

TIMELY CONTROL MEASURES SAVED MANGO CROP

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Sri. P. Kuppaiah (60 Years, 8639856746) owns 12 acres of 15 years old Mango garden with 600 Baneshan, 200 Banglora, 100 Neelum and 100 other varieties in Dalavaipalli Village of Yadamari Mandal in Chittoor District. (AP).

He attended a training program on Mango in February, 2018 conducted by Horticulture Department at Chittoor for which the author (Trainee CFA - Fruits and ADA, FTC, Chittoor) is the resource person.

In his farm, mangoes came to flowering in three phases; about 25 % in February 1st Week, 40% in February 3rd week and about 35 % in March 1st week. But the flowering which came during 3rd week of February did not lead to any fruits because there were only male flowers.

The farmer followed the plant protection schedule as suggested in the training i.e. one spray during flower bud initiation with Imidacloprid @ 0.4 ml / lit. and Wettable sulphur @ 3 gr / lit. to control mango hoppers and powdery mildew, and 2nd spray after fruit set with Fipronil @ 2 ml / lit, Saap @ 2 gr / lit and planofix @ 1 ml / 4.5 lit. of water to control Thrips, Anthracnose and fruit droop.

As a result the crop was almost pest free and on the whole the fruit set in the garden was about 35- 40%.

In the last week of March, in spite of plant protection measures, the farmer observed heavy fruit drop in the garden and he immediately rushed to the author for remedial measures. When the garden was visited, it was observed that the plants are looked dull with pale yellow colored leaves and fruits had yellow patches on the surface due to nutritional deficiencies; mainly micro nutrients. Thrips damage was also observed in some instances.



Accordingly, the farmer was advised to take immediate remedial measures by spraying;

Formula – 4 (Micronutrient mixture) @ 5 gr/ lit.
Potassium Nitrate (Multi – K) @ 15 gr /lit.
Urea @ 10 gr / lit.
And Dimethoate (Rogar) @ 2 ml / lit.

The farmer was also advised to irrigate the crop once in 15 days up to May 15th for better fruit development.

Farmer sprayed recommended nutrients in the 1st week of April by incurring Rs: 20,000/-. Within 10 days the farmer noticed the improvement in the garden i.e.

pale plants turned green and healthy, there was complete control of fruit drop, accompanied by a remarkable growth in fruit size and disappearance of yellow patches on the fruits surface.

In the last week of April 2018 the farmer informed the CFA Trainee that the measures saved his crop to a great extent and otherwise he might have lost of about 40 % of set fruits in the form of fruit drop.



When the farmer was contacted in the 3rd week of June, the farmer jubilantly informed that the fruits in his orchard are of high quality and he was expecting yield up to 24 to 28 MTs with an average price of Rs. 15,000/- per ton. Further, he realised that regularly monitoring the orchard, identifying the problems, obtaining timely expert advice and taking necessary remedial measures helped him in saving his crop yield by 10 MTs worth Rs;1,50,000/-, with just an additional expenditure of Rs. 20,000/-.

