

Agro-chemicals use pattern of cucumber growers in controlling insect-pests and diseases

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ABSTRACT

Sustainability in agricultural production, and to maintain environmental balance are the two major concerns in recent time. Keeping it in consideration, the present study was undertaken with the following objective- to portray the agro-chemicals use pattern of cucumber growers in controlling insect-pests and diseases. The study was conducted in Murshidabad district of West Bengal. For the selection of area and respondents of the present study, multi-stage random sampling technique and universe method were adopted. The study reveals that (1) more than half of respondents (52%) in the study area were illiterate (2) at the most 42 per cent of respondents had upto 1 bigha of own cultivable land (3) at the most 39 per cent respondents had upto 10 kathas of vegetable cultivable land (4) at the most 42 per cent of respondents had 11-20 years of experience in vegetable cultivation (5) at the most 40 per cent of respondents had 11-20 years of experience in agro-chemicals application on vegetable crops (6) main source of personal information on agro-chemicals use was agricultural input retailers (95%) (7) main source of impersonal information was radio (38%) (8) their interval of spraying of chemicals was mainly 4-7 days (73%) (9) spraying was most popular method of application of agro-chemicals (100%) (10) infestation of insect-pests and diseases was mainly seen on mature stage of the crop (11) the cucumber growers used 40-60 litres of water per bigha at seedling stage and 100-130 litres of water per bigha of land for spraying the agro-chemicals at mature stage of the crop (12) the most harmful insect-pest of cucumber crop was red pumpkin beetle (100%) (13) fruit rot disease was the most damaging disease (72%) (14) cucumber growers were using various brands of various technical grades of agro-chemicals for controlling insect-pests and diseases with several doses. Therefore, on the basis of the present investigation, the various extension agencies those are working in the study area should reorient their extension strategies accordingly.

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