RAGI

**Blast (Pyricularia grisea)**

*Symptoms*
Blast is a major disease. It attacks the crop both at vegetative and reproductive stages as leaf blast, neck blast and finger blast. Small brown spots appear on the leaves which later become spindle shaped with pointed ends, with reddish or purplish brown margin and ashy coloured centre. High temperature along with high humidity favour the spread of disease.

*Control measures*
- Grow resistant varieties
- Treat the seed with thiram or mancozeb or carbendazim @ 2 g/kg seed 24 hours before sowing. Spray the crop with Ediphenophos @ 500 ml/ha or carbendazim 50% WP @ 500 g/ha or with difenoconazole 25% EC @ 500 ml/ha or propiconazole 25% EC @ 500 ml/ha in 500 litre of water or with neem based products (2 ml/1 litre of water)
- Spray any of the above fungicides at the time of 50% flowering and again after 10 days to control neck and finger blast.

**Helminthosporium leaf spot**

*Symptoms*
It usually occurs at the time of grain maturity. Oval shaped brown spots with dark centre and brown margin appear on the leaves and leaf sheaths.

*Control measures*
- Treat the seeds with (Carboxyn 37.5% + Thiram 37.5%) DS @ 1.5 g/kg of seeds
- Spray the crop at tillering stage with mancozeb or zineb (0.25%) * Grow resistant varieties.