

IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF FARMER TRAINING IN RICE
IPM IN MAHAWELI SYSTEM 'C' AREA, SRI LANKA

By

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to identify the impact of farmer training in rice IPM in the Mahaweli C area, Sri Lanka on the basis of knowledge, attitude and adoption of IPM practices. Their relationship to situational and personal characteristics and the economic gains in adopting rice IPM practices were also determined.

Four block manager areas were randomly selected to represent the Mahaweli system C area. A sample of 120 trained farmers and 60 untrained farmers were randomly selected from the farm families living in the selected blocks.

Data were collected by means of personal interview questionnaires.

Majority of trained and untrained farmers were generally older and had completed primary education. Among the socio-economic factors, family size, social participation and wealth were significantly different between trained and untrained farmers.

Trained farmers had participated in only 50% of the scheduled farmer training activities. Majority of them have been exposed to field exercises.

Trained farmers' knowledge level related to IPM was higher than that of untrained farmers. Majority of them were knowledgeable about more than four beneficial insects and identified at least four beneficial insects.

Trained farmers had favourable attitude towards rice IPM practice as a profitable technology. Their attitude towards ease of application and risk in applying IPM methods should be further improved.

Trained farmers' insecticide usage had been reduced significantly. The average yield was significantly higher than that of untrained farmers.

The trained farmers' attention should be drawn to practise more preventive control measures as much as possible in the farmer field for insect and weed control.

The level of extension contact is significantly related to the level of IPM knowledge and attitude towards IPM. Knowledge of IPM and extension contacts taken together, explain 42% of the variability in attitude towards IPM. The knowledge of IPM and attitude towards IPM together explain about 47% of the variability in the adoption of IPM.

Farmers' level of knowledge and attitude related to rice IPM need to be improved for higher adoption of rice IPM practices. Recommendations are made to increase the impact of farmer training on IPM.