

Cassava mealybug, *Phenacoccus manihoti* (Hemiptera: Pseudococcidae): Monitoring and management

Survey on occurrence of *P. manihoti*

Sample No	Village Name	District	Date of collection	Percent infestation of plants (Average) in unsprayed fields
1	Mallur	Salem	5th June 2020	23.6
2	Oduvankurichi	Namakkal, TN	6th June 2020	32.5
3	Ariayagoundampatti	NamkaKKal, TN	6th June 2020	15.4
4	Thoppapatti	Namakkal, TN	6th June 2020	33.8
5	So. Pacchadiampalayam	Namakkal, TN	6th June 2020	36.2
6	Kalkurichi	Namakkal, TN	6th June 2020	41.6
7	Ethapur	Salem, TN	5th June 2020	21.2
8	Thalaivasal	Salem, TN	5th June 2020	24.0
9	Nadupalayam	Erode, TN	6 th June, 2020	9.2
10	Jeddarpalayam	Erode, TN	6 th June, 2020	16.7

Factors responsible for outbreak

The infestation was very severe in Namagiripettai, Sendamangalam blocks of Namakkal District of Tamil Nadu due to acute water shortage, drought coupled with high temperature and low humidity

The *paracoccus marginatus* occurrence during initial stage of the crop was successfully controlled by the parasitoid, *Acerophagous papayae* whereas *P. manihoti* was not preferred by *A. papayae*. It is one of the reasons for outbreak of *P. manihoti*.

The cassava varieties Mulluvadi (Released by TNAU) and white Thailand (Thailand variety not released officially, but brought from Thailand by sago mill owners) are grown extensively by farmers. Both are found highly susceptible to *P. manihoti* attack

Management advocated

Collection and burning of infested /dried plants

Spraying of safer insecticides / any neem formulation (minimum 1500 ppm azadirachtin) with sticking agent

