

Threats of Insecticide Misuse in Rice Ecosystems – Exploring Options for Mitigation



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT

16 December 2011

Fortuna Hotel, Hanoi, Vietnam



Scientifically shown to be insecticide induced, two planthopper species – brown planthopper (BPH) and whitebacked planthopper (WBPH) – have again been destroying rice crops in several Asian countries in the past 10 years. But, BPH and WBPH losses can be avoided if rice ecosystems are better managed.

Using pest-resurgence insecticides or spraying routinely at the wrong crop stages often compromises ecosystem services, which leads to BPH and WBPH outbreaks.

Rampant insecticide misuse is encouraged by farmers' lack of knowledge, unqualified pesticide retailers providing bad advice, selling of pesticides under numerous trade names, and advertising and promotional activities that treat pesticides as fast-moving consumer goods like grocery items.

Too often, pesticide sales and promotions violate FAO's code of conduct so farmers suffer from pesticide misuse.

This conference focuses on two goals: developing strategies to reduce insecticide misuse in the short term and exploring mitigation options for sustained wise use of pesticides and overcoming abuse in the long term.

International Speakers

Sir Gordon Conway, former President of the Rockefeller Foundation, Professor Emeritus, Imperial College, London, UK

Dr. Robert Zeigler, Director General of the International Rice Research Institute, Los Baños, Philippines

Dr. Peter Kenmore, Chief of Plant Protection Services, FAO, Rome, Italy

Dr. V. Ragunathan, former plant protection advisor to the government of India

Dr. Larry Wong, Program Director of the Institute for Strategic and International Studies (ISIS) in Malaysia

Dr. Keith Jones, Director, Stewardship and Sustainable Agriculture, CropLife International

Dr. Nguyen Huu Huan, Vice Director General, Plant Protection Department, Vietnam

Dr. K.L. Heong, Insect Ecologist, International Rice Research Institute, Los Baños, Philippines

Panel Discussion

Prominent international scientists will brainstorm during a panel discussion chaired by Dr. Bas Bouman, head of IRRI's Crop and Environmental Sciences Division and leader of the Global Rice Science Partnership (GRiSP) program on sustainable production systems.



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