

Farmers' pesticide application practice in tomato and African eggplant production

Objective: To determine the gap between the recommended spray programs and the actual farmers spray practices.

Method and materials

Study area: Mlali ward in Mvomero District, Morogoro. The Research was done by Malisa Efraim under Sokoine University.

Research period: Nov 2014 – Feb 2016

Design: Cross-sectional research design. 120 smallholder farmers were selected from Mlali, Kipera, and Mkuyuni and Mongwe villages. The information of farmer's knowledge and awareness, practices and the side effects were collected through a structured questionnaire.

Results

Application frequency is shown in the table. Besides not many farmers followed safety measures when applying a pesticide.



Time of application	Frequency	%
Observed threshold level (recommended)	19	15.8
Whenever neighbors complain about the problem	5	4.2
Whenever there is a sign of infestation	15	12.5
After every certain period for crop protection	81	67.5
Frequency of application		
After every seven days	69	57.5
Depending on severity of pest	16	13.3
After ten to fourteen days	35	29.2

Conclusion

Most farmers lack good knowledge about optimal application periods and therefore do not follow recommended spray programmes or do not observe safety measures.

Note: The conclusions are based on work done in Morogoro and might not reflect the picture in the whole country.