

Scientific Orientation and Attitude Towards on Integrated Pest Management Practices among Paddy Farmers in Kollidam Block of Nagapattinam District

Balamurugan V.¹, M. Natarajan²

Assistant Professors, Department of Agricultural Extension, Annamalai University

Abstract: *Paddy is an important food grain crop in India and is having a prime role in our agriculture. Green revaluation is associated not only with higher productivity through enhanced productivity, but also with several negative ecological and social consequences. serious problem has developed where indiscriminate use of pesticide in excess with consequent failure to produce expected yield resulted in economic loss. This paper may be concluded that highly significant difference was found for the variable scientific orientation, among trained and untrained farmers. Only those farmers with scientific orientation would have opted for training, which could be the possible reason for the significant difference between the trained and untrained farmers. The 't' test for attitude towards Integrated pest management exhibited a significant difference between trained and untrained farmers. The reason is quite clear that trained and untrained farmers on Integrated pest management would receive more scores under this variable, due to better exposure.*

Keywords: Paddy farming, scientific orientation, Integrated pest management, trained farmers, pesticide use

1. Introduction

Paddy is an important food grain crop in India and is having a prime role in our agriculture. Green revaluation is associated not only with higher productivity through enhanced productivity, but also with several negative ecological and social consequences. serious problem has developed where indiscriminate use of pesticide in excess with consequent failure to produce expected yield resulted in economic loss. The Government of India launched Integrated Pest Management programme with farmer's field school approach in 1992 on a small scale, for rice and cotton crops as the pesticides used for their crop contributes more than 78.00 per cent of total consumption. By intensive demonstrations and frequent communication through mass media on the incidence of pest and the methods of management, the integrated pest management has been brought operational at farmer's level. Integrated pest management is a component of sustainable agriculture with a sound ecological foundation. Although the concept of integrated pest management has its origins nearly three decades back, the close of pesticides has not declined appreciably. Integrated Pest Management is a programme by farmers and not for farmers. It seeks to empower farmers to become managers and decision makers so that they can handle and control methods to maximum profits, while optimizing production inputs and resources. The integrated pest management programme aims at educating the farmers and extension agencies through Farmers Field Schools. The subject matter specialist (SMS) function as master trainers in their states. The essence of the integrated pest management concept lies in the harmonious integration of compatible multiple methods, used singly or in combination against pest including insects, pathogens and weeds. It ensures economic benefits to the farmers and the society at large. The use of economic injury level (EHL) and population have been the main criteria of integrated pest

2. Review of Literatures

However, an attempt has been made in this chapter to review the literature that had a meaningful relation to the study and are presented.

Suresh (1994) and Lesely (1996) ranked that majority of the respondents belonged to medium level of scientific orientation.

Raji et al., (1994) stated that two fifth (42.50 per cent) of trained farmers had high level of scientific orientation.

Thangaraj (1998) stated that there was no difference in scientific orientation among contact and other farmers.

3. Research Methodologies

Kollidam block was selected by simple random sampling. The list of villages of Kollidam block, where training was offered by Central Integrated Pest Management Center was considered for the selection of the trained farmers. From that list, four villages, namely arsur, mudhalaimedu, mathiravelur and perampur were selected by simple random sampling. In Kollidam block, four villages, namely, kunnam, thillainathan, uppangadu and velangudi were selected by simple random sampling. A list of trained farmers from the selected four villages was collected from the Central Integrated Pest Management Center. Of the thirty trained farmers, of each village, a sample size of sixty trained farmers and sixty untrained farmers were selected from the four selected villages and constituted the study.

4. Finding and Discussion

Table 1: Distribution of respondents according to their scientific orientation

S. No.	Category	Trained farmers (n= 60)		Untrained farmers (n=60)	
		Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
1.	Low	17	28.33	19	31.67
2.	Medium	23	38.33	24	40.00
3.	High	20	33.34	17	28.33
	Total	60	100.00	60	100.00

Mean score - 28.00

Mean score - 23.3

Mean difference - 4.70

t - value 8.81**

** Significant at 1 per cent level of probability

From the result of table 1 it could be observed that 38.33 per cent of trained farmers belonged to medium category, followed by high (33.34 per cent) and low (28.33 per cent) levels in the case of untrained farmers, 40.00 per cent belonged to medium category, followed by low (31.67 per cent) and high (28.33 per cent) levels. It may also be observed that highly significant difference was found for the variable scientific orientation, among trained and untrained farmers. Only those farmers with scientific orientation would have opted for training, which could be the possible reason for the significant difference between the trained and untrained farmers. This finding is in line with the findings of Suresh (1991), Kumaran (1994) and Lesley (1996).

Table 2: Distribution of respondents according to their Attitude towards IPM

S. No.	Category	Trained farmers (n= 60)		Untrained farmers (n=60)	
		Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
1.	Low	11	18.33	32	53.33
2.	Medium	30	50.00	18	30.00
3.	High	19	31.67	19	16.67
	Total	60	100.00	60	100.00

Mean score - 20.2

Mean score - 19.40

Mean difference- 0.80

t-value: 2.40*

* significant at 5 percent level of probability

The Table 2 revealed that 50.00 per cent of the trained farmers had a medium level of favorable attitude towards Integrated pest management, followed by high (31.67 per cent) and low (18.33 per cent) levels. In the case of untrained farmers, 53.33 per cent possessed only low level of favorable attitude, followed by medium (30.00 per cent) and high (16.67 per cent) levels of favorable attitude. The 't' test for attitude towards Integrated pest management exhibited a significant difference between trained and untrained farmers. The reason is quite clear that trained and untrained farmers on Integrated pest management would receive more scores under this variable, due to better exposure. This finding derives support from the findings of Poonguzhali (1998).

5. Conclusion

This paper may be concluded that highly significant difference was found for the variable scientific orientation, among trained and untrained farmers. Only those farmers

with scientific orientation would have opted for training, which could be the possible reason for the significant difference between the trained and untrained farmers. The 't' test for attitude towards Integrated pest management exhibited a significant difference between trained and untrained farmers. The reason is quite clear that trained and untrained farmers on Integrated pest management would receive more scores under this variable, due to better exposure.

References

- [1] Kumaran, M. 1994, Farming system perspective of small and marginal farmers in Rainfed areas, M.Sc. (Ag.) Thesis, TNAU, Coimbatore.
- [2] Lesley, S. 1996, An analysis of farmers participation and sustainability of a farmer managed Irrigation system, M S.c. Thesis, Annamalai University, Annamalai Nagar.
- [3] Poonguzhali. B 1998, A study on plant protection behaviour of cotton growers, M.Sc. (Ag.), Thesis, TNAU, Madurai.
- [4] Raji, R.J. Somasundaram, S. and N. Viswanathan, 1994. Socio-economic profile of Trained farmers n Irrigation management practices in Tanjavour District, Journal of Extension Education, 5(3): 935-936.
- [5] Suresh, M. 1991. Nutrient management An Expost facto study among Paddy farmers, M.Sc. (Ag.) Thesis, TNAU, Coimbatore