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CARE International provided the training on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) via farmer field schools (FFS) to paddy farmers in Batticaloa District. This study assesses the impact of training on farmers' awareness on IPM practices and access to other sources of information on IPM. The data was collected by interviewing a stratified random sample of 30 trained and 30 untrained farmers from IPM programme implemented localities of Batticaloa District using a structured questionnaire.

Information on IPM was disseminated via FFS to trained farmers. In each strata between 7%-10% of farmers reported access to other sources viz, mass media, field officers of Dept of Agriculture and only 7% of untrained farmers received the information from trained farmers.

Trained farmers reported better awareness on most of the IPM concepts such as timely land preparation (trained 90%, untrained 43%), importance of simultaneous cultivation (trained 85%, untrained 45%), use of resistant varieties (trained 76%, untrained 35%), split application of nitrogen fertilizers (trained 83%, untrained 47%), existence of beneficial organisms (trained 100%, untrained 40%), conservation of beneficial organisms (trained 100%, untrained 13%), use of medicinal plants (trained 40%, untrained 07%).

Access to other sources of information and the transfer of information from trained to untrained farmers were low. Training considerably contributed to the knowledge acquisition of trained farmers. However, in some aspects further attention is needed. Most of the untrained farmers were poorly aware of IPM concepts. This study recommends FFS to be continued and other information sources to be strengthened to reinforce and disseminate the IPM concepts.