

ICAR-INDIAN INSTITUTE OF WATER MANAGEMENT, BHUBANESWAR

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

- 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

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.
- 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

- 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.
- 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.
- Harvest the upper portion of the plant including panicles when it is difficult to drain out excess rainwater from ripened paddy fields.
- 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.

Pulses

- Farmers are advised to collect high yielding and disease resistance varieties of various rabi pulses like gram, pea, rajmash, khesari(Lathyrus), lentil, kulthi, urd and moong etc. in advance for their timely sowing.

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 anthelmintics 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.