

ABSTRACT

Agriculture in the Caribbean region is highly diverse, where farming system includes subsistence, commercial small holdings and plantation and greenhouse cropping systems. The overall objectives of extension services are satisfying the needs of the markets, reducing pesticides use, increasing knowledge of alternative approaches, increasing farms income and improving health(to reduction of pesticides).

The farmer field schools (FFS) approach to agricultural extension and education was designed to enable farmers to engage in the decision making processes on the ecology of their own fields. Since 2002 the Trinidad and Tobago Ministry of Agriculture Land and Marine resources has conducted FFSs focused on building farmers' capacities for employing integrated pest management (IPM) practices in their everyday crop production.

The survey was conducted on sixty (60) famers from the county of Saint George west, Trinidad to assess their views and perceptions with regards to FFS and DBL. This study involves the farmers knowledge of FFS and DBL. As well as their knowledge of IPM with regards to which teaching method they find more effective to understand IPM and the problems associated with adopting IPM. There is also evidence of farmer to farmer diffusion from FFS to non- FFS farmers (Figure 17). Further research is necessary to evaluate the nature and quality of information transfer between farmers. The study was limited by the small sample size and a random selection of farmer respondents.