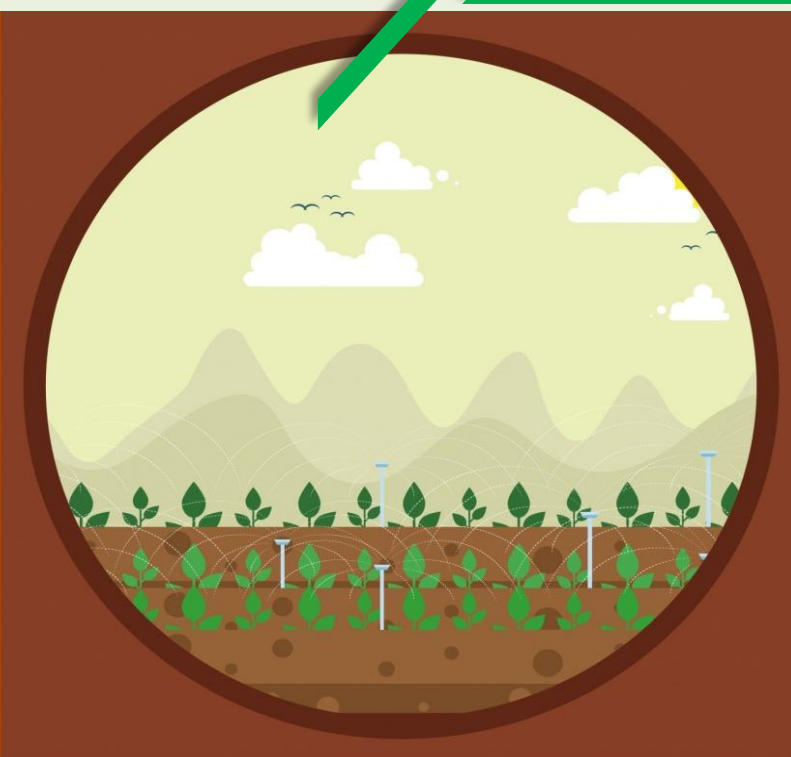


Stress Management Agro-Advisory for the State of Maharashtra

Oct 09-22, 2026



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Managing Abiotic and Biotic Stresses in Agriculture

Agro-Advisory for the State of Maharashtra

(Oct 09-22, 2026)

Advisory No.: NIASM/MH/26-13

Date: Oct 9, 2026

1. Weather Forecast (India Meteorological Department, New Delhi)

1.1. Rainfall

- In the first week (9–15 Oct), no rainfall is expected across the state while; in the second week (16-22 Oct), the daily rainfall is expected to range between 1-5 mm/day in the most parts of the state, remaining 2-4 mm/day above normal.

1.2. Temperature

- In both the weeks, the maximum temperature is expected to range between 30–34°C. In the first week (9–15 Oct), it may remain up to 2°C above normal in the Konkan and up to 2°C below normal in other parts of the state. In the second week (16-22 Oct), it may remain 1°C above normal in the Konkan and Madhya Maharashtra and up to 1°C below normal in other parts of the state.
- In both the weeks, the minimum temperature is likely to range between 20–24°C remaining up to 1°C above normal in the first week (9–15 Oct) and up to 2°C above normal in the second week (16-22 Oct), in most parts of the state.

2. Managing Abiotic Stresses

2.1. Atmospheric Stresses

2.1.1. Crops

- **Grape:** Good time to go for forward pruning where no showers expected during next two weeks. The pruning need to be staggered by following local weather forecast.
- **Spraying Operation:** Do not spray in windy conditions and on wet foliage immediately after rains. Use sticker adjuvant along with spray solutions.
- **New Plantations:** In case of newly planted orchards, support the plants by tying them straight using bamboo sticks to avoid damage due to hot sun and heavy winds. To avoid sunburn to saplings, protect them from bright sun with the help of temporary shade.

2.1.2. Livestock

- Repair roofs of the animal sheds wherever necessary to ensure protection for animals from rains.
- Keep the animals indoor during thunderstorm/ lightening events.
- To protect livestock from extreme weather events and storms, keep the animals indoor during night hours.
- Avoid overcrowding of animals in livestock shed.
- Control of ecto-parasites and endo-parasites should be carried out.
- The floor of the animal shed should be kept clean and dry.

- Maintain the surrounding of animal shed clean and hygienic and remove the unwanted vegetation nearby the sheds.

2.2. Water Stresses

2.2.1. Crops

- **Grape:** Pre-pruning water stress for 10-15 days is mandatory to encourage natural defoliation, therefore withhold irrigation during pre-pruning period.
- **Pomegranate:** Avoid any irrigation water imbalance in *Mrig bahar* orchards near maturity, to avoid fruit cracking.

2.2.2. Livestock

- Mixed silage of sugarcane tops up to 50% level may be prepared with jowar or maize fodder in case excess green fodder is available. The silage thus prepared may be useful for feeding livestock during the upcoming summer/ scarcity period.
- Store feed and fodder in dry, well-ventilated areas to prevent mould growth and spoilage.

2.2.3. Fisheries

- Construction of new ponds, strengthening of embankments, and maintenance of side slopes may be completed during this period. The pond should have an optimum depth of 1.5–2.0 m with a water-holding depth of about 1.2 m throughout the year.
- Apply cow dung @ 0.75–1.0 t/ha after lime application, preferably in the corners of the pond.
- Cow dung, urea, and single super phosphate (SSP) should be applied only after the pond is filled with water.
- Measure the turbidity of pond water using a Secchi disc and maintain water transparency between 30–45 cm.
- Apply powdered lime at the pond bottom @ 120–130 kg/ha. Water should be filled into the pond after 10 days of lime application.
- Use an aerator during rainfall to maintain adequate dissolved oxygen (DO) levels and stabilize the water quality.
- It is recommended to maintain sufficient freeboard in the pond to accommodate excess rainwater during the pre-monsoon period.
- Proper maintenance and strengthening of pond dykes are recommended in low-lying areas where a large volume of runoff from adjoining catchment areas may enter the pond.
- To prevent erosion of pond dykes due to heavy rainfall, grow grasses and other vegetation on the slopes as well as the top crest of the dykes to reduce soil erosion and excess turbidity.
- Regularly monitor important water quality parameters such as dissolved oxygen (6.0–7.0 ppm), pH (7.0–8.5), ammonia (≤ 0.05 ppm), nitrate (50–150 ppm), nitrite (≤ 0.1 ppm), carbon dioxide (CO₂) (<10 ppm), and hydrogen sulfide (H₂S) (<0.002 ppm) in the fish pond.
- To prevent fungal, bacterial, and parasitic diseases, fish farmers are advised to apply potassium permanganate @ 1–2 kg/acre or agricultural limestone @ 50–75 kg/acre. Application of salt @ 100 kg/acre may also help protect fish against disease outbreaks, especially during winter.
- The growth of fish should be monitored regularly for proper stock management and early detection of diseases.

- Unutilized feed in the feeding trays should be checked and removed regularly to prevent deterioration of water quality and ammonia toxicity.

2.3. Soil Stresses

- **All orchards:** It's time for tillage in between rows and soil pulverization in the plant basins to break top-soil compaction, to improve soil aeration and weed management

3. Managing Biotic Stresses

3.1. Crops

- **Grape:** After forward pruning dispose out all biomass and spray the orchard with Bordeaux mixture 1% or Copper oxy chloride @ 2.5 g/L to minimize disease inoculum load. Follow this with spraying of Azadirachtin 1% @ 1.0 ml/L for managing flea beetle incidence.
- **Sweet orange:** To manage fruit sucking moth, destroy all the fallen fruits by burying in the pit and poison baiting with 10 ml Malathion mixed with 100 g jaggery and 100 ml Orange juice in 900 ml water (in two bottles per 25 trees). To control fruit fly use male attracting trap containing methyl eugenol @ 20 traps/ hectare from 60 days before fruit harvest and change the lure every 30 days.
- **Custard apple:** Spray Mancozeb @ 2.0 g per L to avoid blackening of fruits and spray Buprofezin 25 SC @ 1.25 ml per L to manage mealybugs.
- **Guava:** Use pheromone trap bottles containing 100ml solution of 0.1% Methyl eugenol and 0.1 Malathion for integrated management of fruit fly pest. Tie the trap bottles at 1.5 to 2 meter height in orchard @ 8 Nos/ ha.
- **All vegetable crops:**
 - To avoid incidence of disease and pest in solanaceous vegetable crops, maintain optimum /recommended plant spacing.
 - Procure healthy and disease-free seedlings from certified nursery only.
 - Spray liquid formulation of *Trichoderma* sp. @ 5ml/litre as a preventive measure for effective management of diseases
 - To manage soil-borne pathogens, apply *Trichoderma* sp. + *Pseudomonas* sp. @ 1litre/acre through drip irrigation system.
 - Follow integrated pest and diseases management practices such as disease-free seedlings from certified nursery, drenching with copper oxychloride @ 2.5 g/L of water to avoid post-transplanting damping-off in addition to use of systemic insecticides like Imidacloprid @ 0.5 ml/L to manage sucking pests.

3.2. Livestock

- There is a very high risk (VHR) of Haemorrhagic Septicaemia (HS) in the Ahilyanagar, Dhule and Latur districts and VHR of Black Quarter (BQ) in Latur district.
- Affected animals may be isolated and treated with suitable antibiotics and vaccination is to be done in consultation with the local veterinarians.
- There is a very high risk of Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) in Ahilyanagar, and Dhule districts. There is a VHR of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) in Ahilyanagar,

Latur, Dharashiv, and Sindhudurg districts. There is a VHR of Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) in Nashik district. There is a very high risk (VHR) of Bluetongue in Kolhapur, Latur, Mumbai and Pune districts. There is a very high risk (VHR) of African Swine Fever in Akola, Nandurbar and Pune districts. There is a VHR of Sheep and Goat Pox Disease in Amravati, Dhule, Mumbai, Nandurbar, Satara and Yavatmal districts

- Vaccination for FMD, PPR, LSD, ASF and Sheep and Goat Pox in the concerned districts may be done in consultation with the local veterinarians.
- There is a very high risk of Theileriosis in Ahilyanagar, Jalgaon, Latur and Nashik districts. There is a very high risk of Trypanosomiasis in Ratnagiri district.
- Ensure 100% vaccination with timely boosters for PPR, HS and LSD alongside routine testing in VHR districts to enable early disease detection.
- Enforce strict biosecurity protocols, including controlled farm access, equipment disinfection, and quarantine for newly introduced animals.
- Control vector populations through integrated management practices, including tick control, fly-proof shelters, and molluscicide use in snail-infested areas.
- Monitor animals for any sickness particularly related to digestive, dermal, or respiratory problems, and treat them by consulting a veterinarian.
- Regular deworming should be carried out by consulting local Veterinarians.
- For treatment of ectoparasitic infestation, dipping (if not done during the last three months) needs to be carried out with Ectomin/Butox, post-shearing on sunny days.
- Anti-parasitic drugs should be used under the guidance of a veterinarian.
- Spot the sick animals and isolate them in a separate shed for treatment.

4. General

- **Grape:** Immediately after forward pruning paste distal 2 buds of the canes with Hydrogen cyanamide 1.0 to 1.5% solution depending on cane thickness for selective & enhanced bud burst.
- **Foliar spraying:** Use good quality water for spraying of agrochemicals preferably neutral or slightly acidic. If water is alkaline (pH~8), use Citric acid @ 0.5 g/L, to increase spray efficacy.

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