# PARASITES & PREDATORS OF RICE PESTS IN KALUTARA DISTRICT

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A survey was carried out in farmers fields to study the rice insect pests, natural enemies and disease status in Kalutara district, during 1984 Yala Season. The survey area covered 3 Segments - Horana, Kalutara and Matugama. Assessments were taken fortnightly from six selected and representative fields. Collection of insects was carried out by the use of insect collecting nets. Silver-shoots were randomly selected and were disected to inspect for parasites.

No severe pest infestation or disease incidence was observed except for some small patches of Sheath blight. Therefore a survey of the fauna of prasites and predators was conducted. Following are the findings during that season.*1.

Predators found in the Rice field.

(1) Spiders; specially (a) Tettragnatha sp,
(b) Oxyopes sp.

(2) Mirid nug - Cyrtorhinus levidipennis (Reuter)

(3) Dragon flies (a) Agriocnemis femina (Brauer)
(b) Aciagrion occidentale (Laidlow)

(4) Carabid beetle - Ophionea indica (Thunberg)

(5) Coccinellidae beetles (a) Micraspis discolour (Febricus)
(b) Harmonia octomaculata (Thunberg)

Parasites found in the Rice Field:

(a) Tetrastichus schoenobii (Ferriere)

(b) Platygaster oryzae (Cameron)

(c) Tachnid fly Argyrophylax nigrotibialis (Baranor)

Insects were identified from :-

(i) Natural Enemies of insect pests of Rice produced by FAO inter-country programme of I.P.C. of rice in south and southeast Asia with the assistance of IRRI.

(ii) An Illustrated guide to some natural enemies of rice insect pests in Thailand produced by Japan International Cooperation agency

## A STUDY ON THE EFFECT OF PRUNING AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO REPLANTING IN BRINJAL

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INTRODUCTION:

Solanum melongena belongs to family solanace and is grown in the nurseries and usually transplanted. Pruning of a fully matured crop as an alternative to transplanting and as a means of rejuvenation was tested in this study. Usually one to one and half month after transplanting one month old seedling first pick could be made. Thereafter, for the next one and half to two months several picks could be made at one in four day intervals.

Materials & Methods:

The above crop was grown on 50'x50' flood irrigated basins with ridges as well as without ridges. They were irrigated at the rate of 2.4" per week. Experiment was laid out on a randomized complete block design. Variety SM 164 was used with a spacing of 90 cmx90 cm. Seedlings were transplanted 4 - 5 mms deep, one per hill. Basal application at planting, first top dressing one month later, second top dressing two months later was given at the rate of 225, 50, 50 kg/acre respectively, with the 16:20:12 fertilizer mixture. Ratoon crop was fertilized in the same day.

Nurseries were laid in the first week of September and the seedlings were transplanted on 26th and 27th October. Ratooning was done in mid March.

First pick of the main crop was taken in December 27th and the last pick on the March 3rd for the main crop and April 7th and August 18th for the ratoon crop respectively.

Results:

In both the main crop and the ratoon crop statistically significant differences were not found between ridged basins and flat bottom basins. There were 9 picks made in the main crop whilst only four picks were possible in the ratoon. First three picks were heavy in the ratoon as compared to the main crop. Main crop gave the highest mean yield on the ridged plots (3.12 tons/ha) whilst the ratoon gave the highest yield on the flat basins (2.07 t/ha) (Refer figure (1) and Table (1).

Discussion:

Both the main and the ratoon crop was affected by pod borer damage. The damage was more in Yala than Maha and the response to monocrotophos had been very poor which brought down over-all mean yield in both crops.

Since ratoon begins to give heavy early picks, with further expenditure on better management practices as against on transplanting, land preparation and nursery management seems to have a potential to equalise or outbeat the main crop yield.

Conclusions:

In areas where labour shortage is crucial and where off season crops fetch a higher price ratooning will pay since it comes to bearing early, and also since it eliminates nursery, land preparation and transplanting costs provided an effective pod borer control is practiced.

Acknowledgements:

The assistance given by Mr. Mahanama Harischandra (KVS) and Mr. Rajakaruna (KVS) and Mrs. Kumari Chandraratna (AI) are greatfully acknowledged.

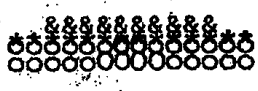
References:

Crop Production Manual for field workers (1980)
Department of Agriculture, Peradeniya.

Table I.

MEAN EFFECT ON TREATMENTS ON YIELD

| | 82/83 Maha | | 1983 Yala | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Kg/per plot | tons/ha | Kg per plot | tons/ha. |
| Ridge | 75.8 | 3.12 | 35.2 | 1.52 |
| Flat | 74.8 | 3.08 | 48.0 | 2.07 |
| LSD(p=0.02) | NS | NS | NS | NS |
| C.V.(%) | 37.9 | | 34.9 | |



# HOME-GARDENS AND HOME-GARDENING IN THE MATARA DISTRICT.

*The article is a summary of the report on "Home-gardens and Home-gardening in the Matara District: The present situation and future prospects" by Bart Ensing, Georg Frerks and Sandrin Sangers. The research was conducted in the frame-work of a joint research project on "Popular participation in planned development at village level" by the Marga Institute, Colombo and the Agricultural University of Wageningen in the Netherlands.*

*The article describes the present situation of home-gardens and home-gardening in the Matara District. It argues that home-gardens are important, and also that improvements are possible and necessary. Some ideas are presented on how to promote home-garden development.*