

Report on swarming caterpillar (*Spodoptera mauritia*) infesting paddy in Ri-bhoi district

Joint Director (Agriculture), Deputy Director (Plant protection) and other agriculture officers of Meghalaya visited ICAR RC NEH Region, Umiam on 28.10.14 and discussed with Principal Scientist (Entomology) and other scientists of Plant protection regarding the swarming caterpillar problem and its management in Ri-bhoi district.

Accordingly it was suggested to manage this pest by dusting with Malathion 5D/Fenvulrate 0.4D /Cythion dust @ 15-20kg/ha. **OR** spraying with Quinolphos 25 EC @ 2 litres/ha OR Triazophos 40EC @ 1 litre/ha OR Dichlorvos 76SL @ 600ml/ha OR Chlorpyrifos 20 EC @ 2.5 litres/ha OR *Bacillus thuringiensis* 8 SP @ 2gm/litre of water. Dusting should also be done on bunds. In case of severe infestation, small plots can be isolated and the movement of the caterpillars can be prevented by digging a trench around the infested field wherever possible. As the moths of *S. mauritia* are attracted towards light, therefore, light traps can also be utilized for mass trapping of the moths.

The team consisting of Dr. Pankaj Baiswar, Scientist (Plant Pathology), Dr. D M Firake, Scientist (Entomology) and Mrs. Mousami Das, SMS (Plant Protection), KVK, Ri-bhoi along with the Assistant Director (Agriculture) Mr Shylla visited the infested site in Umroi and adjoining areas on 29.10.14. Farmers were given suggestions that, they may use any of the above mentioned control measures for the management of swarming caterpillars.



Swarming caterpillar infestation on paddy



Visit of ICAR team to the infested sites



ICAR scientists, suggesting to the farmers, control measures against swarming caterpillar

(Pankaj Baiswar)

(D M Firake)

(Mousami Das)