

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT IN INDIA

This summary document provides an overview of the state of integrated pest management in India. And also covers a literature review of impact studies conducted on integrated pest management in India. It is a part of the larger CEEW study, Sustainable Agriculture in India 2021: What We Know and How to Scale Up.

Sustainable Agriculture in India 2021: What We Know and How to Scale Up, is a handbook on the prevalence, practices and state of affairs of the 16 most promising sustainable agriculture practices in the country. It presents the economic, social and environmental impacts of these practices with recommendations on their potential to scale-up sustainable agriculture in India.

The study is available at: https://www.ceew.in/publications/sustainab le-agriculture-india-2021



ntegrated Pest Management system consist of using suitable techniques and methods in a compatible manner to maintain pest populations at levels below those causing economically unacceptable damage or loss. IPM combines cultural, biological and chemical measures to provide a cost-effective, environmentally sound and socially acceptable method of controlling

diseases, insects, weeds and other.² It involves the pre-season management of pests through guidance in selection of crops and cultivars suited to particular soils, timely planting, continuous monitoring of crop health and pest status, conservation practices for native natural enemies, and the use of timely and quality inputs of bio-rationals¹ integrated with location-specific crop production practices.³

Components of integrated pest management

- Cultural pest control: cultural methods of pest control consist of regular farm operations like crop rotation, fallowing, manipulation of planting and harvesting dates, manipulation of plant and row spacing and destruction of old crop debris, among others.
- Physical or mechanical control: physical methods are hand picking of insect pests which are the simplest method to control pests, while mechanical methods are based on the knowledge of pest behaviour. Biological control: this method involves the augmentation and conservation of natural enemies of pests such as insect predators, parasitoids, parasitic nematodes, fungi and bacteria. In IPM, the native natural enemy populations are conserved and non-native agents can be released but with great caution.
- Chemical controls: the use of chemical pesticides is the last resort when all other methods fail to maintain pest populations below levels that are economically damaging.



¹A biorational pesticide is used to define any pesticide material that relatively causes no harm to humans or animals, and does little or no damage to the environment (EPA 2020).

Integrated pest management's linkages to FAO's agroecological elements

In principle, IPM adheres to and promotes many agroecological elements as defined by the FAO

Elements	Description of agroecological linkages
Diversity	One of the crucial benefits of IPM is maintaining ecological sustainability by conserving
	natural enemy species, biodiversity and genetic diversity. Biological pest control is achieved
	by conserving and augmenting bio control agents within local environments and ensures the
Co-creation	evolution and adaptation of beneficial insect pests, thus protecting natural habitats. IPM is a knowledge-intensive approach that requires a combination of compatible methods
and sharing	(cultural, biological, chemical, and physical). Farmers require significant knowledge in order
of	to choose the best combination from locally available resources. IPM is a continual process
knowledge	of shared learning, evolving and adapting to methods both old and new for minimising the
C	economic, health, and environmental risks to crops and human health.
Synergies	IPM emphasises using a combination of techniques and creates synergies by integrating them
	to use pesticides selectively. This approach requires a mindset that seeks to create synergies
	between traditional and novel IPM principles for plant protection solutions.
Efficiency	IPM is considered cost-effective and more efficient than chemical pest control since it reduces
	the need to apply pesticides thus lowering the production costs. Further, the synergies created
	when alternative options to counter pests are used in combination, may be more efficient
Resilience	than standalone application of these solutions. With the rise in pest incidence exacerbated by climate change, such as locust infestations
resinence	observed in recent months in the country, IPM offers an approach which can adapt to these
	uncertainties. When applied continually and locally rather than as a short-term tactic, it can
	improve the resilience of cropping systems.
Human and	IPM places a strong emphasis on human and social values by building the adaptive capacity
social values	of farmers to deal with their food systems and maintain ecosystem harmony.

A brief context in India

The crop yield losses due to insect pests, diseases, nematodes, weeds and rodents range from 15-25 per cent in India, amounting to 0.9 to 1.4 lakh crore rupees a year (USD 12-18.5 billion).⁴ Due to such deleterious effects, research into IPM was initiated in 1974–75 for two crops, rice and cotton, under multiple operational research projects supervised by several departments (Directorate of Rice Research, Hyderabad; Kerala Agricultural University; Department of Agriculture, West Bengal). However, these were location-specific interventions. It was only in the mid-1980s that the focus was redirected towards a national plant protection strategy by the Government of India.

At present, there are 35 Central Integrated Pest Management Centres (CIPMCs) established in over 28 states and 2 UTs to promote IPM in India. Under the *National Mission on Agricultural Extension and Technology (NMAET-Plant Protection & Plant Quarantine)*, around 2.90 million hectares of pest monitoring have been completed and CIPMCs have released 59,379.72 million biocontrol agents between 1994-95 and 2019-20. At the same time, the mission has trained 574,600 farmers through farmer field schools, around 19,142 of which were organised by the CIPMCs, KVKs and SAUs. The mission supplements state programmes through grants for establishing biocontrol laboratories (INR 5 million/USD 68,000 per lab for construction, equipment and facilities).⁵

RKVY launched by the Government of India during the XI Plan period, allows for the innovative and pervasive use of information and communication technology for reaching out to farmers to assess the pest scenario in their fields, and for issuing real-time pest management advisories through SMS.

Information and communications technology-based pest surveillance programmes in India

'Pest surveillance' is a cornerstone of IPM, allowing epidemic situations to be avoided by detecting damage prior to the establishment of a high pest population.

- Since 2009, Maharashtra's State Department of Agriculture has piloted state-level e-pest surveillance through the 'Crop Pest Surveillance and Advisory Project' (CROPSAPS). CROPSAPS is said to cover an area of 11 million and benefit 9 million farmers in the state.
- Maharashtra's Horticulture Pest Surveillance and Advisory Project (HortSAPS) started in 2011-2012 initially for mango, pomegranate and banana. It is said to cover around 362,000 hectares, benefitting 15,000 farmers.
- The National Information System for Pest Management for Cotton and Online Pest Management and Advisory System (OPMAS) for Bt Cotton adopted for cotton pest management on an area of 25,134 hectares in several states, benefitted 41,000 farmers.
- The e-National pest reporting and alert system under accelerated pulse production programme (A3P) covered around 0.2 million hectares in a few states, benefitting 75,000 farmers.
- The Rice e-pest surveillance (RePS) and advisory services in Tripura benefitted 5,895 farmers.

Integrated pest management: acreage, geographies, and cultivation details

How much area in India is under IPM? Around 3-5 per cent (4.2 to 7 million hectares) of India's total cultivated area is under IPM, according to a stakeholder consulted in the Indian Council of Agricultural Research-National Centre for Integrated Pest Management (ICAR-NCIPM), an institute that has been validating and refining IPM strategies since its inception in 1988.

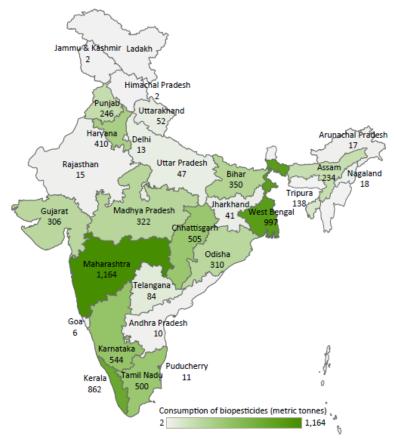
At what farm size is IPM practised? Stakeholders consulted in both ICAR-NCIPM and the Directorate of Plant Protection Quarantine & Storage (DPPQ&S) - the apex organisation for plant protection in the country observed that IPM is being practised in irrigated and rainfed areas on all landholding types.

How many farmers in India are practising IPM? Despite the promotion of the practice for the past three decades and its benefits, adoption of IPM remains low. The practice is adopted by only 3.2 per cent (3.7 million) of farmers in country.⁶ Post 2010, we find that farmers are increasingly employing evolving technologies and farm practices to enhance efficiency and reduce costs, thus we expect the adopters as of present to stand at around 4-5 million of them.

projects are implemented by ICAR-NCIPM in 22 states and 95 districts, and it is also promoted by the 35 CIPMCs across 28 states and 2 UTs through farmer field trials. However, the largest states of India – i.e., Maharashtra, West Bengal, Kerala, Karnataka – are the most advanced in implementing these practices as seen by their highest consumption of biopesticides. These states are also the main cotton-rice cultivators, crops which the IPM programs target. Since biopesticides are one of the chief ingredients used in IPM, consumption pattern is assumed as a reliable method to understand the relative adoption of IPM in the states as shown in figure 1.

Which are the major crops cultivated under IPM in India? In India IPM is mainly targeted at rice, cotton, pulses, oilseeds, fruit and vegetables with favourable results especially in rice, cotton and horticultural crops.

Where in India is IPM prevalent? IPM Figure 1. Geographical coverage of IPM shown by consumption patterns of projects are implemented by ICAR-biopesticides



Source: Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine and Storage 2020

Impact of integrated pest management

A vital aspect of IPM systems is their 'bottom-up' or 'participatory approach,' as the practice is knowledge intensive, disseminated through farmer field trials to understand farmers' perceptions, knowledge and experiences in their fields in order to give sound advice. Field validation trials are conducted by the ICAR-NCIPM for several crops (rice, cotton, pulses, oilseeds, horticultural crops) across the country, which have given important findings on crop yields, income and other parameters – soil, nutrient and fertiliser use, water, etc., as outlined in the sections below.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

1. Yields

IPM is perceived as a better 'control tactic' that results in better yields and profits for the farmer. However, in the short run there are possibilities of a yield decline when farmers first switch to IPM.⁷

Rice: IPM is seen as an effective way to overcome the pests and diseases in rice, which cause an average estimated yield loss of about 25 per cent, though they can be as high as 51 per cent with serious infestations (borer, gall midge, plant-hoppers). IPM programmes are known to have prevented pest outbreaks across a wide area in rice in the last decade or so since they were implemented, thanks to policy changes and field training.⁸ In the IPM validation trials done for rice in various states (Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Uttarakhand), there are strong indicators of IPM benefits for farmers as the incidence of insect-pests and diseases have remained low, and yield and benefit-cost ratios have remained higher in IPM compared to farmers' previous practices.⁹

Cotton, a key cash crop, faces substantial yield reductions due to pests, accounting for 50-60 per cent of losses. An assessment looked at the impacts of IPM in the rainfed cotton belt of Maharashtra. It recorded an average seed cotton yield of 962.5 kgs/hectare compared to 220 kgs/hectare during the previous season, reflecting an increase of 77.1 per cent.¹⁰ Experiments by DPPQ&S also show crop yield increases for rice (from 6.72 to 40.14 per cent) and cotton (from 22.7 to 26.63 per cent) in IPM fields compared to non-IPM fields.¹¹

The implementation of IPM has led to increased pulse production of 15-20 per cent due to reduction of pest incidences and intensity (in central and southern India) among crops (pigeonpea, chickpea, mung and black gram, lentil). Among horticultural crops (bitter gourd, cucumber, bottle gourd, onion, and bell pepper) where IPM was validated, yield gains were observed along with reduced use of chemical pesticide sprays.¹²

2. Income

IPM offers great scope for farmers to increase their income by reducing the severity of pest infestations in crops, while also lowering the problems of pest resistance or resurgence.

Evidence across the papers suggests that IPM is likely to decrease the cost of production due to the reduced number of pesticide applications required, given the cost of active ingredients and pesticides in several crops (rice, cotton, pulses). Coupled with the increases in yield, IPM is said to offer a higher net income per hectare and higher benefit-cost ratio than conventional practices. Over the years IPM used in Basmati rice is observed to drastically cut input costs through reduced use of pesticides, fertilisers and irrigation. Farmers are able to secure a residue-free product with a higher cost-benefit ratio (ICAR-NRRI stakeholders).

According to researchers in NCIPM, IPM technology not only increases yields by 20 per cent (on average) compared to conventional farming methods, it also reduces the costs of production by around 10 per cent (on average) across all crops due to the reduction in the quantity of chemical pesticides sprayed. This is substantiated through studies by the DPPQ&S that show IPM to reduce chemical pesticide sprays by 50-100 per cent in rice and 29.96-50.5 per cent in cotton, implying significant savings for farmers.¹³

Another study found that in vegetables like cauliflower, the costs of production, including for plant protection, were less in IPM fields than for farmers using chemical pesticides. Economic analysis of the

data also showed higher economic returns and cost-benefit ratios for IPM practices (4.79) compared to conventional practices (3.26). The higher benefits were primarily due to the decrease in input costs for plant protection in IPM fields.¹⁴ Hence, much of the evidence suggests that IPM can enhance farmers' income across several crops and regions.

SOCIAL IMPACT

1. Human health

One of the tangible benefits arising from IPM is the improved environment and human health due to reduced use of chemical pesticides. IPM prescribes the use of chemical pesticides only as the last resort when all other methods fail; chemicals are chosen judiciously to reduce human health hazards. Though there is a considerable literature that mentions the health benefits of IPM, there are no systematic studies and field experiments that delve deeper into the topic. However, one study indicates that the application of pesticides including its supply chain processes involves greater health hazards than the safer inputs used in IPM. 18

Impact of IPM on chemical pesticide use in the country

- IPM has led to reduction in use of chemical pesticide sprays of 50-100 per cent in rice and 29.96 to 50.5 per cent in cotton.
- Use of biopesticides/neem-based pesticides increased from 123 metric tonnes (MT) in 1994-95 to 7,682 MT in 2018-19.

Overall consumption of chemical pesticides reduced from 61,357 MT (Tech. grade) in 1994-95 to 49,438 MT in 2018-19.

2. Gender

There is limited work done on the impact of IPM practices on women; a few case studies show the role of women in participating and disseminating IPM practices.

In Ashta village in the rainfed cotton belt of Maharashtra, the participation of women was found to speed up dissemination of IPM technology in cotton.¹⁹ Women were also observed to play an important role as ambassadors spreading awareness about IPM in cotton in Jind, Haryana. They motivated and imparted training to farmers to identify "friend" and "enemy" insects and avoid use of chemical pesticides to deal with whitefly attack in cotton.²⁰

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

1. Soil and nutrients

IPM focuses on adopting a variety of agronomic measures that avoid or reduce pest infestations; soil and nutrient management forms an integral part of the approach. For example, IPM

emphasises the incorporation of green manures, balanced use of fertilisers, regular crop and pest monitoring, conserving natural pest enemies, use of bio-pesticides and reduced application of chemical pesticides, and cultural control methods, all of which have implications for soil health. According to a stakeholder, local organic solutions such as *Neemastra*, *Panch Gawye*, *JivaAmrit*, *BijaAmrit*, *Amrit Pani*, *Amrit mitti*, *Brahmastra* are also very popular in the IPM management along with various pheromone traps.

Cultural control methods tend to prevent soil-borne diseases which can inflict damage on crops. For instance, treating soils (mowing, fertilizing, pruning, mulching, and irrigating) and deep ploughing are known to kill various pests; ploughing is an important control measure to expose the soil-inhabiting stages of several vegetable pests. As too high or too low nitrogen content in plants can also lead to disease problems, testing of soil for nutrient deficiencies is very important to maintain the appropriate amount of fertilisers used. Crop rotation is also encouraged to reduce the build-up of soil-borne diseases, while avoiding high moisture levels for prolonged periods also helps reduce pests, especially soil-borne diseases. Mechanical controls involving weed management is very important as weeds compete with crops for micronutrients as well as harbouring pests.²¹

2. Water

Water is an important part of cultural control, as alternate wetting and drying is required to avoid stagnancy in endemic areas infested with plant hopper, bacterial blight and stem rot in paddy fields. As insect pests like Whorl maggot are attracted to standing water, draining of the water at intervals (every 3-4 days) reduces their chances of laying eggs.²²

IPM practices are known to have better outcomes for surface and groundwater quality with reduced contamination from pesticides.²³ An investigation conducted in the integrated watershed program in Telangana, in which biointensive pest management methods were applied for three consecutive years. The fields where IPM was applied had lower pesticide residues; however, an initial water analysis indicated residues to be higher in borewells than in open wells. But, by the third year, water bodies contained no detectable residues, indicating contamination is lowered in IPM fields over time.²⁴

3. Energy and emissions

Energy does not find much relevance in IPM. It is likely that biopesticides require less energy to manufacture than chemical pesticides. Biopesticides are pesticides derived from animals, plants (neem, tobacco) microorganisms (bacteria, virus, fungus, nematodes) and certain minerals (canola oil and baking soda). Botanical pesticides are manufactured from different parts of plants with insecticidal properties and energy is required for the extraction of the chemicals. Bulk quantity is required in the production process and thus trees like neem have to be planted many years in advance. Different microorganisms are mass cultured artificially in the process of manufacturing microbial pesticides which also requires energy. Energy is also used for powering insect light traps for catching agricultural pests like moths, hoppers, beetles, etc. As these light traps are operated by various means – electricity, battery, solar energy, generators – they can contribute to energy consumption.²⁵But this area requires more research, especially studies comparing energy use for chemical insecticides and biopesticides.

We found no publications correlating the IPM system to carbon emissions in the Indian context, highlighting a notable research gap.

4. Biodiversity

IPM conserves biodiversity by encouraging the natural enemies of pests. However, no systematic studies on the impact of IPM on biodiversity were found in India. One study on the impact of IPM on soil-inhabiting natural enemies implies that treating plants with bio-pesticides (Helicoverpa Nucleo Polyhedrosis virus-HNPV)² showed minimum disturbance to natural enemies compared to those treated with endosulfan.²⁶

Impact evidence

State of available research discussing the impact of IPM on various outcomes.

Evidence	Yield	Income	Health	Gender	Soil &	Water	Energy	GHG	Bio-
Туре					nutrients			Emission	diversity
Journals	12	11	5	0	5	7	0	0	0
Reports	2	2	6	1	5	2	1	0	0
Articles/	0	3	2	0	8	7	0	0	
case-studies									1
Others **	13	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	27	16	20	1	18	16	1	0	2

^{**} Thesis, guidelines, conference papers, etc

Source: Authors' compilation

Note – The evidence is from the first 75 results examined in Google Scholar Advanced search and the first 30 results from Google Advanced Search. Only those papers which clearly established the evidence for different indicators were selected.

Stakeholder mapping

The following institutions are involved in the research and promotion of IPM; a few were consulted for this research:

Government institutions	Research/implementation institutions	NGOs/Civil society organisations
Directorate of Plant Protection Quarantine	Marathwada Agricultural	PRADAN
& Storage	University, Parbhani	
ICAR-National Research Centre for	ICRISAT	Gram Disha Trust
Integrated Pest Management		
National Institute of Plant Health	BAIF Development Research	CARITAS INDIA
Management	Foundation	

² Helicoverpa Nucleo Polyhedrosis virus (HNPV), is a popular insect pathogen at flowering and need-based application of chitin inhibitors.

Department of Agriculture, Co-Operation	M.S. Swaminathan Research	People's Science
& Farmers Welfare	Foundation	Institute
Indian Institute of Chemical Technology, Hyderabad	Anand Agricultural University, Anand	Samaj Pragati Sahayog
Central Institute of Cotton Research, Nagpur—India		Jamnalal Kaniram Bajaj Trust

Source: Authors compilation

Note – The stakeholders list is indicative and not exhaustive

Endnotes

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The Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW) is one of Asia's leading not-for-profit policy research institutions. The Council uses data, integrated analysis, and strategic outreach to explain – and change – the use, reuse, and misuse of resources. It prides itself on the independence of its high-quality research, develops partnerships with public and private institutions, and engages with wider public. In 2021, CEEW once again featured extensively across ten categories in the 2020 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report. The Council has also been consistently ranked among the world's top climate change think tanks. Follow us on Twitter @CEEWIndia for the latest updates.

FOLU Coalition: Established in 2017, the Food and Land Use Coalition (FOLU) is a community of organisations and individuals committed to the urgent need to transform the way food is produced and consumed and use the land for people, nature, and climate. It supports science-based solutions and helps build a shared understanding of the challenges and opportunities to unlock collective, ambitious action. The Coalition builds on the work of the Food, Agriculture, Biodiversity, Land Use and Energy (FABLE) Consortium teams which operate in more than 20 countries. In India, the work of FOLU is being spearheaded by a core group of five organisations: Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad (IIMA), The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), Revitalising Rainfed Agriculture Network (RRAN) and WRI India.

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