

As sowing ends, ICAR's wheat research centre tells farmers to watch out for pests

Our Bureau

New Delhi

As wheat sowing has been completed, the current favourable weather conditions are supporting vegetative growth and tillering. But farmers have been advised by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) to regularly monitor the crop for yellow rust and brown rust infections.

In an advisory issued (for January 16-31 period) by the Karnal-based Indian Institute of Wheat and Barley Research (IIWBR), an ICAR arm, its Director Ratan Tiwari said considering the recent rainfall received in northern India, farmers should apply urea dose at 40 kg per acre to ensure good growth of the crop.

"In those areas where there is no rainfall, light ir-



CROP ADVISORY. Given the recent rains in the North, farmers should apply 40 kg of urea per acre for optimal crop growth

rigation maybe applied if soil is not having sufficient moisture to protect the crop from frost damage," he said in the advisory.

Farmers have been asked to carry out proper weed management. But Tiwari cautioned against excess water and told them to avoid irrigation if rain is forecast.

He advised the farmers to avoid excess urea if there is

yellowing in crops and not apply it during fog or cloudy conditions.

USE OF HERBICIDES

To control narrow leaf weeds in wheat, the IIWBR advisory said Clodinafop 15 WP at 160 gm per acre or Pinoxaden 5 EC at 400 ml per acre may be applied.

For broad leaf weeds, farmers need to spray 2, 4-D

E 500 ml/acre or metsulfuron 20 WP at 8 grams per acre or carfentrazone 40 DF at 20 gm/acre.

If there are both narrow and broad leaf weeds, use of sulfosulfuron 75 WG at 13.5 gm/acre or sulfosulfuron+metsulfuron 80 WG at 16 gm/acre in 120-150 litres of water before the first irrigation or 10-15 days after irrigation has been recommended.

On possible infestation of yellow rust and brown rust, IIWBR recommended one spray of propiconazole 25EC at 0.1 per cent or tebuconazole 50 per cent and trifloxystrobin 25 per cent WG at 0.06 per cent be applied at the infected area to avoid further spread.

Farmers, who have applied one type of fungicide last year, are advised to apply an alternate recommended fungicide this year.