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भारतसरकार/ Government of India

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय / Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
कृषि, सहकारिता एवं किसान कल्याण विभाग / Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare
वनस्पति संरक्षण, संगरोध एवं संग्रह निदेशालय / Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine & Storage
एनएच4, फरीदाबाद (हरियाणा) – 121 001/NH-IV, Faridabad (Haryana) – 121 001

Dated: 05.07.2022

To

The Director of Horticulture
Opp. Netawadi, KB Joshi Path, Model Colony,
Shivajinagar, Pune,
Maharashtra 411005

Sub: Advisory on incidence of Papaya mealybug (*Paracoccus marginatus*) on Papaya in Wardha district of Maharashtra -reg.

Sir,

I have the honor to bring to your kind notice that incidence of **Papaya mealybug** have been reported at trace to moderate intensity in 4 acres of farmers field from Ghorad village, Selu Taluk, **Wardha district of Maharashtra** as per the survey report on 10th -16th June and 24th - 30th June, 2022.

Papaya mealybug infestations are typically observed as clusters of cotton-like masses on the above-ground portion of plants with long waxy filaments. Infestations on the stem results to stunting, deformation of new growth, and death of the plant. On the leaves the pest causes yellowing, deformation, curling and early drop of leaves. On the fruits, there is a heavy build-up of honeydew and waxy secretions. The sooty mould develops due to the sugar in honeydew, which is the waste matter of the mealybugs. Fruits also become hard and very bitter to taste

Following strategies are suggested to contain, suppress and eradicate the pest population:

- ❖ To evade further spread of the pest, complete destruction by burning of the infested plants in the specific areas is recommended.
- ❖ Awareness may be created in the affected village involving extension workers and public including women members of the family.
- ❖ Constant surveillance of the affected spot /kitchen gardens may be taken up involving stake holders
- ❖ The pest is found to survive and breed on weeds and crops like Hibiscus, Parthenium, Brinjal, Red gram, Jatropha, Bhindi, Custard apple, Guava *etc* which may support the carryover of the pest during absence of Papaya crop. Therefore, maintaining field sanitation and clean cultivation is essential.
- ❖ Application of sticky bands (or) alkathene sheet (or) a band of insecticide on arms (or) on main stem to prevent the movement of crawlers.
- ❖ Prevention of the movement of ants and destruction of already existing colonies.

In view of the Pest alert, it is advised to undertake monitoring of Papaya crop on regular basis. If any incidence of Papaya mealy bug is reported by the farmers, survey of the affected area may be conducted immediately and the concerned officials at district/division/block may be advised to take need based plant protection measures to contain/suppress/eradicate the pest population. The hot spots of Papaya mealy bug should be identified through survey for regular monitoring. The detailed information may also be sent to the Directorate through e-mail appaipm-ppqs@gov.in urgently to apprise the same to Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare.

Yours faithfully


(Dr. J.P.Singh)

Plant Protection Adviser

Encl: as above

Copy for information:

1. Joint Secretary (PP), DA&FW, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi-110001.
2. PPS to PPA
3. Officer In-charge, RCIPMC- Nagpur, Maharashtra with directions to conduct regular survey in the area to ensure containment and eradication of the pest.