

**USAGE AND SUPPLY OF PESTICIDES OF PADDY
FARMING IN ERAVUR PATTU DS DIVISION
(BATTICALOA DISTRICT)**

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ABSTRACT

One of the basics of human life is food. Food is mainly produced through agriculture. Pesticide is an important input in agriculture. This study examined the usage and supply of pesticides in terms of its relevant social, economical and technological factors. This study also examined the usage and supply channel of pesticides in paddy farming. At the same time it also focused on the impact of pesticides in paddy farming. It also focused on current potential problems in paddy farming and suggestions to overcome these problems. This study also found the supply chain of pesticides in Eravur Pattu DS division of Batticaloa district. The stratified random sampling was carried out in 3 AEC divisions of Eravur Pattu DS division. Data were gathered using pretested structured questionnaire of 75 farmers.

The average amount of land cultivated in Maha season was higher than Yala season. The two main pest attacks of this study area were BPH and Leaf roller. All the sampled farmers used pesticides. The popular weedicides used to control weeds were Glyphosate (86.7%) and Sorbit (86.7%) in the farmers' point of view. The common insecticides mostly used were Mimic (88%) and Aktara (82.7%). The common fungicide mostly used was Poligar (72%). Cultural control methods were used by some farmers (53.3%) to control pest and diseases (especially to control BPH). Almost all the shops were sold their pesticides with price discount. The amount of discount was depended on the type and amount of pesticides the farmers' purchase. All the farmers bought pesticides from retail shops and payments were made through both cash and credits.

The sample farmers depended on the advice of Extension officers and their own experience for the use of pesticides. CIC, Hayleys and Lankem were the main pesticide suppliers in this area. Majority of the farmers don't have enough knowledge about the competitor brands of pesticides and the color labels which indicates toxicity of the pesticides.

The cost of cultivation was higher in Yala season than Maha season. The cost for pesticides was also higher in Yala season than Maha season. It was because of the higher pest and disease attack in Yala season than Maha season. Profit was also higher in Yala season than Maha season. There was significant correlation between 'profit from 1 ac land in both Maha and Yala season' and 'cost of pesticides for 1 ac land in both Maha and Yala season'.

Several problems in cultivation were identified among the sample farmers. Among them 'decreasing profit margin because of the increasing cultivation cost (especially increasing pesticide cost)' (77.3%) was the prominent problem. Several solutions to overcome these problems were suggested by the sampled farmers. Among them 'increasing the usage of organic substances' (57.3%) and 'selecting suitable varieties of paddy (Resistant varieties for adverse conditions like pest, disease attack and drought)' (57.3%) were the prominent solutions suggested by the sampled farmers.

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