

**HEALTH IMPACTS OF PESTICIDES IN PADDY FARMING  
COMMUNITIES OF BATTICALOA DISTRICT**

**385**

BY

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## ABSTRACT

Pesticide related issues in Sri Lanka have become a major concern in the recent past. They are widely used in agricultural production to prevent or control insect pests, diseases, weeds and other plant pathogens in an effort to reduce or eliminate yield losses and maintain high product quality. There is a higher risk in pesticide usage due to hazardous nature of them. But, only very less emphasis was given to the health impact of the farmers due to pesticide. Having recognized the need, present study was conducted to assess the farmers' health effects by pesticide usage of paddy farmers in Batticaloa district. 100 paddy farmers were selected by using proportionate sampling method and 55, 25, and 20 samples were collected from Eravur Pattu, Poraitivu Pattu and Koralai Pattu South Divisional Secretariat Divisions.

Results revealed that mean family size of farmers was 4.75 and the average annual income from paddy farming was Rs. 58267.49 per acre. Almost all the farmers depended on chemical pesticides for the management of weeds, pest and diseases but, 11% of farmers used extremely hazardous weedicides at higher concentration than recommended rate and 32% of farmers used extremely hazardous insecticides at higher concentration than recommended rate. Nearly 65% of farmers were affected by acute diseases due to pesticide exposure.

Multiple regression analysis was used to analyze the health cost per treatment. The results showed that age of farmers, education level, affected by acute diseases and death of family member due to pesticide application in field were positively and significantly contributed to health cost for diseases. But, extension contacts and consideration of direction for pesticide application were negatively and significantly

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