ICAR-INDIAN INSTITUTE OF WATER MANAGEMENT, BHUBANESWAR

Agro-Advisory to farmers under prevailing COVID-19 situation for the month of October, 2020

Maintaining Personal Hygiene

- Social distancing of at least 1 to 2 metre to be maintained among the farm workers during all agricultural operations.
- Always wear mask during farm operations. Chunnis, gamchas, towels or other fine clothes with three folds can be used as mask to cover nose and mouth. The masks once wore may be cleaned and sanitized for next wear.
- All farm equipments and accessories used for harvesting, threshing and other activities to be sanitized by keeping in 3% (3 gm in 100 liter water) 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.
- Only one person is allowed on two wheelers. Only one person except the driver is allowed in four wheelers.
- Restrict your movement as much possible and try to stay home.
- Use new features of National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) Platform to market agricultural produces without bringing the produce to Agricultural Produce & Livestock Market Committee (APMC).
- Download 'Aarogyasetu mobile app' for essential health services / information.

Water Management advisory

- Follow weather forecasting of IMD for all the districts of Odisha during this month.

Irrigation Infrastructure development and maintenance

- Immediately repair the damages caused due to flood in various soil water conservation structures to store water required for post-monsoon months.
- Harvest rainwater in-situ and divert runoff or excess canal water through the approach channel and/ or inlet-pipe to ponds/tanks/water harvesting structures
- Clean and repair the emergency spillways of percolation ponds, water-harvesting structures and grassed waterways for safe disposal of excess runoff water.
- High time to arrest the monsoon rain through different recharge structures like percolation pond, recharge shaft, check dams etc. to recharge groundwater.

- Desilt drainage channels to maintain its carrying and drainage capacity.
- WUAs are advised to monitor the canal water delivery schedule as prepared based on the cropping pattern and water requirement of the crops grown in the command area in consultation with the farmers to deliver water equally to head, medium and tail region.

Field management

- Under dry-spell conditions, if irrigation water is available from auxiliary water storage ponds in canal command areas then apply a shallow depth of water i.e. about 2-3 cm to maintain the available soil moisture during the panicle initiation and flowering stage of rice crop.
- Follow alternate wetting and drying (AWD) method of irrigation, which will reduce irrigation water quantity, and the chances of infestation of BPH.
- Provide drainage channels in the rice field under SRI method of cultivation to maintain water level in the field.
- In SRI or line transplanted rice field after irrigation, use cono-weeder / mechanical weeder in between rows three times, i.e. 10 days after transplanting (DAT), 20 DAT and 30 DAT to remove weeds and better root growth.
- To reduce hopper(GLH, BPH,WBPH etc.) attack to rice crop, standing water should be drained out and tillers of 3-4 lines should be brought closer leaving more open space in between (kandi) to allow sunlight to reach the base of crop.
- During ripening stage of rice, ensure proper drainage to remove excess water in case of heavy rain.
- Make necessary drainage arrangements through channels to drain out excess rainwater from the non - paddy crop fields to water storage ponds.
- For waterlogging susceptible crops, construct ridges around the crop base and furrows in between for better crop growth and yield during rainy season.

Crop management

Rice

- Apply fenoxaprop-p-ethyl at 60 g/ha may apply at 4-5 leaf stage of weed (25-30 days after transplanting) as post-emergence. The volume of water required for spraying of post-emergence herbicide is 375 litre/ha. Perform mechanical weeding as an integrated weed management approach, depending upon the weed diversity and degree of its infestation. Remove escape weeds before seed formation to avoid seed bank pressure for next season.
- Do not heap the freshly harvested rice grain. Dry it properly (below 14% moisture) before storing.

Mustard

- Utilizing the available moisture complete sowing of mustard by the end of October. Apply sulphur @ 20 and 40 kg/ha to rainfed and irrigated mustard, respectively in addition to NPK doses for increasing seed yield and oil content.

Livestock and Aquaculture Management

- Release fish fingerlings to the pond.
- Prevent the animals from entering the agricultural fields, where pesticides havebeen sprayed.
- Control the vectors like mosquitoes, flies, tics and mites in the animal sheds by using mosquito nets, cleaning the sheds, application of lime on floor.
- Dip/ spray the animals with 50 ppm (mg/Litre) solution of cypermethrin/ deltamethrin to prevent from tics, mites and other arthropod vectors.
- Give anthelmintic to the animals based on faecal sample examination. Allow the animals to graze after the dew disappears from the grass. Prevent the animals from drinking water from ditches/ ponds.

Marketing

Three Farm Bills have been passed last month on (i) THE FARMERS' PRODUCE TRADE AND COMMERCE (PROMOTION AND FACILITATION) ACT, 2020 NO. 21 OF 2020 [24th September, 2020.], (ii) THE FARMERS (EMPOWERMENT AND PROTECTION) AGREEMENT ON PRICE ASSURANCE AND FARM SERVICES ACT, 2020 NO. 20 OF 2020 [24th September, 2020.] and (iii) THE ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2020 NO. 22 OF 2020 [26th September, 2020.].These acts will facilitate farmers to sell their produce through competitive alternative trading channels across the country with remunerative prices.