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Determination of the problems related to plant protection practices in greenhouses of Fethiye District (Muğla-Turkey)

Yasin Emre KİTİŞ[1*], Muhsin Aydın DEMİR[2]

[1] The University of Akdeniz, Faculty of Agriculture, Department of Plant Protection, Antalya/Turkey
[2] Plant Protection Products Dealer in Fethiye District, Muğla/Turkey

*Corresponding Author: emrekitis@akdeniz.edu.tr

Abstract

Greenhouses in our country are one of the areas where pesticides are used heavily. At this point it is important to know how pesticides and alternative methods of chemical control are used in the greenhouses. For this purpose, survey studies were carried out in the greenhouses of the Fethiye district of Muğla province (Turkey) in order to determine the current situation and problems related to plant protection practices especially in weed control. In the study, verbal interviews and in-situ observations were made with a total of 100 farmers in 8 villages and towns where greenhouse production is concentrated in the district of Fethiye. In a study asked totally 28 questions, the answers given to the options were evaluated by distributing proportionally. As a result of the questionnaire survey, it was understood that 59% of the farmers apply soil pesticides and 96% of farmers make a soil solarization before planting. 59% of the farmers declared that the pesticides are applied according to the label dose but, 41% of the farmers confessed that the little more pesticide is added over the recommended dose. 41% of farmers do not take any precautions while spraying and 10% of the farmers declared that they throw empty pesticide boxes around. In contrast, 67% of farmers think that pesticides are dangerous in terms of human health. The money farmers spend on pesticides, 30-35% of the total cost of the year. Herbicides for weed control are only used in 20% of the greenhouses. Others control the weeds by hand or by hoeing. 70% of farmers do not have a separate sprayer for herbicide application. None of the farmers mix herbicides with other pesticides. According to farmers, the most harmful weed species in greenhouses is purslane (*Portulaca oleracea* L.). Our observations support it. 78% of the farmers also control weeds outside the greenhouses and they think are also harmful.

Keywords: Pest management, Safe pesticide application, Weed control