

A REVIEW ON MAJOR RICE PESTS AND WEEDS OF SRILANKA AND CONTROL

A REVIEW REPORT

BY

PERMANENT REFERENCE

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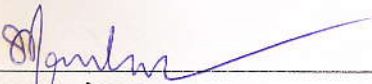
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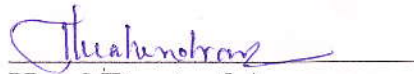
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ABSTRACT

Objective of my review study is to find out what are the major pests affecting the paddy production in Sri Lanka and what are the control measures followed in the field and types of control.

Being a tropical agricultural country, Sri Lanka on agricultural products for export as well as local consumption in meeting local need of agricultural goods, rice crop cultivation has a great involvement and, it has to face the food scarcity according to population increment, pest outbreaks, weed occurrences and fungal and other pest attacks.

In this present era of optimism, improper handling of synthetic pesticides, fungicides and herbicides generate health hazard ness, evolutionary development of insect pest resistance to pesticides as well as fungal resistance to fungicides and herbal resistance to herbicides, general environmental pollution, and resurgence and outbreak of pests. Indiscriminate application of pesticides results, higher cost of pesticides and uneasiness of farmers also such as health problems.

These facts emerge a shift in third generation synthetic pesticides, to fourth generation botanical pesticides, and exert a thought among the agricultural Experts of using botanical and, biorational pesticides, pest resistant varietal establishment and, cultural and natural control of pests in the future pest management programs in the global view. And these control strategies could be introduced to Sri Lanka for future pest management series and for the successful food crop production.

Number of recognized species of weeds, pathogens, rodents, molluscs and birds also assemble with insect pests in causing declines in food crop yield. Mainly, the presence of weeds, pay the attention in causing competition effects on rice as well as providing shelter for the survival of insect pests, pathogens and vector insects.

Pathogens such as virus, fungus, nematodes, protozoan and etc. have the attitude of hosting on the crops for their survival, multiplication and inhabitancy.

Some pathogenic diseases, insect pests and some weeds could be distinguished as major pests of rice production in Sri Lanka presently.

Inspite of insufficient knowledge in land preparation skills, some stages of insect pest, disease and weed existence is favoured and their survival in the land contributed to cultivation, becomes unavoidable.

It is being difficult to the farmers determining the discrimination of rice crop values during pest out break, in time, due to their lack if knowledge about the symptoms of pest attacks, in fact of less communicative facilities and literacy and being situated far from technologically developed cities; thus sometimes after the economic threshold level (ETL) only the control measures are practiced.

Absence of confidence of farmers on cropping new cultivars of rice which have higher resistance to pests and high yielding, influenced by lackness of information and demonstration reached them and which causes repeated plantation of certain old

or traditional varieties and traditional motives also may be the reasons, retaining their hopes unchanged.

Even though the farmers conduct some traditional wise control measures, it is required introducing new participatory extension approach - farmers' field schools (FFSs) and transfer of information and implementation of integrated pest management (IPM) for the critical pest management.

It is important to keep a broad focus mainly on the insect pests, weeds, vector insect of pathogens, rodents, pathogens and other rice pests for the scope of retaining a stability in total yield of rice crop from dropping, in the present and future pest management aspects.

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