

**PESTICIDE USAGE FOR VEGETABLE CULTIVATION IN
MANMUNAI SOUTH & ERUVILPATTU DIVISIONAL
SECRETARIAT DIVISION OF BATTICALOA DISTRICT**

BY

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ABSTRACT

Vegetables except up-country vegetables sold in Batticaloa District are mainly grown in villages in the district and are harvested and sold fresh. Manmunai south and Eruvilpattu divisional secretariat division (DS division) is a predominantly vegetable cultivating area among the 14 DS divisions in the Batticaloa district. Farmers in this region use variety of synthetic pesticides to protect vegetables from pest and diseases. Recently public concern related to health risks associated with pesticide residues remain in the food products has been increased substantially. Therefore, a questionnaire survey was conducted to find out pesticide usage practices of farmers on vegetable cultivation in Manmunai South and Eruvilpattu DS division of Batticaloa District. Stratified random sampling method was used to select respondents' for the survey and the collected data were analyzed statistically.

The results revealed that more than 14 chemicals were used by farmers including insecticides and fungicides. About 91% of the farmers apply pesticides in mixers in which 84% of them use more than three pesticides in a mixture. About 66% of the Chilli producing farmers and 84% of the Brinjal producing farmers apply pesticide more than 22 times or more per cropping season. Insecticide and fungicides are routinely applied by most of these farmers, irrespective of the prevalence of pest and diseases. Around 90% of the farmers apply more than the recommended dosage and frequency of pesticides. About 89% of the farmers harvest vegetables with less pre-harvest interval than the recommendation which is a severe problem suspected to cause serious illness in Batticaloa District. The survey further revealed that there were no any proper storage methods for pesticides and no protective measures were practiced by spray operators. Therefore, this study found out that farmers in the study

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