

LABORATORY AND FIELD TESTS OF INSECTICIDES IN BANGLADESH

S. Alam

Field tests, usually held under natural infestations of major insect pests, are the only methods used for screening insecticides in Bangladesh.

To improve the current evaluation and screening system, we adopted a method using an inexpensive hand-held atomizer originally developed at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University in India. We compared it with the Potter's spray tower technique for laboratory application of test chemicals. After 24 h, results between the techniques on *N. lugens* and *N. virescens* were not significantly different for decamethrin, BPMC, carbofuran, and distilled water. Although the atomizer takes longer to operate, its simplicity, portability, and low cost make it an attractive alternative.

DISCUSSION

CHELLIAH (comment): The atomizer cannot be compared in the strict sense with the Potter's spray tower. With the Potter's spray tower, the insecticide droplets are discharged uniformly on the target site. With the atomizer, however, the droplet size and discharge rate depend upon the speed at which the bulk is operated. The atomizer is more useful for spraying potted plants than for spraying anesthetized insects on a petri dish.

HASSAN: I would like to know more about the atomizer. Can it be used for WP formulation?

ALAM: Although we have not tested it with WP, it is possible that the atomizer could be used with WP.

SAXENA: Why is deltamethrin included in the evaluation test against the BPH? Deltamethrin is known to cause BPH resurgence in the fields.

ALAM: It was used with three other insecticides in a trial to determine the differences in performance between two treatment methods.

MOCHIDA (comment): Regarding the volumes of water for foliar sprays, our data show no difference in effectiveness among insecticides with 300, 500, 750, and 1,000 liters water/ha. We think that combinations of spray volumes and rates may produce different results in the control of pests.

Judicious and Efficient Use of Insecticides on Rice

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