSW and be in touch with the State Agriculture Department for follow up action.
5. IT- Cell for uploading on DPPQ&S, website.