To

1. Director of Agriculture,  
Department of Agriculture,  
Government of Karnataka,  
No.1 Seshadri Road,  
Bengaluru-560001,  
Karnataka

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

3. Agricultural Production Commissioner,  
Department of Agriculture  
Department and Farmers Welfare,  
Vikas Bhawan,  
Thiruvananthapuram-695033  
Kerala

4. Commissioner and Agriculture Director  
Department of Agriculture,  
Government of Andhra Pradesh,  
Old Mirchyard,  
Nallapadu Road Round up  
Guntur-522004, Andhra Pradesh

5. Agriculture Commissioner & Director  
Ground Floor, D-block  
Fathe Midan, Basheer Bagh  
Near Nizam College  
Basheer Bagh, Hyderabad

Sub: Current status of Rugose Spiraling Whitefly (RSW), *Aleurodicus rugioperculatus* Martin on Coconut and Oil Palm-Advisory reg.

Sir,

I wish to bring your kind notice that incidence of invasive and destructive pest, Rugose Spiraling Whitefly (RSW), *Aleurodicus rugioperculatus* Martin on Coconut has been reported above ETL (Economic Threshold Level) in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

As per the report of joint survey conducted by ICAR- Indian institute of Oil Palm Research (IIOPR), DAC&FW, State Agriculture Departments of Andhra Pradesh & Telangana and CIPMC-Vijayawada, which was constituted for survey on incidence of RSW in Oil palm plantations of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana states, the incidence of RSW is spreading rapidly from Kadiyam mandal to the surrounding mandals creating a very alarm situation to Oil palm plantations. It is also found that the secondary host plants like Oil Palm, Banana, Custard apple, and Guava are also more severely affected and the pest is spreading to non-host plants.
As per the report six districts, namely West Godavari, East Godavari, Krishna, Srikakulam, Vizianagaram and Vishakhapatnam were severely affected. A total of 10226 ha and 11744ha were damaged in coconut and Oil Palm plantations respectively.

Keeping in view of the severity of the pest, it is advised that all Coconut and Oil Palm growing areas of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana states 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 and Oil Palm:

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 Chrysoperla 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. Entomopathogen fungus Isari fumosorosea has been found to be effective in managing RSW, hence Processing companies, SAUs, ICAR institutes, KVKs, CIPMCs and State Agricultural Departments of respective states should mass multiply it in large scale for making available to the needy farmers.
7. 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.
8. Regular survey and surveillance should be conducted for monitoring the incidence of RSW.
9. Sensitization and awareness programmes should be conducted to farmers and other stakeholders regarding IPM management strategies of RSW.
10. 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 Mysore and Mandya districts of Karnataka, Pallathur, Karambakudi and Pattukottai villages in Thanjavur District of Tamil Nadu and West Godavari, East Godavari, Krishna, Srikakulam, Vizianagaram and Vishakhapatnam districts of Andhra Pradesh should be monitored for RSW in Coconut and Oil Palm orchards on regular basis and if more incidence of Rugose Spiraling 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-Bengaluru, Trichy, Ernakulum, Vijayawada and Hyderabad are 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.