



Farmers' Awareness on Negative Effects of Agrochemical Usage in Erapola GN Division

P.M.T.N.S. Weerasingha, A.M.M. Lakshani
thiliniweerasingha179@gmail.com

Abstract

The majority of Sri Lankans who live in rural areas engage in agriculture, primarily rice farming as their livelihood. With the development of modern agriculture, agrochemical usage has been increased in Sri Lanka. Normal usage and over usage of agrochemical create negative effects on human health and the Environment. Both acute and chronic effects, soil – water contamination are results of agrochemical usage. A study of Farmers' awareness is needed to find solutions to this crisis. The objectives of this study are to identify farmers' perspectives on the usage of agrochemical and their existing knowledge of the negative effects of agrochemical usage. The study used mixed method approach to achieve its objectives. Study population covered the paddy farmers of Erapola GN division. Using simple random sampling, 40 structured questionnaires were filled out. Inferential data were analyzed using excel software. This study found that most of the farmers (75 %) preferred to use chemical fertilizer due to its high efficiency. They use chemical fertilizers less than the recommended level. It shows 50% and 5 % of the farmers used chemical fertilizer more than the recommended level. According to the present study, we found that most of the farmers have no clear idea of the recommended dose for their fields. All farmers face problems due to pests and they use pesticides to manage this problem as its high efficiency. The majority of the farmers follow health guidelines when using pesticides for their fields. According to this study, all farmers were collecting their drinking water from wells and most of them were situated more than 300m over. Although farmers have some knowledge on negative effects of Agrochemical, most of them have no idea to shift from Agrochemical to Organic method.

Keywords: Agriculture, Argo-chemicals, Chemical fertilizer, Paddy farming, Pesticides

