

## Suggestions for the increase use efficiency of eco-friendly agricultural practices for sustainable paddy cultivation

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### ABSTRACT

A study was conducted during 2004 to know the suggestions offered by the eco-friendly paddy farmers for the increase use efficiency of eco-friendly agricultural practices in paddy in Pudukottai district in Tamilnadu. The results revealed that provision of credit facilities, subsidy for inputs such as seeds, bio-fertilizers, bio-pesticides, farm implements etc., adequate training programmes and demonstrations, timely and adequate quantity of inputs and regulated market for marketing the eco-friendly produce were the most important suggestions expressed by more than 80 per cent of farmers to follow the eco-friendly agricultural practices. Creation of awareness about bio pesticides and bio control agents through campaigns, radio, television and news paper, formation of eco-clubs were suggested by more than 70 per cent of the farmers. Introduction of more eco-friendly agricultural practices by research system and providing technical guidance and creation of awareness about the input supply offered by the state and central government were suggested by more than 60 per cent of the farmers. So, the policy makers, development workers, researchers and extension officials should involve effectively to sustain agriculture through eco-friendly agricultural practices.

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### INTRODUCTION

During the last four decade, spectacular progress has been achieved in agricultural production in the country. Compared with 51 million tones of food grain production in 1950-51, India achieved food grain production of 211.17 million tones during 2001-02, making it not only self sufficient in food production but also in a buffer stock of over 30 million tones (Venkataramani, 2003). This achievement was because of high intensity cropping and cultivation of high yielding varieties that were highly input responsive. Farmers used chemicals and synthetic pesticides, fertilizers and growth promoters above the level of recommended dose with a motive to get higher yields. In this process the soil, water and environment got polluted besides degradation of natural resources (Shivaraj, 2001). Paddy is the principal food crop and ranks second in the consumption of pesticides in Tamil Nadu. In order to protect our environment, the state department of agriculture had started advocating eco-friendly agricultural practices in paddy cultivation. In addition to the government efforts, number of non-governmental organizations (NGO's) are also taking intensive efforts to make the farmers to adopt eco friendly agricultural practices.

Among the several NGO's in Tamil Nadu, Agricultural Man Ecology (AME) is a Netherland based NGO fund to have taken strenuous efforts to advocate and popularize eco-friendly agricultural practices. It has network with other NGO's situated all over Tamil Nadu and rendered technical and financial support to them for the promotion of eco-friendly agricultural practices.

Keeping this in view, a study was conducted to know the suggestions to increase the use efficiency of eco-friendly agricultural practices among the paddy farmers who have trained by the AME network NGO's and untrained paddy farmers.

### METHODOLOGY

Pudukottai district in Tamil Nadu state was selected purposively since more number of AME network NGOs were placed and involved in the promotion of eco-friendly agricultural practices. Among the NGOs, two NGOs namely Biosphere and Manushi were selected randomly. A total of 180 trained paddy farmers were selected randomly and constituted the respondents. A well-structured interview schedule was used to collect the data. The suggestions offered by the paddy farmers were analyzed using percentage analysis.

### Key words :

Eco-friendly agricultural practices, Sustainable agriculture, Paddy farmers, Suggestions

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