

ABSTRACT

A SURVEY OF PEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES OF SMALL
FARMERS IN SELECTED FARMING DISTRICTS OF
ST. GEORGE EAST COUNTY, TRINIDAD

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A survey was made of small vegetable farmers in the Pasea/Macoya and Caura farming districts in North Trinidad in order to identify different crop protection methods used in controlling insect pests; to identify the gaps in knowledge and to define needs for additional research for improved crop protection. A questionnaire was designed and farmers were interviewed in their holdings. The survey was done during the month of June/July over a six week period. A total of fifty-six farmers were interviewed and information was sought on education and experience; cultural, biological and chemical control; pesticides used and protective measures taken. The results indicated that although farmers are aware of and use a number of cultural control methods, their knowledge of biological or natural control is limited and they almost completely rely on pesticide application as the main control strategy. A wide range of pesticides, and, in many instances, very toxic chemicals

thresholds are necessary.