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INSECTICIDE USAGE PATTERN IN MAJOR BT COTTON GROWING DISTRICTS OF KARNATAKA, INDIA

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ABSTRACT: A survey was carried to study the insecticide usage pattern adopted by farmers of major cotton growing districts of Karnataka, India during 2011-12 and 2012-13. The insecticide usage pattern varied greatly between and within the locations indicating no definite insecticide usage pattern among the major cotton growing areas of Karnataka. Sole sprays constituted largest bulk of total sprays in Dharwad, Belgaum, Haveri and Mysore districts while, the Raichur and Yadgir district farmers used tank mixtures with one liquid and one powder formulation of insecticide for spraying against the insect pests in Bt cotton. Cotton farmers of all six spatially isolated districts used the insecticide dosages higher than the recommended dosage. Organophosphates were the most commonly used insecticides followed by neonicotinoids, commercially available combi products, synthetic pyrethroids and oxidiazines. Monocrotophos and imidacloprid formulations were the primary choice of insecticides accounting for more than 40 per cent of insecticides used for management of sucking pests in Bt cotton in cotton growing districts of Karnataka except Mysore.

Key words: Bt cotton, insecticide usage pattern.