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PRODUCTION: A CASE STUDY IN CHAPAINAWABGANJ**

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FARMERS' KNOWLEDGE TO THE EFFECT OF CHEMICALS IN MANGO PRODUCTION: A CASE STUDY IN CHAPAINAWABGANJ

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ABSTRACT

This study was conducted to assess the present scenario of chemical uses during the cultivation period of mango in Shibganj Upazila and Nawabganj Sadar Upazila in Chapainawabganj district. A total number of 40 mango growers were randomly selected and interviewed by pre-structured questionnaires from December 2018 to January 2019. The data were collected with respect to their age, educational level, cultivating land, times and types of chemicals used, and farmer's consciousness about the excessive use of chemicals in mango. Out of the 40 mango growers, about 80% were under middle-aged category, 6 were illiterate which accounts almost 15%, 8 had primary education, 14 had secondary education, 4 had higher secondary education and 8 (20%) had higher education. Around 0.13-1.33 ha of land was used by 16 (40%) mango growers for cultivation followed by 1.47-2.67 ha by 55% and more than 2.67 ha by 5% of the respondents. Twelve insecticides and twenty-three fungicides under different trade name were most commonly sprayed at 3, 5, and even more than 10 times in the stage of before flower bud initiation, mango flowering, marble-size mango, and finally till ripening stages. Most importantly, 34 (85%) showed medium knowledge and 6 (15%) had high knowledge about the chemicals, environment, health, pest management, production technology, the harmful effect of chemicals in plants and beneficial effects of chemicals in mango production. Farmers were found highly dependent on chemicals for pest management.

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