

ICAR-INDIAN INSTITUTE OF WATER MANAGEMENT, BHUBANESWAR

Agro-Advisory to farmers under prevailing COVID-19 situation for the month of June, 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.

Weather 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 rain water, the farmers should repair and reshape the field bunds and contour bunds with suitable heights, excavate farm ponds, remove sediments (desiltation) and weeds from existing ponds, lining of ponds to be done.
- ❖ 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 before onset of monsoon.

- ❖ 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 the 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

- ❖ Harvest paddy, groundnut and store the farm produce in a covered place and collect farm wastes and remaining paddy straw after feeding animals for composting/vermi composting.
- ❖ Burning paddy straw/farm wastes is not advisable as it deteriorates soil health by reducing soil moisture and soil organic carbon and evolves green-house-gases.
- ❖ Summer ploughing is advised using the current rainfall to increase soil profile moisture storage. Apply organic manure and compost and thoroughly mix with the soil.
- ❖ Apply lime in furrow @ 250-500 kg/ha or mix paper mill sludge @ 2t/ha under upland condition in acid soils.
- ❖ Sow green manuring crop sesbania/sunhemp till 10th June to improve soil nutrient status. Use 10 kg seeds of sesbania/ sunhemp per acre.
- ❖ Prepare nursery beds for transplanted paddy and excavate pits for fruit and tree species. Apply farmyard manure or compost and basal doses of fertilizers.
- ❖ 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.

Crop management

- ❖ Collect good quality seeds, sow direct seeded rice in lowland before the onset of monsoon.
- ❖ Grow nursery for transplanted rice immediately after occurrence of monsoon in a well-prepared nursery bed.
- ❖ Sow non-paddy crops viz., maize, cowpea, pulses (arhar, blackgram,) ragi, groundnut, sesame, ricebean, castor, pumpkin and sweet potato in upland.
- ❖ On occurrence of root rot in vegetables, spray Metalaxil +Mancozeb. Staking to be done in banana plants to avoid lodging.

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).

- ❖ Harvest phase wise and sell at local market is advisable. Farmers must 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.