

SEMINAR IV

Round table discussion

RICE PESTS OF BANGLADESH: THEIR ECOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT

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Summary

There is currently no text book on the ecology and management of rice pests in Bangladesh. Earlier books on the subject published during the pesticide era of the 1960s and before the green revolution, were dominated by the chemical approach to pests and even these are out of print. Other Asian publications either cover the rice pests of the world or are aimed at the whole Asian region. Moreover most do not cover the ecology and management of each pest in sufficient detail.

Not only has there been substantial research on insect and vertebrate pests and diseases over the last 3-4 decades in Bangladesh and other parts of Asia, but crop protection has evolved from a complete dependence on pesticides to an ecological approach based on the principles of integrated pest management (IPM). Despite these developments, pesticide use is dangerously high in Bangladesh and still increasing.

What is urgently needed is a modern, ecological approach to the management of pests attacking rice that embodies the principles of IPM. Such an ecological, chemicals last approach should help to reduce the current (often unnecessary) use of pesticides on rice. Although written primarily for Bangladesh, the book will also be relevant to the neighbouring states of eastern India, especially West Bengal, Assam, and Orissa. Unlike most similar publications, the new book also includes chapters on vertebrate pests, storage pests, diseases and weeds, and incorporates many *unpublished* observations. The handbook will be user-friendly, carefully laid out, easy to read and profusely illustrated to show the various stages of the main pests. There are also comprehensive appendixes listing alternate host plants of pests and their natural enemies, exercises in IPM for students, and guidelines for field work.

The authors have a thorough knowledge of the pest situation after working and researching on rice and pest management for more than 30 years in South and Southeast Asia. This includes many years working in rice fields and experiment stations in Bangladesh and eastern India.

¹ The leader of the first Research and development team of IRRI assigned to Bangladesh. The round table discussion was held in SAU Conference room on Nov. 28, 20