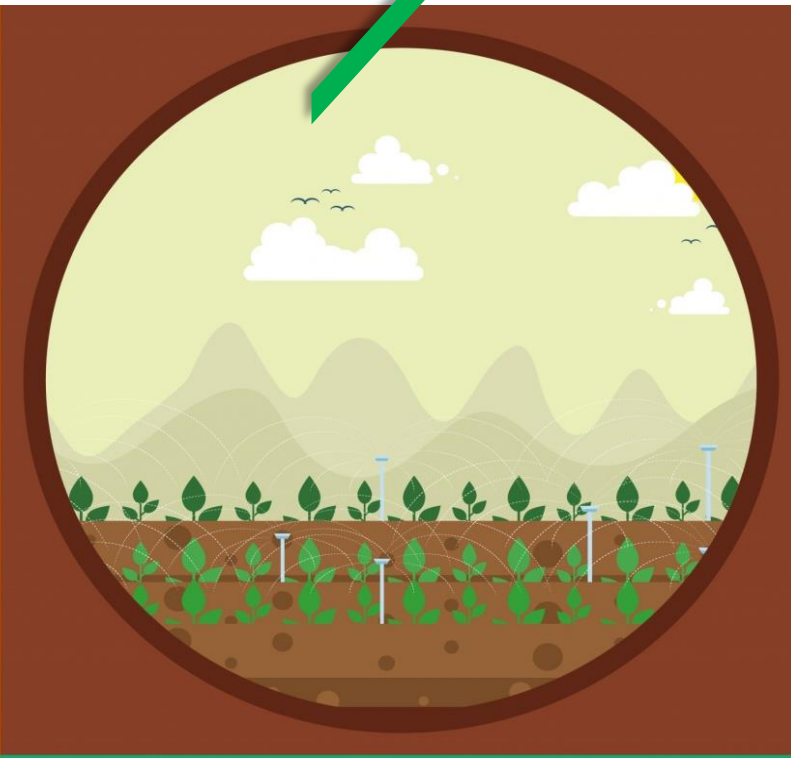




Agro-Advisory for the State of Maharashtra

September 04-17, 2020



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Agro-Advisory for the State of Maharashtra for 04-17 September, 2020

Advisory No. NIASM/MH/20-10

Date: September 03, 2020

1. Weather Forecast Summary for 04-17 September, 2020 (As per IMD, New Delhi)

- Rainfall may remain between 2-5 mm/day in the first week, while in the second week it may vary between 5-10 mm/day in most parts of the state.
- In the first week, rainfall will remain below normal for whole state. In the second week, it will remain above normal in most parts of the Madhya Maharashtra, below normal in Konkan-Goa region and normal in Marathwada and Vidarbha.
- In the first week the maximum temperature may vary between 28-30 °C, while in the second week, it may vary between 30-34 °C, remaining above normal in most parts of the state.
- Minimum temperature may vary between 20-34 °C, remaining up to 2 °C above normal in most parts of the state.

2. Agro-advisory for the period 04-17 September, 2020

2.1. Crop Management

- Ensure weed free environment in **pigeon pea, soybean, green gram** and **black gram**.
- **Grape**: Since the count down for forward pruning has started, check availability of inputs, fix date of pruning on the basis of cane maturity and weather predictions.
- **Pomegranate**: Remove new shoots and water shoots at right time for better fruit growth of 'mrig-bahar'.
- **Dragon fruit**: For better fruit growth spray mono-potassium phosphate 5 g L⁻¹ at an interval of 15 days. In a new **dragon fruit** plantation remove extra secondary shoots up to 75 cm height, install concrete/ steel/tyre support bracket at top to train drooping canopy.

2.2. Managing Atmospheric Stresses

- **Grape**: If excess defoliation noticed due to prevailing **cloudy** weather, allow apical shoot growth so as to avoid sprouting up to 10 basal buds, spray magnesium sulphate and potassium sulphate @ 5 g L⁻¹ each to fulfil nutritional requirements.
- **Pomegranate**: As a part of preparations for '*hasta bahar*' in the prevailing **rainy conditions**, give spray of magnesium sulphate + potassium sulphate @ 5 g L⁻¹ each. This should be followed by spray of mono-potassium phosphate @ 5 g L⁻¹ after 7 days to enhance cane maturity.

2.3. Managing Soil Stresses

- September-October coincides with the grand growth period of sugarcane planted in February. Therefore, farmers are advised to keep their fields free of **weeds** and drain excess **water**.
- Earthing up followed by trash twist propping should be carried out to avoid **lodging** in sugarcane.
- During dry spells, immediate **fertilizer application** through **drip irrigation** proves more effective in fulfilling nutritional needs in orchards.

- **Pulverize** the soil at root zone in orchards and follow tillage between rows.

2.4. Managing Biotic Stresses

- **Oily spot** in pomegranate: Infected fruits should be collected and destroyed. Spray of Streptomycin sulphate (0.5 g) + 2-Bromo-2-nitro-1,3-propanediol (Bronopol) (0.5 g) + Copper oxychloride (2 g) spreader sticker (0.5 ml) per litre.
- **Soybean rust**: spray of Hexaconazole (0.1%) at 30 and 60 days after sowing and Azadirachtin (0.5%) at 45 days after sowing.
- **Soybean mosaic**: removal & destruction of symptomatic plants, spray of Thiamethoxam 25 WG@ 0.2 g/L for vector (white fly) control.
- **Parawilt/sudden wilt in cotton**: Drain out excess water in the field, drenching of Copper oxychloride (50% WP) 2.5 g + urea 10 g or Carbendazim (50% WP) 2 g + urea 10 g.
- **Fall Armyworm (FAW)** in maize: Install 8 pheromone traps/acre. Spray the crop with Azadirachtin at weekly interval at 3 ml L⁻¹ of water. Under severe condition spray the crop with Emamectin benzoate at 0.2 g L⁻¹ or Spinetoram 11.7% SC 2 ml L⁻¹ of water.
- **Defoliator and pod borers** in pulses: Erect pheromone traps @ 5/acre, Install bird perches @ 20/acre to attract predatory birds, use bio-pesticides like NPV (Ha NPV, SI NPV) 200 LE /acre, Bt formulation 400g or 400 ml/acre at weekly interval. Need based spray with Chlorpyrifos 2.5 ml/L of water or Quinalphos 2 ml/L or Acephate 1.5 g/L of water at flowering and fruiting.
- **Fruit flies** in dragon fruit, custard apple and guava: Install 8 pheromone traps per acre, spray with Azadirachtin 1% @ 1 ml L⁻¹.
- Under rainy conditions, prefer prophylactic spraying of Bordeaux mixture 1% as a general practice of disease management in orchards.
- Management of **white grubs** in sugarcane: Apply Pirate 10 g at 25 kg ha⁻¹ or Lesenta 100 g at 160 g L⁻¹ of water through irrigation.

2.5. Managing Stresses in Animals

2.5.1. Livestock

- Feed colostrum to new born calves within (highly useful 15- 30 minutes) 2 hours of birth for higher absorption in the body.
- Haemorrhagic Septicaemia (HS) is most likely to occur in 4 districts viz. Nashik, Aurangabad, Solapur have very high risk and Dhule district is having high risk of HS.
- There is threat of Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) in three district of Maharashtra. Ahmednagar, Aurangabad and Nashik are having very high risk of PPR. Vaccination for Haemorrhagic Septicaemia and Peste des Petits Ruminants (animals above 3 month of age) may be done in consultation with the local veterinarians and as decided by state animal husbandry authorities.
- There is risk of anthrax in Ahmednagar and Bid districts; Black quarter (BQ) in Ahmednagar and Nandurbar districts; FMD in Solapur and Kolhapur districts. Vaccination may be done in consultation with the local veterinarians. Risk of Theileriosis is predicted for Nashik district.
- Restriction on animal movement, strict biosecurity measures and proper disposal of carcass may be done.

- Stress factors may be reduced by following balanced feeding including Vitamin supplement and housing management practices.
- The premises of the animal shed should be kept clean and all bushes nearby should be cut.
- Control of ecto-parasites in livestock should be done using suitable acaricides in consultation with local veterinarian.

2.5.2. Fisheries

- Fish farmers may stock the spawn/seed of IMC or exotic carp for rearing of fish culture.
- Netting may be conducted to ascertain the growth of stocked fish size and general health condition.
- Fish seed producers may start rearing seed of different fish species for making brood stock to be used in future.
- Record behavioural changes like surfacing, indicating requirement of aeration.
- Water should be tested to maintain pH of fish ponds 6.5-9.0 by applying lime and dissolved oxygen above 5 ppm. Aeration may be done if dissolved oxygen (DO) is less than 5 ppm.

3. COVID 19 - Precautionary measures for agricultural activities

3.1. General advisory as per Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India

- As with passing day more and more relaxation has been provided from Government side, more care needs to be taken particularly social distancing and avoiding contacts with outsiders with unknown history or persons migrated from red zone.
- In manual field operations of harvesting/picking, accomplish the operation in 4-5 feet spaced strips assigning one strip to one person.
- Stagger the field operations wherever possible and avoid engaging more number of persons on the same day.
- Prefer mechanized operations over the manual wherever feasible.
- All machines should be sanitized at the entry point and at regular intervals.
- All transport vehicles, gunny bags or other packaging material should be sanitized.

3.2. Livestock and Poultry

- Wash hands with soap and water before and after milking of lactating animals and clean the utensils thoroughly.
- Don't allow visitors to enter animal premises and use mask and maintain social distancing while distribution/sell of milk.
- Use of hand sanitizer or washing hands frequently need to be practiced routinely while carrying out various day to day operations.
- All the bio-security measures need to be followed strictly in the poultry farms.

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