

**STUDY OF THE FARMERS' AWARENESS AND ADOPTION OF
INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT FOR COTTON IN
KHAIRPUR SINDH**

M. A. Qadri¹, A. A. Siddiqui¹ and Z. Mirani¹

¹Department of Agricultural Education Extension, Sindh Agriculture
University, Tandojam, Pakistan

ABSTRACT

The indiscriminate use of pesticide, in addition to the health hazards, increased the cost of production. Considering the situation, various research organizations including Agricultural Research Institutes and Nuclear Institute of Agriculture recommended alternative techniques to control insect pests and diseases. Government and non-government institutes are involved in pursuing the farmers to reduce the use of pesticide and to adopt sustainable measures such as Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices. However, very little efforts are made to understand the level of farmers' knowledge and adoption and barriers which impede the rate of adoption. Therefore, the present study sought to identify and describe farmers' knowledge, adoption, and barriers related to the adoption of IPM. The study employed a survey method selecting randomly 104 farmers who were enrolled and trained in an IPM series Farmers Field Schools (FFS) and 104 farmers who were not enrolled however exposed to IPM programs in Khairpur district of Sindh. The results show that trained farmers were following most of IPM practices as they have a good knowledge of these practices. Laborious work and unavailability of pure inputs were perceived as barriers in the adoption IPM.

Key words: Adoption of innovation, farmers field schools, IPM.