RICE

Rice occupied 28.02 lakh hectares with total production of 112.36 lakh tonnes during 2009-2010. The average grain yield of rice was 40.10 q per hectare (16 q per acre). The average yield in terms of paddy in Punjab was 60.33 q per hectare (24.15 q/acre).

Important Points :

* Use laser land leveler for precision land leveling before puddling to enhance on farm water use efficiency and other farm inputs. (Appendix III).
* Restrict to timely sowing of nursery (Second fortnight of May) and timely transplanting schedule (Second fortnight ofJune) for better grain quality, water saving and low build up of stem borers.
* Use nitrogen and FYM judiciously. Excessive use of nitrogen fertilizer encourage multiplication of insect pests particularly whitebacked plant hopper in PR 114 and false smut disease in PR 116.
* To control brown leaf spot, sheath blight, sheath rot, false smut, kernel smut and white backed plant hopper, give recommended chemical sprays at right stage (see Plant Protection). For the management of bacterial leaf blight, grow Rice varieties PR 120, PR 115, PR 113 and PR 111 which are resistant to most of the pathotypes of bacterial leaf blight pathogen or PR-118, PR-116 and PR-114 which are resistant to some of the pathotypes of bacterial leaf blight pathogen.
* To save water plant early maturing variety PR 115.
* Stop irrigation about a fortnight before maturity.
* Avoid transplating paddy in poor sandy soil.
* Harvesting should be done strictly at proper maturity and varietywise. Manual threshing may be encouraged for better quality.
* Plant hoppers feed at the base of rice plants and are often overlooked. Their damage is noticed only when the crop is hopper burnt. Hence regular monitoring of insect population is necessary.
* Use of synthetic pyrethroids leads to increase in the population of plant hoppers. Hence these insecticides should not be used for the control of rice insect-pests.