

Thesis Title Factors Affecting Knowledge and Attitude towards
Pesticide Utilization of Farmers : A Case Study
of the Farmers in Tambol Bangtathen, Amphur
Songphinong, Suphanburi Province

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Abstract

The purpose of this thesis are to investigate knowledge of and attitude towards pesticide utilization of farmers and the factors affecting their knowledge and attitude towards pesticide utilization. The data were collected by interviewing 206 farmers in Tambol Bongtathen, Amphur Songphinong, Suphanburi Province. The statistics used are percentage, Chi-square test, analysis of variance and multiple classification analysis with 0.05 level of significance. The results of the study are as follows :

It was found out that most of the farmers rather have the good knowledge and positive attitude towards pesticide

utilization, that they did well on the knowledge test and attitudinal scales. On the average, the knowledge score was 13.7 of the total 20, and attitudinal scales score was 10.85 of the total 16. The factors affecting knowledge and attitude towards pesticide utilization are identified as follows :

1. Results of the analysis revealed that the differences of socio-economic and demographic factors, i.e., age, educational level, number of family members, number of sons, planting area, how often they plant within a year, kinds of vegetables planted, expense for pesticide, kinds of pesticide used, how often they spray weekly, volume of pesticide used for each time of spraying, person who sprays, time for spraying, spraying instrument, income, access to the mass media, access to the interpersonal media, access to the external society and the membership of a certain agricultural group have no statistically effect on the differences among farmers' knowledge of pesticide utilization. Only two factors, i.e., the periods they have been planting and using pesticide have caused the differences on their knowledge about pesticide utilization at 0.05 level of significance.

Factors which are statistically affecting farmers' knowledge towards pesticide utilization at 0.01 level of significance are those farmers with educational attainment higher than grade 4, spent money for pesticide more than 10,000 baht a year and have higher annual income than 50,000 baht. They did better on knowledge

test than the others. Besides, both the kinds of pesticide used by the farmers and the time for spraying have positive relationship with their knowledge.

2. The differences of socio-economic and demographic factors which are statistically affecting farmers' attitude towards pesticide utilization at 0.05 level of significance are educational attainment, planting area, kinds of vegetables planted, expense for pesticide and kinds of pesticide used. Any other factors have no statistically effect on these farmers' attitude toward pesticide utilization.

Factors which are statistically affecting farmers' attitude towards pesticide utilization at 0.001 level of significance are both those farmers with educational attainment higher than grade 4 and have higher annual income than 50,000 baht. They did better on attitudinal scales than the others. Besides, both the kind of pesticide used by the farmers and the time for spraying have positive relationship with their attitude.