

Bacterial leaf blight disease affects paddy fields in Kollengode region

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

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THE paddy fields in the Palakode, Aanamari and Thengekaad areas under the Kollengode Krishi Bhavan are facing a bacterial leaf blight disease, where the leaves of the paddy stalks appear in a burnt or dry condition.

Excess rainfall and the vagaries in the climate were stated to be one of the reasons. In a clouded atmosphere when sunlight and rain appear at regular intervals it could result in infections, said V S Dilip Kumar, agriculture officer of the Kollengode Krishi Bhavan.

Earlier, the leaf folder (ilachurutti), stem borer (thanduthorapan), thrips (ellapen) and mite (mandari) were noticed and pesticides were applied which resulted in bringing it under control. However, as the leaf blight disease (ilakarichil) can spread fast through the medium of water, the nearby paddy fields were also in danger of contracting the disease. The output will also be seriously affected. The yellowing of the edges of the leaf is the first sign. This yellowish colour will gradually come down to the neck and later the stalk. The whole leaf will then get burnt or dried, said senior agricultural assistant A Velmurugan.



The paddy fields in Palakode in Kollengode where bacterial leaf blight disease (which gives leaves a burnt appearance) is prevalent



In the initial stages, 20 grams of raw cow dung should be mixed with one litre of water and the slurry should be sprinkled on the infected part

K Sreejith, field assistant

If the stalk of the plant is cut and put in a glass of clear water, a milk-like liquid can be seen flowing out from it.

This is known as the 'ooze test' and the farmer will be able to detect the presence of the bacteria.

In the initial stages, 20 grams

of raw cow dung should be mixed with one litre of water and the slurry should be sprinkled on the infected part. Or else, 30 grams of streptocyclene, an antibiotic can be mixed with 200 litre of water and sprinkled, said field assistant K Sreejith.

In order to prevent, the spread of bacteria through water, 2 kilograms of bleaching powder can be used in a one-acre paddy field. It can be tied in a cloth and kept in areas where water flows into and outside the paddy fields.

The farmers who experience the disease should also contact the nearest Krishi Bhavans, said Dilip Kumar.