

ICAR-INDIAN INSTITUTE OF WATER MANAGEMENT, BHUBANESWAR

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

Maintenance of Personal Health & 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% 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 National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) Platform for marketing agricultural produce.
- Download ‘**Aarogyasetu** mobile app’ for essential health services / information.

Water Management advisory

- Follow IMD advisory for detail weather condition and act accordingly.

Irrigation Infrastructure development and maintenance

- For conservation of rainwater, the farmers should repair and reshape the field bunds and contour bunds with suitable heights, remove sediments (desiltation) and weeds from existing ponds.
- 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.
- 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 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

- Incorporate dhanicha and sesbania in the soil for green manuring in the field where rice to be grown.
- For direct seeded rice, apply well decomposed Farm Yard Manure or cow-dung during the final land preparation. Apply full dose of phosphorus (30 kg /ha) and 2/3rd of Potash (20 kg/ha) as basal dose.
- For kharif rice, repair and reshaping of field bunds, maintain suitable bund height for rainwater harvesting in-situ and reducing runoff; collect good quality seeds of varieties according to land type.
- Before transplanting of paddy, planking or laddering should be done in puddled fields for uniform spread of water.
- Make necessary drainage arrangements to drain out rainwater from the cotton, sugarcane, maize, vegetables and other pulse crops.

Crop management

- Rice seed treatment should be done @ 5 gram Emisan + 1 gram streptocyclin or with 5 gram Emisan + 2.5 gram Agromycine for 10 kg of seeds dipped in 10 liter water for 24 hour.
- For enhancing germination and quick establishment of rice nursery, the water soaked treated seeds should be put in gunny bags and hot water treatment should be given.
- Rice nursery preparation- prepare the seed bed of 6 inch height and 3 ft wide with convenient length; apply manure and fertilizers; use 30-40 kg seeds for one ha transplanting; make channels in-between strips to drain out excess rainfall/ water.
- Complete the sowing of direct seeded rice with good quality seeds at the rate of 30 kg/ha.
- 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.
- Sow non-paddy crops viz., maize, cowpea, pulses (arhar, blackgram,) ragi, groundnut, sesame, ricebean, castor, pumpkin, sweet potato, okra, brinjal, pumpkin, clusterbean in upland or well drained field.
- Best time for pineapple sucker plantation in raised bed system with a spacing of 30 X 45 cm.
- Best time for spine gourd planting in trellis system.
- Apply recommended dose of fertilizers to perennial fruit crops such as mango, guava, sapota, coconut, custard apple in this month.

Livestock Management

- Give deworming medicines to your animals based on faecal sample test at the veterinary hospital. If faecal test is not possible, give broad spectrum anthelmintic like Albendazole + Ivermecting combination.
- Give enterotoxemia vaccine to your sheep and goats, HS, BQ, FMD vaccines for cattle and buffaloes.
- Don't let the animals drink muddy water. In flood prone areas, don't let the animals graze on mud covered grass after the flood subsides. First wash the cut grass with clean water before feeding to animals.
- In flood prone areas, keep sufficient quantity of dry fodder and animal feed stored for difficult times.