

Awareness of Rice (*Oryza sativa* L.) Farmers on Pest Control Measures in Three Districts of Andhra Pradesh

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ABSTRACT

A survey conducted among 27 farmers' in various mandals of Guntur, Prakasam and Krishna districts of Andhra Pradesh to assess the insecticide usage pattern of farmers in rice crop revealed that majority of the farmers approached progressive farmers (25.93%) and few of them approached input dealers, Village Agriculture Assistant (VAA) and scientists of Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) (14.81%) for pest management advisory. Yellow stem borer and green leaf folder were the most predominant lepidopteran pests according to 80-85% of the farmers, and about 60-65% of farmers reported the incidence of brown plant hopper and green leaf hopper and maximum incidence of pests was noticed at tillering stage (100%), followed by boot leaf stage (92.59%) and panicle initiation stage (81.48%). Nearly 50 per cent of farmers initiated plant protection measures based on first appearance of pest and few of them (6.67%) followed the concept of economic threshold level (ETL) *i.e.* counting by regular monitoring of pests. The frequently used insecticides for the management of the pests in rice were chlorantraniliprole, acephate, dinotefuran, flubendiamide, pymetrozine and thiamethoxam. Among the frequently used insecticides, the spray frequency of chlorantraniliprole was maximum (33) followed by acephate (23), flubendiamide (22) and chlorpyrifos (11) during entire crop growth period. Less than 11.11 per cent of farmers were following label claim on the container and 59.26 per cent of them were unaware of different coloured triangles on insecticide bottles. Only about 14.81 per cent of farmers were using protective clothing during spraying operation and 51.85 per cent of them had awareness on effect of insecticides on soil microbes.

Keywords: *Pest management, Protection measures, Rice and Survey.*