Use of insecticides and indigenous practices on cabbage crop by vegetable growers of Ludhiana district (Punjab)

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SUMMARY
The study was conducted to know the use of insecticide and indigenous practices on cabbage crop by vegetable growers. Sample of 150 vegetable growers having at least one acre area under vegetable cultivation in Ludhiana district was selected for the investigation. Data regarding use of insecticide and indigenous practices on cabbage were collected with help of specially prepared interview schedule. Study findings revealed that cabbage crop was infested by stem borer, diamond back moth and aphid insects, for controlling of stem borer about 53 per cent of infested area was treated with recommended insecticides. About 75 per cent of area infested by aphid and diamond back moth was treated with non recommended insecticides. Out of this only 11, 22 and 27 percentage of the area was treated with recommended doses to control stem borer, diamond back moth and aphid respectively. Majority of cabbage growers used non recommended number of sprays and time interval between sprays of insecticide on their crop. All cabbage growers were not observing the recommended waiting period for picking the crop after spraying, which is very alarming figure from health point of view. Only negligible percentage (1.58) of vegetable growers was using indigenous practice i.e. ash for controlling aphid on their crop. Whereas on other vegetables like brinjal and okra, the use of neem spray was observed. It is necessary that these insecticides should be used very judiciously and safely. So, cabbage growers should be educated through various extension strategies about recommended doses, number of sprays, time interval between sprays and waiting period for picking fruit after treatments. Research Scientists engaged in production of vegetable crops should search and validate indigenous practices effective for successful growing of organic cabbage.

Key words:
Cabbage, Insecticides, Stem borer