

# A wave of bad luck for paddy farmers

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Palakkad:** After the widespread destruction of crops due to the floods, paddy farmers in the district are in again in distress as the crop has been affected by bacterial leaf blight.

## BACTERIAL LEAF BLIGHT

Already 8,757.86 hectares of paddy has been destroyed affecting 16,355 farmers in the district, according to a report sent by principal agriculture officer to the state government on Tuesday.

Rain and deep water, high humidity, and warm temperature cause the disease, said Suresh Kumar, deputy director of agricul-



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Around 8,757.86 hectares of paddy has been destroyed affecting 16,355 farmers in the district

ture department.

Yield in 6,203 hectares in Chittur has been lost; Kuzhalmannam suffered loss in 6,200 hectares; Kollengode lost crops in 5,800 hectares; Alathur 4,500 hectares; Nemmara 4,820 hectares;

Malampuzha 2,500 hectares and Palakkad 1,620 hectares.

Disease has not damaged crops in Mannarkad and Agali.

“The bacterial leaf blight is caused by *Xanthomonas oryzae* pv. *oryzae*. It

causes wilting of seedlings and yellowing and drying of leaves. This is one of the most serious diseases of rice. Yield loss can be as much as 70 to 75%. When plants are infected at booting stage, bacterial blight does not affect yield but result in poor quality grains and high proportion of broken kernels,” Suresh Kumar said.

The mode of transmission of this vascular disease is rain splashes (wind born rain) coupled with wind injuries to rice leaves, irrigation water.

To control the serious disease anti-biotic is used. 30 grams of strepto eycline per liter of water is used to spray the affected plants. Bleaching powder is also used to kill the bacteria, he added.