Aphids in Sesame

Recognize the problem
These are a major pest on sesame and pulses, and are commonly known as aphids (Asuvini in Tamil). Aphids can cause 10-15% yield loss in sesame, also known as gingelly. The nymphs and yellow-coloured adults suck the plant sap. As a result of this, the crop growth is stunted and the flowering and pod setting are affected. Typical symptoms of the damage caused by this insect are yellowish discoloration and crinkling of leaves. The damage is more severe in young shoots and buds.

Background
Aphids are found in groups on the under surface of the leaves, tender shoots and growing tips. Ants are attracted to the honey dew secretion that aphids release and can help in carrying the aphids from one plant to another plant.

Management
- Apply the recommended dose of fertilizer
- Practice thinning of sesame and maintain an optimum population of 11 plants per square meter
- Follow the check basin method of irrigation by avoiding excess irrigation
- Prophylactic spray of neem oil @ 3 ml per litre of water
- Spray *Metarhizium anisopliae* and *Beauveria bassiana* @ 100 ml / per acre
- Release 15,000 *Chrysopa* adults per acre
- Seed treatment with imidacloprid 21.4% FC @ 5 g per kg of seeds
- Spray imidaclorpid 17.8% SL @ 1 ml per litre of water

SL – Soluble Liquid

Scientific name(s) > *Aphis gossypii*

When using a pesticide, always wear protective clothing and follow the instructions on the product label, such as dosage, timing of application, and pre-harvest interval.

The recommendations in this factsheet are relevant to: India