

ICAR-INDIAN INSTITUTE OF WATER MANAGEMENT, BHUBANESWAR

Agro-Advisory to farmers under prevailing COVID-19 situation for the month of July, 2021

Maintenance of Personal Health & Hygiene

- ❖ Social distancing of at least 2 meter to be maintained among the farm workers during all agricultural operations.
- ❖ Always wear mask during farm operations. If you are using N95 mask, one is sufficient, but if you are using cloth mask, use double mask covering entire nose and mouth. The masks once used should be cleaned and sanitized for next wear.
- ❖ All farm equipment and accessories used for harvesting, threshing and other activities to be sanitized by keeping in 3% bleaching powder solution for 30 minutes before, after and during farm operations.
- ❖ Maintenance of personal hygiene and frequent washing of hands up to elbow, feet and face with soap is advisable during every farm operations like harvesting, threshing, etc. and eating.
- ❖ Do not touch eyes, mouth and nose with dirty hands.
- ❖ Immediately take a bath with soap after reaching home before meeting with family members.
- ❖ Restrict your movement as much possible and try to stay home.
- ❖ Don't share your food and drinking water with friends.
- ❖ While selling products ensure social distancing of all customers.
- ❖ During summer, farmers should wear gamuchha or pagadi or turban on their head and should take sufficient drinking water and umbrella along with them to avoid sunstroke casualty.
- ❖ National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) Platform can be used for marketing agricultural produce along with mandis and local markets.
- ❖ Download 'Aarogyasetu mobile app' for essential health services / information.
- ❖ Get yourself vaccinated by registering in Aarogyasetu or in www.cowin.gov.in portal.

Water Management advisory

- ❖ Follow the advisory of IMD with respect to occurrence of rain as well as other weather parameters through TV/Radio/Newspaper.

Irrigation Infrastructure development and maintenance

- ❖ For conservation of rainwater, the farmers should repair and reshape the field bunds and contour bunds with suitable heights, remove sediments (desiltation) and weeds from existing ponds.
- ❖ Clean and maintain pond-dykes, apply organic manures for successful on-dyke horticulture; and clean approach channel and/ or inlet-pipe to ensure diversion of excess water delivered through canal to water storage pond.
- ❖ Strengthen contour bund and field bunds by putting soil over it or by grass sodding. Repair all the damages in the field bunds.

- ❖ WUAs are advised to participate in the maintenance of canals and associated irrigation infrastructures; cleaning of weeds, repairing of canals and field channels in canal command areas.
- ❖ All types of wells need to be cleaned to enhance capacity and to store good quality water.
- ❖ All drainage channels where siltation has occurred, needs to be desilted before the onset of monsoon, to maintain its carrying and drainage capacity.

Land preparation

- ❖ Incorporate dhanicha and sunhemp in the soil for green manuring in the field where rice to be grown.
- ❖ For direct seeded rice, apply well decomposed Farm Yard Manure or cow-dung during the final land preparation. Apply full dose of phosphorus (30 kg /ha) and 2/3rd of Potash (20 kg/ha) as basal dose.
- ❖ For kharif rice, repair and reshaping of field bunds, maintain suitable bund height for rainwater harvesting in-situ and reducing runoff; collect good quality seeds of varieties according to land type.
- ❖ Before transplanting of paddy, planking or laddering should be done in puddled fields for uniform spread of water.
- ❖ Make necessary drainage arrangements to drain out rainwater from the cotton, sugarcane, maize, vegetables and other pulse crops.

Crop management

- ❖ Rice seed treatment should be done @ 5 gram Emisan + 1 gram streptomycin or with 5 gram Emisan + 2.5 gram Agromycine for 10 kg of seeds dipped in 10 liter water for 24 hour.
- ❖ For enhancing germination and quick establishment of rice nursery, the water soaked treated seeds should be put in gunny bags and hot water treatment should be given.
- ❖ Rice nursery preparation- prepare the seed bed of 6 inch height and 3 ft wide with convenient length; apply manure and fertilizers; use 30-40 kg seeds for one ha transplanting; make channels in-between strips to drain out excess rainfall/ water.
- ❖ Complete the sowing of direct seeded rice with good quality seeds at the rate of 30 kg/ha.
- ❖ Avoid using urban wastewater for land preparation. If it is the only water source, then do not use directly from wastewater channels or source. Allow to settle for at least 48 hours after using bleaching powder at the rate of 4 -5 gram per 1000 litre water.
- ❖ Sow non-paddy crops viz., maize, cowpea, pulses (arhar, blackgram,) ragi, groundnut, sesame, ricebean, castor, pumpkin, sweet potato, okra, brinjal, pumpkin, clusterbean in upland or well drained field.
- ❖ Best time for pineapple sucker plantation in raised bed system with a spacing of 30 X 45 cm.
- ❖ Best time for spine gourd planting in trellis system.
- ❖ Apply recommended dose of fertilizers to perennial fruit crops such as mango, guava, sapota, coconut, custard apple in this month.

Livestock and Aquaculture Management

- ❖ Avoid (4-O's): over stocking, over feeding, over fertilization and over medication; this will help in aquaculture water management.
- ❖ Avoid water exchange and prefer water top-up to minimize water loss and pumping cost. Use aerators if available to avoid oxygen depletion problem.
- ❖ Reduce feeding to slow the growth rate of the fish to delay harvesting. Produce fish feed using locally available ingredients (rice bran, groundnut oil cake, mustard oil cake).
- ❖ Phase-wise harvesting and selling at local market is advisable. Farmers should explore the option of 'off-market' sale or what they call it as 'sell-from-farm'.
- ❖ Provide ample quantity of clean and cool drinking water to animals during the day time.
- ❖ Tethered animals (animals tied with rope for grazing) should be tied under shade during the day and free-ranging animals should be allowed to graze during the cool hours of morning and afternoon.
- ❖ The animals should be vaccinated for Haemorrhagic Septicemia and Black Quarter diseases.
- ❖ Get your sheep and goats vaccinated with Enterotoxemia.
- ❖ In case of animal health issues, contact the mobile veterinary clinic in your area.
- ❖ The grazer of community herd should be tested for COVID-19 symptoms. If any symptom found, He/She should be replaced.