

Insecticide Handling Knowledge and Practices by Maize Farmers of West Godavari District of Andhra Pradesh

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ABSTRACT

The study was carried out total 30 selected farmers from six mandals viz., Pedavegi, Lingapalem, Chintalapudi, Eluru, T. Narasapuram and K. Kota of West Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh during *rabi* 2021-2022 to study their knowledge and practices towards pesticide usage. The study revealed that great majority of the farmers were unaware about pesticide classification and toxicity symbols on packing (77%), and alerts / rejection of export of food materials due to pesticide residues (47%). When contacted regarding pesticide selection, 58% responded that the selection of pesticides is based on their experience, while only 7% farmers informed that they contact local agricultural officer for recommendation / selection of pesticides. Majority of the farmers use bottle cap (63%) for measuring liquid formulations, and about 54% of them use stick for mixing the spray solution. During the personal discussions and also observations in the field, that most commonly observed symptoms are skin irritation (34%) followed by breathing problems (23%). It was also clear that 40% of the farmers followed cleaning the affected area with water in the event of pesticide poisoning. The study results indicate that there is a need to conduct simple training sessions among farmers prior to onset of crop season, focussing on safe handling and use of pesticides, with special reference to mixing, use of personal protection while spraying and simple first aid methods in case of poisoning.

Keywords: *Awareness, Pesticides, Usage and handling.*