



Farmers' Management of Brown Planthopper/Virus Disease in Rice

FGD Report

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FGD details

Date: 4 December 2008

Venue: Nakhon Nayok province

Duration: 2 hours

A focus group discussion was conducted with about 20 rice farmers (12 men, 6 women) at the Farmers' Center in Srisakrabuo subdistrict in Nakhon Nayok province, one of Thailand's central provinces. Nakhon Nayok province covers some 2,130 square kilometers, borders Saraburi and Nakhon Ratchasima provinces on the north, Prachin Buri province on the east, Chachoengsao province on the south and Pathum Thani Province on the west. The FGD discussed some issues related to rice farming — varieties grown, their most important problems in rice production, extent of damage of the ragged stunt virus, and control measures for the brown planthopper (BPH).



In that area, farmers believed that the key to successful rice farming is a rice variety with high yield, resistant to pests, and suitable to the weather. Farmers changed rice varieties every few years believing that a new variety will perform better. Likewise, they thought that insecticides,

like rice varieties, needed to be changed often because insect pests become resistant to chemicals when these are used repeatedly.

To confirm if they have a BPH problem, farmers described tapping the tillers and counting the number of insects dropping into the water. About 20 BPH per tap is their action threshold for using a wide range of chemicals – dinotefuran, endosulfan, parathion, cypermethrin, chlorpyrifos, imidacloprid, fenobucarb, and buprofezin. Farmers applied insecticides twice per cropping season or thrice when there is an outbreak.



To explore farmers' attitudes toward insecticide use, we probed if they would spray the same amount of insecticides on a resistant variety. Some farmers said they would spray them as much as non-resistant varieties; others thought that they would not. To most farmers in the focus group, pests can be controlled mainly by chemicals and they knew no other way to manage pests.