

ICAR-INDIAN INSTITUTE OF WATER MANAGEMENT, BHUBANESWAR

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

Maintenance of Personal Health & Hygiene

- Social distancing of at least 2 meter is 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 use.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Keep yourself safe from the contamination of deadly omicron strain of Covid.

Water Management advisory

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

Field management

- Quickly drain out excess water from ripened rice field to save the crop from untimely waterlogging.
- Make necessary drainage arrangements through channels to drain out excess rainwater from the non - paddy crop fields to water storage ponds for raising of early rabi crops.
- Utilise paddy straw for mulching of crops during rabi season in rainfed areas. Paddy straw will help to conserve moisture, weed control and soil temperature control.
- Avoid burning paddy straw/farm wastes as it deteriorates soil health by reducing soil moisture, soil organic carbon, and evolves green-house-gases.

- Avoid using raw urban wastewater for irrigating rabi crops during dry spell. 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.

Crop management

Rice

- Harvest the crop from watery fields and dry it by spreading in bunds and upper places. After threshing, paddy grains need to be sun-dried to 14% moisture for grain purpose while to 12% moisture for seed purpose.
- Collect farm wastes and remaining paddy straw after feeding animals for composting/vermicomposting.
- Do not heap the moist paddy grains, instead spread it thinly and sundry it to improve its storability.

Mustard

- In late sown mustard crop of eastern India, first irrigation should be applied after 20-30 days of sowing at rosette stage.
- Second irrigation to timely sown mustard crop of north India should be given at 50-60 days after sowing.

Wheat

- First irrigation to wheat crop must be given at crown root initiation state i.e. 20-25 days after sowing.
- Second irrigation should be applied within 40-45 days after sowing.

Pulses

- In rainfed lowlands, pre-germinated pulse seeds like blackgram, greengram, lathyrus, lentil, gram etc. should be broadcasted in standing rice crop prior to its harvest under paira system.
- For effective utilization of stored moisture for realizing higher yield in lowlands, pulse seeds (blackgram, greengram, lathyrus, lentil, gram etc.) should be sown along with fertilizer in zero-seed cum ferti drill machine after harvest of paddy.

Vegetables

- Give light irrigation to the winter vegetables when the soil moisture dries up.
- Drainout the excess water quickly which accumulated from the cyclonic rain.
- Spray plain water on the leaves of vegetables to remove mud deposition.
- Apply low dose urea for quick regain of vitality in vegetable seedlings affected by waterlogging.

Livestock and Aquaculture Management

- No or minimal water exchange should be followed in carp polyculture / low-density shrimp monoculture.
- Periodic application of liming material helps in maintaining water quality.
- Preferably avoid over-feeding, over-fertilization and over-medication in aquaculture.
- Keeping consumer demand during COVID-19 pandemic, phased harvesting of fish involving minimal work force is recommended.
- Prevent the animals from entering the agricultural fields, where pesticides have been sprayed.
- Control the vectors like mosquitoes, flies, ticks 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 ticks, mites and other arthropod vectors.
- Give deworming medicines to the animals based on faecal sample examination.
- Allow the animals to graze after the dew disappears from the grass.