

Insecticide Usage Pattern on Rice Crop in Godavari Delta of Andhra Pradesh

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ABSTRACT

The survey carried during *kharif* 2016 on insecticide usage pattern by the rice growers revealed that farmers solely depended on chemical pesticides for controlling insect pests. Nineteen insecticides (19) belonging to six (6) chemical groups are being used by the farmers to control insect pests. Survey also revealed that none of the farmers have any idea about economic threshold level (ETL) based sprayings and they simply resorted to calendar based application of insecticides leading to escalation of production costs; half of the farmers (49.00%) have applied insecticides as schedule sprays irrespective of pest incidence on their own decision. Majority of the farmers (87.50%) used insecticides as mixtures rather than applying single insecticide at a time; calendar based sprays irrespective of pest and disease incidence, use of non-recommended synthetic pyrethroids for controlling insect pests, application of insecticides at higher doses than the recommended level, mixing more than one pesticide (cock tails) to control insect pests and diseases simultaneously and defective spraying *etc.* are some of the practices followed by the rice growers contributing to the flare up of insect pests in general and planthoppers in particular infesting rice.

Keywords: *Awareness and insecticide usage pattern, Farmers, Insect pests, Insecticides and Rice.*