

# ICAR-INDIAN INSTITUTE OF WATER MANAGEMENT, BHUBANESWAR

## Agro-Advisory to farmers under prevailing COVID-19 situation (09-23 April, 2020)

- 1. The following water management practices and pest control measures have been suggested for better establishment and sustainable productivity of summer crops:**
  - a) Paddy straw mulching @5 to 10 t/ha for pointed gourd
  - b) Supplemental/life saving irrigation from Water Harvesting Structures/Check Dams/Rubber Dams for summer vegetables like watermelon, cucumber, okra and cowpea.
  - c) Paired row planting of 45 cm (furrow to furrow) for groundnut and okra and 60 cm (furrow to furrow) for maize.
  - d) Spraying of KCl @1% for summer crops like groundnut, maize and sunflower to minimize terminal moisture stress.
  - e) Application of pesticides like Imidacloprid, Fipronil, Chlorpyrifos is suggested to control termite damage in summer crops.
  - f) Due to recent occurrence of light rain and thunderstorms in several districts of Odisha, the farmers are suggested to spray Carbaryl 0.15% or Malathion 0.1% for pest control in summer vegetable crops.
  - g) Water management to the rabi rice or boro rice should be such that there would be staggered maturity which can be harvested in staggered manner instead of short maturity it is suggested to practice drainage of excess water from paddy fields during dough stage.
  - h) Farmers should practice summer ploughing to reduce weed and enhance in-situ moisture conservation.
  
- 2. Water management advisory for grow out fish culture :**
  - a) Non-availability of pellet or floating fish feed during lock down can be substituted by locally available ricebran, groundnut oil cake
  - b) Fortnight application of RCD and lime to maintain plankton as natural feed in absence of supplementary feed.
  - c) Key to water management: Avoid 4 'O's – over stocking, over feeding, over fertilizer and over medication.
  
- 3. Water management advisory for livestock:**
  - a) Animals should be provided with chaffed dry fodder (hey or bhusa) after soaking in water and they should be given enough drinking water.
  - b) Persons handling animals and feed should clean their hands and wear masks.
  - c) Livestock farmers are encouraged to produce durable milk products like, ghee during this lockdown period.
  - d) Due to cessation of community grazing, the farmers are advised to utilize locally available ingredients like oilcakes, rice/wheat straw for animal feeding.