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Research Paper :

Use of insecticides and indigenous practices on cabbage crop by vegetable growers of Ludhiana district (Punjab)

KANWALJIT KAUR, BIKRAMDEEP SINGH AND PRABHJOT KAUR

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SUMMARY

The study was conducted to know the use of insecticide and indigenous practices on cabbage crop by vegetable growers. Sample of 150 vegetable growers having at least one acre area under vegetable cultivation in Ludhiana district was selected for the investigation. Data regarding use of insecticide and indigenous practices on cabbage were collected with help of specially prepared interview schedule. Study findings revealed that cabbage crop was infested by stem borer, diamond back moth and aphid insects, for controlling of stem borer about 53 per cent of infested area was treated with recommended insecticides. About 75 per cent of area infested by aphid and diamond back moth was treated with non recommended insecticides. Out of this only 11, 22 and 27 percentage of the area was treated with recommended doses to control stem borer, diamond back moth and aphid respectively. Majority of cabbage growers used non recommended number of sprays and time interval between sprays of insecticide on their crop. All cabbage growers were not observing the recommended waiting period for picking the crop after spraying, which is very alarming figure from health point of view. Only negligible percentage (1.58) of vegetable growers was using indigenous practice *i.e.* ash for controlling aphid on their crop. Whereas on other vegetables like brinjal and okra, the use of neem spray was observed. It is necessary that these insecticides should be used very judiciously and safely. So, cabbage growers should be educated through various extension strategies about recommended doses, number of sprays, time interval between sprays and waiting period for picking fruit after treatments. Research Scientists engaged in production of vegetable crops should search and validate indigenous practices effective for successful growing of organic cabbage.

See end of the article for authors' affiliations

Correspondence to :
PRABHJOT KAUR
Department of Extension Education, College of Agriculture, Punjab Agricultural University, LUDHIANA (PUNJAB) INDIA

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India is the second largest producer of cabbage crop. Cabbage is an excellent source of vitamin C. Cabbage head is widely consumed raw, cooked and preserved in a great variety of dishes. But major problem of its production is of insects, which affect the crop on large scale. For controlling these insects there is practice of indiscriminate use of insecticide by growers. These insecticides should be used very judiciously and safely taking into account the environmental and health concerns. So there is a need to educate vegetable growers about recommendations of cabbage crop and indigenous practices that spare the nature and non target organism. Keeping in view of these points, a study on use of insecticides and indigenous practices on cabbage crop by vegetable growers of Ludhiana district was undertaken with the following objectives to know extent of use of insecticides on cabbage crop by vegetable growers, to know level of use of insecticides in cabbage crop by vegetable growers, to identify different indigenous practices and their level of use on cabbage crop by vegetable growers for controlling insects.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study was conducted in four blocks of Ludhiana district *i.e.* Ludhiana, Mangat, Pakhowal and Samrala. Two villages from each block were selected randomly. A list of 150 vegetable growers having minimum one acre area under vegetable cultivation was prepared. From the list of all cabbage growers (63) were selected. Data were collected from cabbage growers through personal interview method.

Operationalisation of concepts:

Extent of use of insecticides:

It referred to proportion of area (acres) under cabbage crop treated with recommended and non- recommended insecticides and doses, it was expressed in percentage