

A FARMER PARTICIPATORY APPROACH FOR *HELICOVERPA* MANAGEMENT IN ARHAR AT TIKARPADA VILLAGE OF KEONJHAR DISTRICT

Arhar is one of the important pulse crops cultivated in the district occupying an area about 6900 ha with productivity of 8.46 q/ha. Among the varieties, Laxmi and UPAS 120 are dominant in the district along with the local varieties. The major production constraint includes severe pod borer attack especially *Helicoverpa armigera* during flowering and fruiting which is significantly reducing the yield of crop. To combat the pest menace farmers mostly rely on certain chemical pesticides which is not yielding the desired result, rather the indiscriminate use of chemical pesticides has many adverse impacts on the human health and surrounding environment. Hence under FLD Oil seed and Pulse programme farmers are being trained and guided to adopt integrated control strategies including periodic pest surveillance, mechanical measures like starrng and destruction of pod borers, application of neem oil (5 ml/liter of water), Spraying of H NPV (250 LE/ha) along with endosulfan (1 ml/liter of water), installation of Pheromone traps (8 no/ha) etc. The detailed cost benefit obtained by farmers is given below.

Sl. No	Particular	IPM	Non- IPM
1	Total no. of spraying	5	2 (Only Chemical)
2	Cost of adoption of control measure/ha	Rs. 1250.00	Rs.640.00
3	No. of damaged pods/plant	3.2	7.0
4	Yield (Q/ha)	10.3	7.4