

An exploratory study consumer attitude and perception towards pesticide usage in vegetable production

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The main objective of the survey was to determine consumer attitude and perception towards pesticide use in vegetable production. Using cluster sampling, 130 questionnaires were distributed in Central Trinidad Chaguanas in February, 2008. The questionnaire was based on concerns of locally produced vegetables such as whether respondents believe that eating locally produced vegetables is harmful to their health, their awareness of the quantity and types of pesticides used in vegetable production locally, what is of most concern for them from a list of issues (quality of water used for irrigation, preservatives/additives, genetically modified foods, bioterrorism, use of manure, pathogenic microorganisms and pesticide residue), if they believe that farmers are aware of the timely and correct application of pesticides. The results indicated that the majority (57.7%) of the respondents said 'yes' they believed that eating locally produced vegetables is harmful to their health while 24.6% did not believe that eating locally produced vegetables is harmful to their health. The remaining percentage (17.7%) of the respondents said that they were unsure whether or not locally produced vegetables are harmful to their health. For the awareness of the quantity and types of pesticides used in vegetable production the results indicated that the majority (61.5%) of the respondents said that they were somewhat aware of the quantity and types of pesticides used. Thirty point eight (30.8%) were unaware and 7.7% were

very aware of the quantity and types of pesticides used in vegetable production .The majority of the respondents indicated that they were most concerned about pesticide residue (55.4%).