

Impact of climate change on pest incidence in rice fields of Nalgonda district

Rice is grown as a major crop in Nalgonda district of Telangana State throughout the year. It is ravaged by a number of insect pests and diseases *viz.*, brown planthopper (BPH), stem borer, leaf blast, neck blast and sheath blight. The major reasons for the increased incidence of these biotic stresses are due to mono-culturing of HYVs, indiscriminate use of fertilizers and pesticides. Changing climatic conditions compounded the intensity and severity of the pest and disease scenario in this area. ICAR-IIRR in collaboration with ICRISAT is working on DST funded project “Rice-Pest and disease management for climate change adaption”. In this connection, a team of Scientists (Drs. V Prakasam, D Krishnaveni, Ch Padmavathi, Chitra Shanker and K Basavaraj) from IIRR made an intensive survey on the occurrence of different insects and diseases of rice in Thripuraram, Miryalaguda and Thipparthi mandals of Nalgonda district on 14th March, 2019. Experts noticed the sheath blight incidence (20-30%) and severity (10-25%) in all three surveyed mandals, blast incidence (10-15%) and severity (40-50%) in Jangamreddi Gudem, Thipparthi mandal, and brown spot incidence (5%) and severity (10-20%) in Thripuraram mandal. Incidence of BPH and WPBH was recorded about 30% in Ragadapa, Trippuraram mandal and 25% white ear heads were noticed at Gollaguda, Nalgonda mandal. The scientists visited farmer’s fields and interacted with farmers for creating awareness about the impact of climate change on rice insects and diseases. Farmers were also advised about adoption of improved management practices for effective control of biotic stresses. Besides this, a new semiochemical lure impregnated on plywood and placed in delta trap was installed in the farmer’s field (Mr. Chinna Saidulu) to monitor the rice pests in climate change scenario.

