

Changing situation of pesticides

Mahinda Wijeratne* and G D Perera

Department of Agric. Economics, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna, Mapalana, Kamburupitiya

Chemical pesticides are harmful. Even though pathogens are pests, many other organisms have fallen victim to pesticides. If all the pesticides are banded, because of their adverse consequences, losses due to pests and diseases will lead to reduction in availability of food. Hence producers make an effort to develop viable alternatives in order to minimize harmful effects on environment and human health. At present there is a trend to release pesticides with lesser adverse consequences. This study focuses to reveal the trend of such innovations employed to control brown plant hopper (*Nilaparvata lugens*) (BPH). Two case studies were carried out with one of the leading agro chemical marketing companies and also with rice farmers. There are two insecticides, BPMC and Admire, which used to control BPH. Admire is currently introduced insecticide. The recommended application of Admire is only 180ml, which contains 36g active ingredient, imidocloprid for one hectare. But BPMC needs one liter, which contains 500 g of active ingredient, fenobucarb to the same extent of land. According to the WHO classification, Admire belongs to class III and BPMC belongs to class II. This implies that Admire has low toxicity level (higher LD₅₀ value). Farmers' knowledge on the currently introduced chemical is high. Although cost of newer chemical is comparatively higher, farmers have acquainted to such control measures.

* mahinda1@sltnet.lk