MODULE-AGRICULTURE TRAINING FOR THE ERADICATION OF INSECT PEST (SNAILS AND SLUGS)

INTRODUCTION:

Insects like snails and slugs are similar in structure and biology but snails have a protective shell while slugs survive without shell. They are mostly aquatic in nature. Therefore, they can't survive without water and found mostly in rainfed area of the District. Both are gastropod that can found only in land where sufficient moisture is present in soil. Both insects move very slowly as compared to others and often leave behind a slimy trail, called Mucus. The function of mucus is to keep the body of insects wet and also increase their life cycle.

DAMAGES:

Researchers and experts believe that both type of insects are pests in nature which can damage the crops and other plants severely. But some researchers also noticed their important roles in the fertility of field soil. We noticed and quoted the VDC members words about such type of insect pest. They completely destroyed the garden and some forages crops such as maize during seedling stages. So a problem is directly affects the livestock.

They destroyed the crops by eating the seeds, plants and fruits including their roots, leaves, and stem. They mostly attack on the succulent plant parts as well as seedling. They even damage the underground fruits in the field.

SPECIES:

They are hermaphrodite in nature having both male and female parts results easy mating to produce a large number of offsprings through eggs. There are a lot of species, some are beneficial and some are pest. The common snails found in the region are garden snail, which damage the crops severely in the field. Such type of snail is also called Brown Snail. The name was given due to brown colour shell. The scientific name of such snail is *Helix aspersa*.

TRAINING OBJECTIVES:

1. To know about the possible damages of the pest.
2. Awareness about pest in the field condition.
3. Focus on the possible control techniques.

CONTROL:

Different pests have different control methods. But the current scenario of the District reflects to need such a long term prevention which can maintain and sustain the livelihood of the inhabitants. IPM (Integrated Pest Management) is a strategy that focuses on long term prevention by utilizing culture, biological, mechanical or physical and chemical controls.

1. CULTURAL CONTROL

The method involves manipulating the environment to make the land less hospitable for the pests. This process involves eliminating the places where they can hide themselves during the day. Such places are board, stone, debris, weedy area and trunk of the tree.

2. BIOLOGICAL CONTROL

This is one of the most effective method involves natural enemies or predators. Such as snake, hen, duck, bird etc which can control the pest population up to an extent.

3. PHYSICAL CONTROL

It is also called Mechanical control. It kills the pests directly or blocks a path from an area making damages. Handpicking is one of the most effective methods if it is done on a regular basis. They can come out from their places through flash light easily. After picking with rubber gloves they can be placed in bag or bucket of soapy water which ensure the death earlier.

4. CHEMICAL CONTROL

This is also effective method but having some demerits i.e expensive, affect the plant canopy and even dangerous to human skin. But we can choose some substances like salt and garlic solution which can kill the pest by spraying on infested area.

Others effective chemicals or pesticides are alum (Aluminuim sulfate), bleach (chlorine) and potassium permanganate.

BARRIERS:

It is also one of the suitable methods which can control both types of insect pests in a large quantity. Generally they are repellent in nature. This method involves by putting something like Vaseline and even salt also that they do not like.

LEARNING METHODS:

Group discussion

MATERIAL REQUIRED:

Pen/Pencil, Notebook, Flip chart, Marker pen.

SESSION PLAN:

DAYS	TOPICS	REMARKS
1	Introduction to insect pest	
2	Affect of pest on crops	
3	Prevension and Control	