

# Leaf blight kills four acres of paddy

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Palakkad

THE rain has not only submerged and destroyed vegetable farms, but also indirectly affected paddy. Four acre of paddy field of V Jagadeeshan, secretary of the Kannimari Padashekhara Nelulpadaka Samithi, has been affected with leaf blight disease, turning all the grain into chaff. A sum of Rs 1.50 lakh was spent to cultivate the field.

"I noticed the disease when the rain was at its peak. However, for pesticides to be effective, the rain has to subside. As the rain continued without respite, the disease spread to all the areas," said Jagadeshan.

When the rain stopped, even pesticides will not be able to counter the spread. In addition, tapioca, chilli and other vegetable crops were also lost, as they were submerged. "I have a loan of more than Rs 3 lakh in the local bank. My house has also sloped to a side as the waterlogging resulted



The paddy fields of Jagadeeshan of Kannimari affected by leaf blight disease

in the loose mud going down. "I have applied for compensation, and I hope the Kri-shi Bhavan will do something," said Jagadeeshan.