

## **ICAR-INDIAN INSTITUTE OF WATER MANAGEMENT, BHUBANESWAR**

### **Agro-Advisory to farmers under prevailing COVID-19 situation for the month of November, 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](http://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 and act accordingly.

#### **Irrigation Infrastructure development and maintenance**

- Immediately repair the damages caused due to flood if any, in various soil water conservation structures to store water required for post-monsoon months.

#### **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 flowering/reproductive stage of rice crop.
- In late maturing paddy, channels (kandi) should be prepared taking 4 to 5 rows together for penetration of sunlight to reduce BPH infestation.

- Provide drainage channels in the rice field to drain out water from the field during ripening stage.
- 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.
- Sow *rabi* crops utilizing the residual soil moisture in rice field after harvesting of paddy using zero till seed drill or happy seeder.
- 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.

## **Crop management**

### ***Rice***

- During ripening stage of rice, ensure proper drainage to remove excess water in case of heavy rain.
- Harvest the upper portion of the plant including panicles when it is difficult to drain out excess rainwater from ripened paddy fields.
- Harvest the crops, which have reached maturity soon to avoid adverse effects of cyclonic rainfall if any. After threshing, paddy grains need to be sun-dried to 14% moisture for grain purpose while to 12% moisture for seed purpose.
- Store paddy with 14 % moisture after sun drying in a covered place and collect farm wastes and remaining paddy straw after feeding animals for composting/vermicomposting.

### **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.

### **Pulses**

- Farmers are advised to sow high yielding and disease resistance varieties of various rabi pulses like gram, pea, rajmash, khesari(Lathyrus), lentil, kulthi, urd and moong etc.

### **Vegetables**

- It is proper time to grow various winter vegetables like cabbage, cauliflower, tomato, bean, raddish, coriander, palak etc.

## **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.
- Prevent the animals from drinking dirty water from ditches/ ponds.