

The purpose of this research was to study the role of agricultural teachers in the rural development secondary school in Disseminating knowledge and information on pesticide usage in the community. The variables on education level, number of years in teaching, teaching load, special assignment, information reception from mass media, information reception from personal contact, and community participation were investigated in order to find out whether the teachers' role depended on them or not. Problems on disseminating pesticide usage information in the community was also explored. 250 copies of questionnaire, for data collection, made by the researcher were sent to the 250 sample subjects. Percentage and chi-square were employed to analyze the data.

The findings were as follows :

1. Most of the agricultural teachers played a small role in disseminating knowledge and information on pesticide usage in the community.

2. The total role of the agricultural teachers in the dissemination depended significantly on the variables of information reception from personal contact and community participation at the .05 level. However, the teachers' role in disseminating knowledge and information on pesticide usage on the topics of types and properties of the pesticide, destruction of pesticide containers after used, and curative method applied to those who got pesticide injury did not significantly depend on the variable of community participation at the .05 level.

3. The total role of the agricultural teachers in disseminating knowledge and information on pesticide usage did not significantly depend on the variables of education level, number of years in teaching, teaching load, special assignment, and information reception from mass media at the .05 level except the role in disseminating knowledge and information on pesticide usage on the topic of the importance of the pesticide to agriculture which depended significantly on the number of years in teaching and information reception from the mass media at the .05 level as well as the role on the topic of the methods of prevention and destruction of the pest which also depended significantly on information reception from the mass media at the .05 level.

4. The agricultural teachers had the following problems in disseminating knowledge and information on pesticide usage in the community ranking from the most to the least serious : lack of budget, heavy teaching load, lack of tools and materials in dissemination, and too small number of agricultural teachers.

From this study, it is clearly shown that the agricultural teachers play very small role in disseminating knowledge and information on pesticide usage in the community. In order to encourage them to play more role, it is recommended that the rural development secondary schools be provided with enough budget, tools and materials for disseminating knowledge and information on pesticide usage in the community.