EFFECTIVE FARMER COMMUNICATION:

A critical component of achieving IPM

Part 1: The importance of understanding farmer behaviour to improve IPM and FAW control





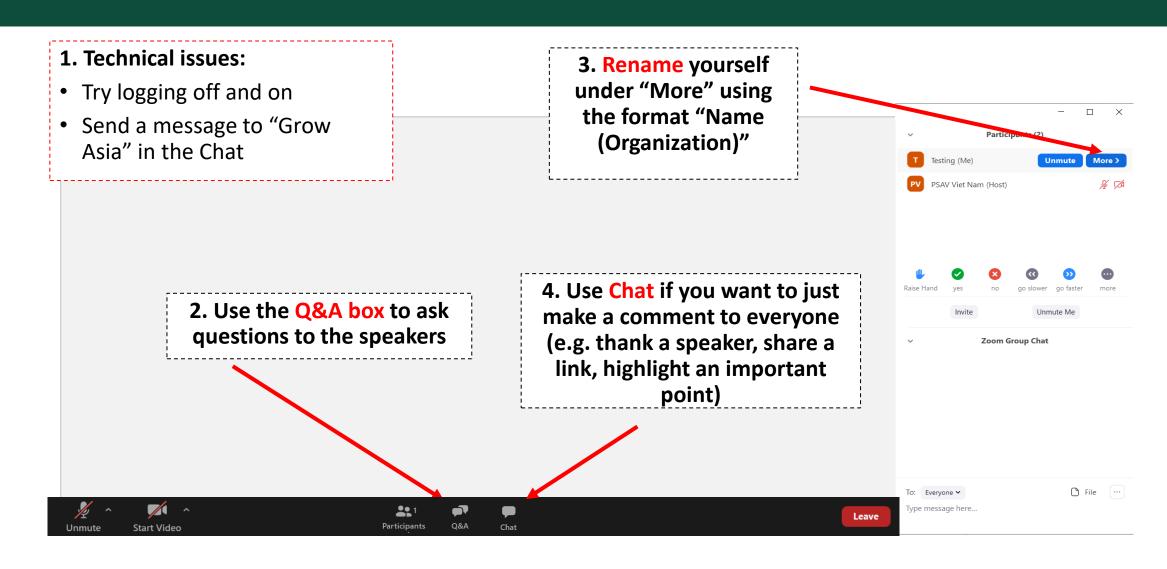


Time	Agenda Item
10:00	Introduction
10:05	Dr K L Heong, Distinguished Qiushi Chair Professor, Zhejiang University, Hangzhou, PR CHINA, Former Principal Scientist, International Rice Research Institute, Philippines Importance of policies, structural reforms and enhancing farmers' ecological literacy: experiences from rice.
10:25	Q & A Session
10:35	Dr Y Andi Trisyono, Professor, Universitas Gadjah Mada Understanding farmer needs towards FAW control
10:50	Q & A Session
11:00	Delisa Jiang, CropLife Asia Exploring behavioural science to drive farmer PPE uptake in India
11:15	Q & A Session
11:25	Dr Philipe Bujold, Rare Centre Understanding farmer behaviour and driving change- a behavioural science perspective
11:40	Q & A Session
11:50	Summary
11:55	Close



Photo by G. Goergen, IITA.

A recording of the webinar will be made and be distributed 1 week after this session



ASEAN Action Plan on FAW Farmer Communication Workshop Series

A four-part series to catalyse action on the development and design of more effective farmer communications on IPM and FAW control

- **Session 1:** Behaviour

Session 2: Case-studies

Session 3: Pesticide Use & Behaviour

- **Session 4:** Best Practice

Register at: https://www.aseanfawaction.org/events

Case-Studies: We want your case-studies and examples – contact us at faw@growasia.org

Interactive

Give us your feedback and questions in the farmer communication forum at:

https://www.aseanfawaction.org/forum/farmer-communication

(if you wish to have a certificate of participation you must subscribe to the farmer communication forum and either ask a question, share something interesting about farmer communication like an example of something you noticed that worked well, or note something you found useful in the workshop)



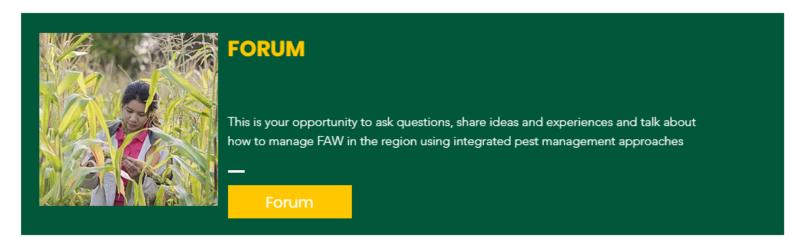


Research Organisations

RESOURCES

Community

Join our community through our blog, interactive forum, or by sharing more about your organisation and activities.



Any problems email: faw@growasia.org

Once you have completed this step please email faw@growasia.org to request participation certificate and please say which sessions you need a certificate for.





Farmer communication

How can we best communicate with farmers to ensure access to information on how to control FAW and improve IPM?

Following

BIOLOGICAL CONTROL

Enhancing farmers' ecological literacy through communication and support policies

Experiences from rice.

K.L. Heong 香广伦

Distinguished Qiushi Professor Zhejiang University, Zijingang, Hangzhou, CHINA

Former Principal Scientist
International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)
PHILIPPINES

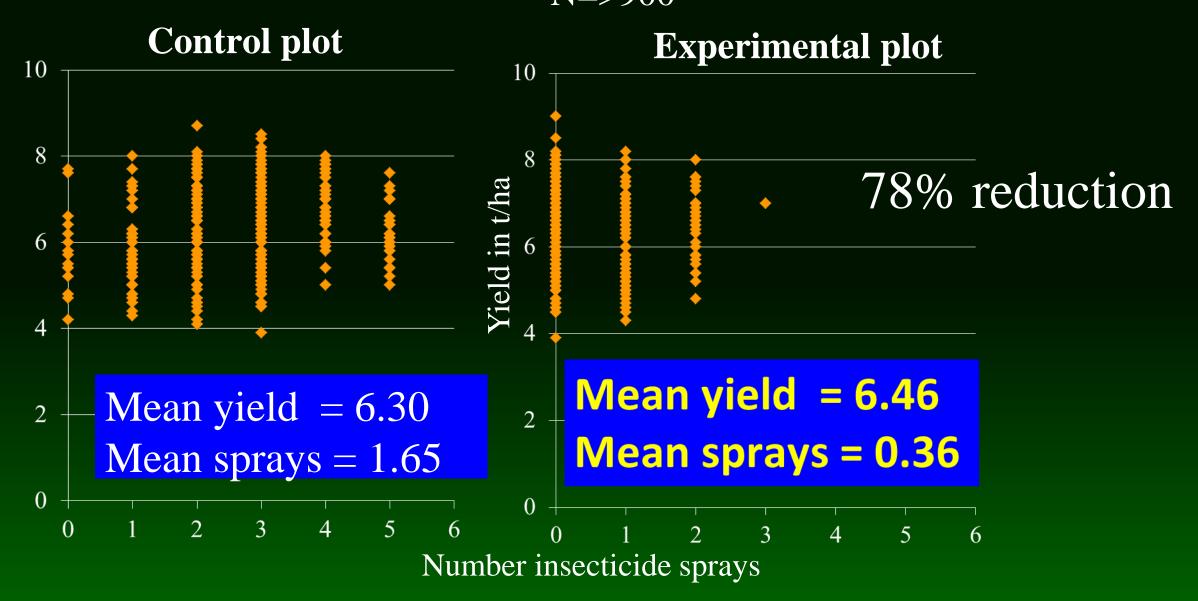
Insecticides and Rice

- Rice grown and feeding millions is a wonder crop
- It have few insect pests and those that are destructive are secondary problems induced by insecticides.
- Farmers have little or no productivity gains from insecticide use.
- More than 90% of famers' sprays are misuses
 - Wrong timing, wrong targets, wrong chemicals, wrong concentrations, bad sprayers.
- Farmers are much better off not using any insecticides

% benefits of insect management strategies Pingali et al 1997

Sites	Management strategies	# sprays	% Net benefits over no spray strategy
Laguna	Complete protection	6	-11.7%
	Farmers' strategy	2	-3.6%
	IPM	1	-5.0%
	No spray	0	
Nueva Ecija	Complete protection	6	-4.65%
	Farmers' strategy	2	-3.11%
	IPM	1	-3.50%
	No spray	0	

Farmers' paired plot experiments: Mekong Delta W-S season 2001/02 N=>900



Insecticides and Rice

• Farmers' sprays also cause environmental pollution, exposing themselves to health risks and risking crop destruction by 2^{nd} pests, like the Brown Plant Hopper (BPH).

• BPH outbreaks are induced by insecticides which release the pest from natural biological control.

• Rice IPM programs were established to teach farmers and help them rationalize, change their practices and reduce or stop insecticide use completely.

Insecticides are NOT NEEDED in most cases

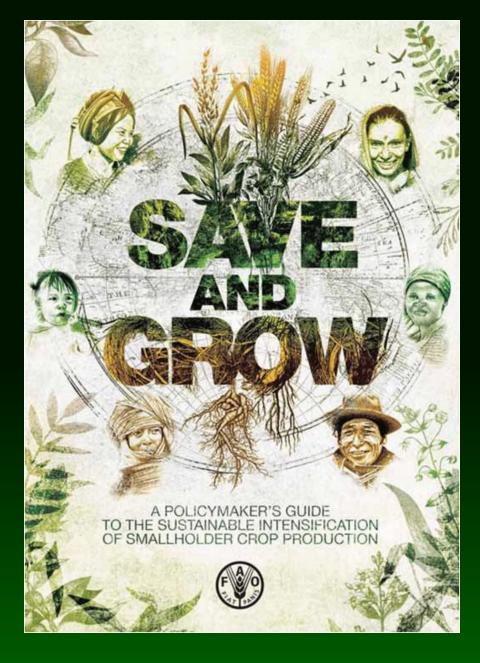
• Way & Heong (1994)

"conclude that in tropical rice



insecticides are not needed

"pests" should be reassessed before insecticide use is contemplated"



SCPI: Sustainable Crop Production Intensification

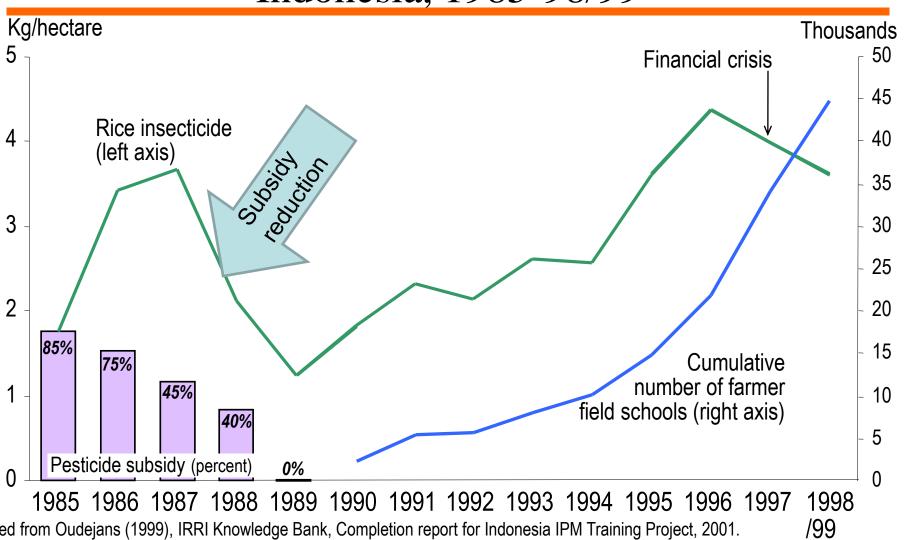
FAO 2012:

Most tropical rice crops under intensification require

NO

insecticide use

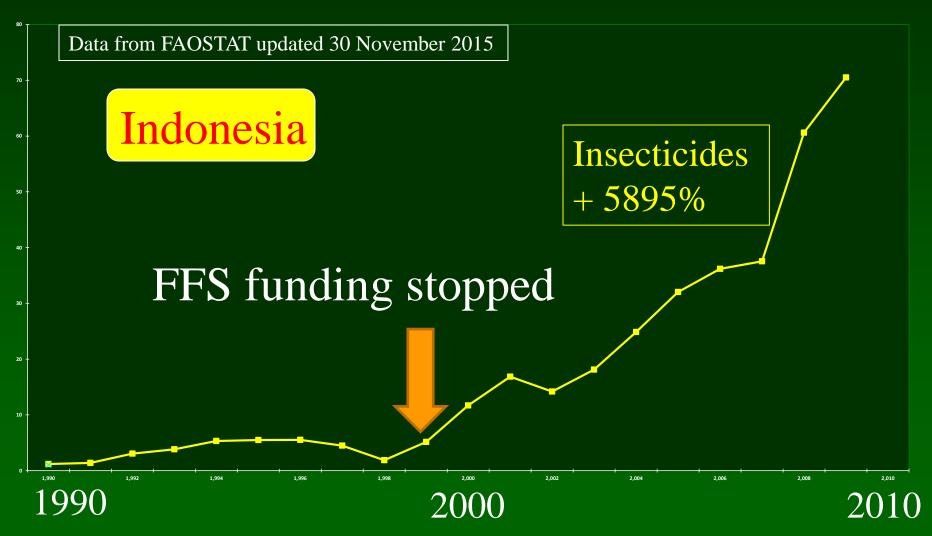
Evolution of insecticide use in rice, pesticide subsidies, and farmer field school training in Indonesia, 1985-98/99



Note: Data derived from Oudejans (1999), IRRI Knowledge Bank, Completion report for Indonesia IPM Training Project, 2001.



Insecticide imports 1990 - 2009



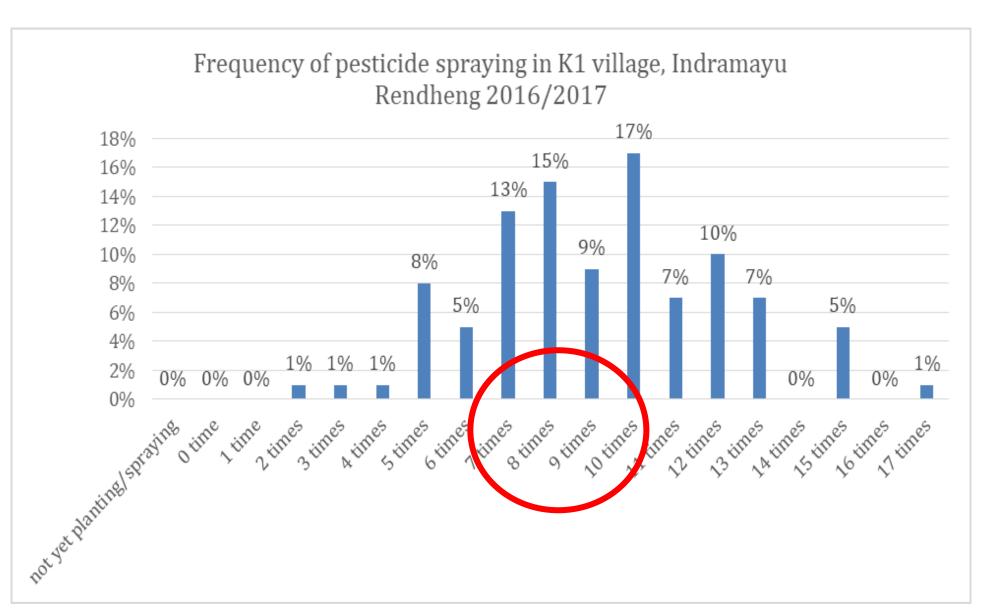
Why was rice IPM not sustainable

- In the 1980s and 2000s, WB, FAO and many donors spent
 - > 200 million USD to provide intensive training to farmers
 - the Farmers Field Schools (FFS). And at least 5 million farmers were "FFS graduates".

• But when the donor \$\$\$ stopped, FFS trained farmers returned to old practices of using calendar spraying.

Insecticide use today

After J.Fox and Y. Winarto 2021



WHY such a huge investment was not sustainable?

- Lessons -

Training focused on knowledge with insufficient ecological content. Farmers' knowledge increased but they had limited understanding

Governing systems not reformed to support the changes in practices

Governance Policies

Two main sets of policies

- Counter
 - These are existing policies that act counter to the new norms.
 - They need to be identified and mechanisms developed to handle them

Enabling

 These new laws, new policies to facilitate the smooth implementation of the new technologies.

Governance Policies

- Counter policies
- These policies and practices act against the new practices need adjustments and reforms
 - Poisons Act do not include pesticides
 - Pesticides are consumer products or FMCGs
 - Weak implementation (gaps) eg Malaysia under funded, understaffed.
 - Corruption eg Thailand, Vietnam
 - Implementers under threat from hired gangsters eg
 Vietnam, Malaysia

Governance of pesticide use in Vietnam

Pham Van Hoi, A Mol and P. Oosterveer 2013

- Despite advanced regulations and policies
- Govt. unable to regulate the pesticide market
- The main reasons
 - Weak governance structure
 - Large corruption
 - Too close relationships between government authorities and the pesticide industry
 - Information distortion through sales promotions
 - Weak legal system
- Restructuring current pesticide market is the top priority

WHY

is insecticide overuse so rampant??

What are the drivers and root causes?

FMCG 快速消费品
Fast Moving Consumer Goods

Insecticide use based on IPM	Insecticide use based on FMCG
Driven by rational decision-making skills.	Driven by product packaging, brand names, attractiveness, recalls.
Maximize value of knowledge	Maximize value of sales Knowledge unimportant
Based on economic rationale	Based on emotions viz status, desire, fear, perceptions, attitudes, sense of power, price.

Use of fake news and information to increase sales

- Fake information
 - "Insecticides ALWAYS increase yields"
 - "Only stupid farmers don't use insecticides, allow insects to eat their crops"
 - "Crops must have "medicine" to keep healthy"
 - Climate change new pests will come
- Abundance of advertisements
 - Posters, Radio and TV, newspapers
 - Free gifts, huge sales incentives

Enable Policies

- -Korean Environment Friendly Act (EFA) 1999
- Incentivising sustainable technologies in farming
- -New Department established, new staffs, new building.
- -Provides Certified EFA platform

Environment Friendly Agriculture Act (EFA)

- Top sustainable and eco-friendly farming practices
 - Permaculture. A food production system which mimics how vegetables and plants grow in nature.
 - Aquaponics & Hydroponics.
 - Crop Rotation & Polycultures.
 - Trees and non crop vegetation around crops. Ecological Engineering
 - Pesticide reduction programs and Use of eco friendly pest management methods.

EFA

- Eco-friendly Agricultural Products
 - means either not using or minimizing the use of synthetic pesticides, chemical fertilizers.
 - Developing certification, labeling and pricing system
 - A certification body conducts on-site inspections to ensure compliance.
 - Non compliance may be fined.

Agricultural landscapes diversified



Agricultural landscapes diversified



Fertilizer Consumption in Korea

Fertilizer Consumption (1000t)

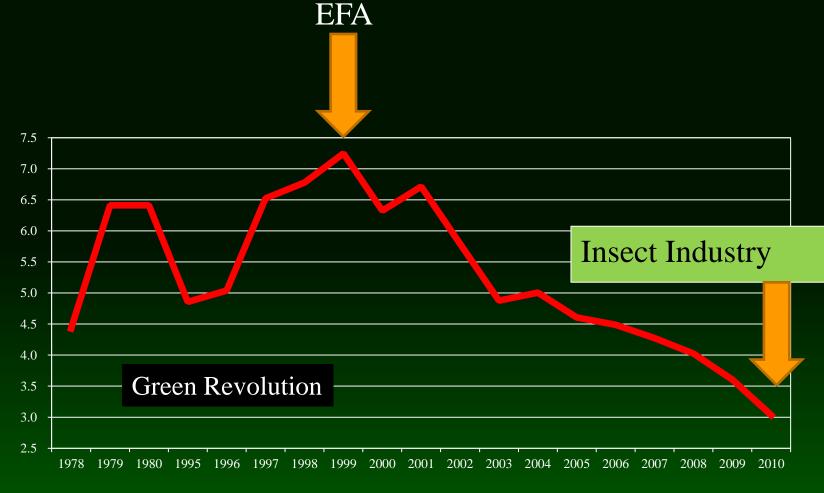


Year

1980-Green Revolution 1999-EFA Promotion Act 2010-Insect Industry Promotion Act

Pesticide use in rice in Korea





Environmental Research Letters



TOPICAL REVIEW

Ecological illiteracy can deepen farmers' pesticide dependency

OPEN ACCESS

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- ⁵ University of Sydney Sydney Australia

Activate Windows

Go to Settings to activate Windows.

In 2019 we published a paper in Environmental Research Letters to examine...

Why farmers do not favor biological control practices

Farmers' ecological illiteracy

- Farmer training programs focus on improving farmers' knowledge and skills.
- However, may not necessarily translate into improving farmers' understanding, decisions and practices.
- In many cases temporary changes in farmers' practices occur but do not sustain and they quickly revert back to using pesticides as before.
- Most farmers could recognize spiders but did not understand biological control dynamics



Tools to understand farmers Ethno-science

- Study of folk knowledge, concepts, classifications and understanding
- How farmers see their world
- Discover the languages or words farmers use
- Discover their attitudes towards pest losses
 - Farmers are Loss Averse not risk averse
- The main purpose is to develop innovations to improve our communication with farmers

Tools to understand farmers

Focus Group Discussions and KAP surveys

- FGDs are conducted in small groups in farm settings where we can explore the how, why, what and where from farmers.
- These findings are then developed into belief questions to measure belief attitudes.
- The KAP surveys are to discover how extensive particular attitudes and beliefs in an area.
- Results are used to develop communication approaches.

IRRI

How people make decisions?

Satisficing rather than optimizing (Simon, 1957)

Simplicity & frugality rather than rationality & optimality (Gigerenzer & Todd, 1999).

 People rely on simple "rules of thumb" or heuristics (Kahneman & Tversky, 1974)

Distillation of research information into heuristics



- Heuristics are rules that people use to simplify information processing and decision making.
- Developed from experience and perceptions.
- Can be error-prone and biases.
- Interventions to understand farmers' rules and develop innovative ways to modify their heuristics to improve decision making

Distill scientific information

Distillation guidelines

- Develop a different level of information relevant to farmers
- Distill, tailor & communicate information
 - meaningful for farmers
 - consistent with how farmers see the world
 - something he/she can act on

Communication innovations

- Use principles of psychology to create games, analogies and farmer experiments to enhance learning using experiential learning methods.
- Communicate these rules and games extensively through media strategies, such multi-media campaigns, entertainment education programs on radio and TV to upscale and reached millions.

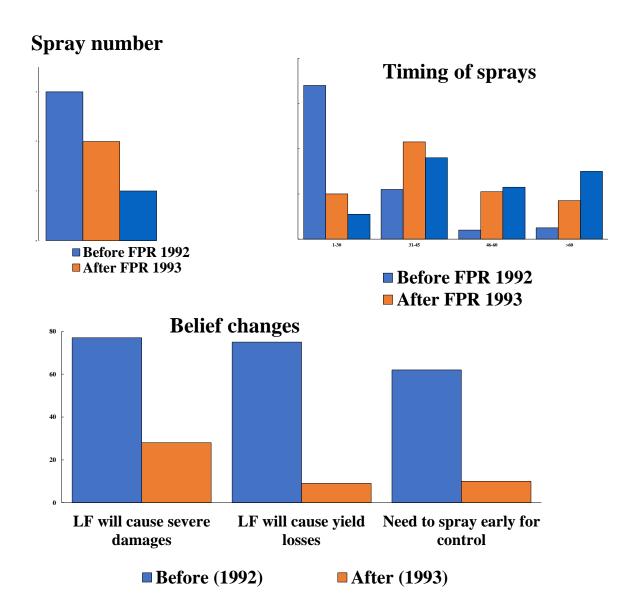
Cognitive dissonance technique

- Many rice farmers in Asia spray their crops early in the season thinking that these sprays would protect their fields from insects, especially the leaf feeders.
- Ecological research showed that these sprays are unnecessary, wasteful and even more damaging to production.
- At the early crop stages, a huge diversity of predators would migrate into the crop from neighboring habitats.
- Spraying would be counter- productive as they destroy millions of naturally occurring biological control agents.

Cognitive dissonance technique

- Because of plant compensation abilities, leaf damages at the early crop stages have no yield consequences.
- These ecological concepts were "distilled" into a "simple rule" "Spraying in the first 40 days of the crop is NOT necessary".
- Farmers when presented with this rule which is in complete conflict with their normal beliefs are in **cognitive dissonance**.
- To help farmers resolve their dissonance they were invited to experiment by leaving half their fields that would not receive sprays in the first 40 days of the crop and the other half their normal practices.

Farmer participatory experiment to resolve cognitive dissonance



- Farmers reduced their sprays from 3 to 2 and then to 1.
- Farmers spraying in the early crop stages reduced from 68% to 20% and then to 11%.
- Beliefs changed:

Leaf feeding insects

can cause severe damage 77% to 28%

can cause yield loss 74% to 9%

had to be sprayed early 62% to 10%

Multimedia campaigns to communicate extensively

To motivate rice farmers in the Mekong Delta to modify their beliefs and pest management practices together with seed and fertilizer inputs.

Locally named 'Ba Giam Ba Tang' or 'Three Reductions, Three Gains', (a Brand name). the campaigns using leaflets, posters, billboards and radio were launched.

Farmers' practices changed significantly.

3 Reductions, 3 Gains







Billboard



Changes in farmer practices and yields

All means significantly different between pre and post

Provinces	Cantho		Tiengiang	
	Pre	Post	Pre	Post
Seed rate kg/ha	234	208	189	170
Nitrogen rate kg/ha	100	92	106	100
Insecticide sprays/season	1.2	0.8	2.0	1.6
Yields kg/ha	4.6	5.6	4.5	5.0

Multimedia campaigns

Their insecticide sprays reduced by 13–33% while their seed rates dropped 10% and nitrogen rates, 7%.

These practices were supported by modifications in belief attitudes that favored high inputs. Farmers also changed their perception of yield loss and reduce their loss aversion.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to provide additional resources to reproduce the materials and campaign process to scale up and eventually reached more than 3 million farmers in south and central Vietnam.

Ecological Engineering techniques

Restore Biodiversity

Planting nectar flowers on bunds Crop diversification Increase diversity of varieties

Conserve Biodiversity

Stop early season (first 40 days) insecticide use Avoid using insecticides toxic to bees and hymenoptera

Species Biodiversity

Parasitoids, Predators, decomposers

Ecosystem functions

Pollination, parasitism, predation

Ecosystem Services

Pest invasion resistance,
Pest and disease regulation
Pollination

Multi-country, Multi year evidence



Jin Hua China

Chai Nat Thailand

Central Plains

Tien Giang Vietnam

Mekong Delta

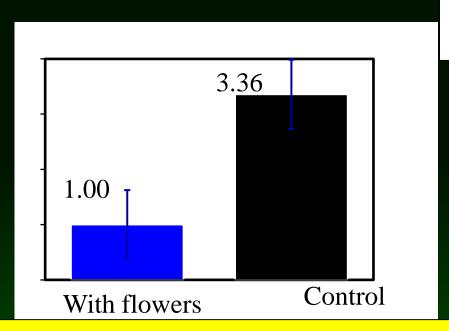
Cultivating flowering plants to increase biodiversity

Number of insecticide sprays reduced by 70%



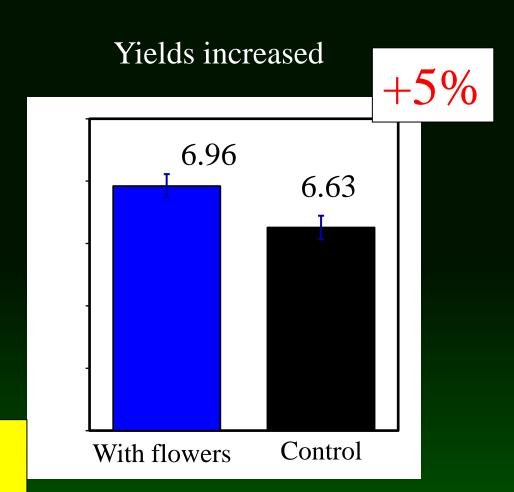
Cultivating flowering plants

Number of insecticide sprays reduced



- 70%

Factoring labor and materials costs in Ecological Engineering had a 7.5% increase in profits



Ecological engineering village in Vietnam







Ecological engineering TV series



Entertainment - Education





E-E is the process of designing and implementing a program (example a TV series)

to both **entertain** and **educate** so as to increase audience members' knowledge, **create favorable attitudes**, shift norms and change behavior



Enabling farmers to appreciate parasitoids



- Bees are bigger, easier to observe and also well known.
- Farmers are taught to observe the bee populations as indicators of parasitism.
- Parasitism concept little known in rural folks
- Created the name "small bees" for parasitoids

Simple rule cluster

• Flowers on the bunds provide food to attract bees and "small bee" relatives.

■ The bees and small bees will help me control the hopper invading my fields, so I don't need insecticides.

• If I apply insecticides, it will kill the bees and small bees.

TV series - Comparison of viewers and non viewers

Farmers' input practices and yields	Viewers	Non viewers	% Diff	F
Sample size	361	242		
Seed rates (kg/ha)	167.4	186.7	- 11.5%	18.3**
Nitrogen rates (kg/ha)	88.9	94.3	- 6.1%	4.1*
Mean number of insecticide sprays	2.1	2.6	- 23.8 %	21.1**
% farmers who did not spray	8.0%	4.1%		
Yields (t/ha)	6.1	5.9	+3.3%	4.6*

Conclusion



It is important to:

- To promote and practice biological control
- To develop in parallel ecological training of farmers who ultimately are the real implementers. This is to build their confidence.
- For researchers to learn the constraints of farmers, their beliefs, perceptions and practices.
- To develop new innovative ways to communicate to the millions and help them appreciate and practice biological control. The mass media can be a powerful platform to communicate to farmers and cultivate new norms.
- To initiate in parallel policy and structural reforms or new policies to accommodate new practices. Without reforms the new sustainable norms will not be sustainable as seen in the IPM FFS programs.
- To identify opportunities for new policies and as well as to make adjustments to current policies to be able to implement sustainable agriculture.

Questions and Answers

Dr KL Heong

Please use the Q & A Box to ask questions to our speakers





UNDERSTANDING THE FARMER NEEDS TOWARDS FAW CONTROL

Y. Andi Trisyono

Department of Plant Protection, Faculty of Agriculture Universitas Gadjah Mada; Yogyakarta 55281, Indonesia

Webinar; Grow Asia, June 8, 2021



Subjects of discussion

- Experiences with rice farmers
- What about corn farmers?

Outbreak of BPH in 2011 (Juwiran, Central Java)

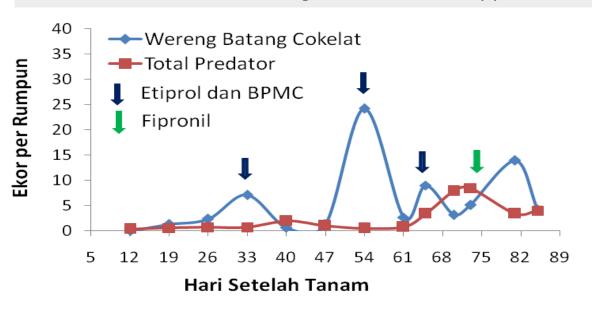


Need: controlling BPH and gaining yield



Delivering clear and simple messages to set the tone

Research Action: Monitoring and insecticide applications



Results: Pesticides reduction from >20 to 4 and yield (75%)

64



Working together with farmers

Committing to continue the collaborative learning process



Juwiran, Klaten Agustus - Oktober 2011



Recognizing and believing the role of natural enemies.

Strengthening and revitalizing the implementation of rice IPM in Indonesia (FAOID and Ministry of Agriculture): Landscape IPM

bunga matahari dan

drastis dan panen meningkat. Jadi tak lagi

kenikir, hama berkurang

bergantung pada pestisida

tertutup sepuluh jarinya yang me

nelangkup. "Dahulu panenny edikir sekali," katanya dalam logat



Unmanaged field serves as the source of BPH. It starts from a small population!!!!

Spreading the words of successes



Controlling pests by planting flowering plants as refuge

Using biocontrol agents as cheap and environmentally sound control measures

sudah banyak," kata petani anggota Kelompok Tani Sumber Rejeki I Pliken memong contoh keberha hasil keria sama dengan FAO (Fooand Agriculture Organization. Drganisasi Pangan dan Pertanian

lengan cara sealamiah mungkin

ohnya, petani setempat kesusaha



Three Main Approaches

- Sociological engineering: pests migrate and do not recognize the land ownership; farmers in a farm should work together
- Ecological engineering: to improve the ecosystem services (biological control agents, flowering plants as refuge, compost)
- Farmer field school as the delivery system

Educational Processes



Farmer Field School
The role of women



Elementary students: from damaging to contributing



Supports from different stakeholders

Finding the same goals

The village leader and his wife

Farmer leader and extension agents



The representatives from UGM, Faculty of Agriculture, FAO, Department of Agriculture, and the expert team





Key points of learning

- Identify and work on the top priority goal to gain immediate results: pesticide reduction vs IPM
- Working with the local leaders (village government, farmer leader, and extension agent), and including men and women in the group
- "Hit and run program" will not work for delivering the IPM program---need continuous efforts



Several facts about FAW?

Infestation of FAW in Indonesia: 2019-2020

(Source: Directorate of Food Crop Protection, MOA)

2019: 31,856 ha (23 out of 34 provinces) 2020: 113,143 ha (28 out of 34 provinces)

In irrigated areas, most rice farmers are corn farmers

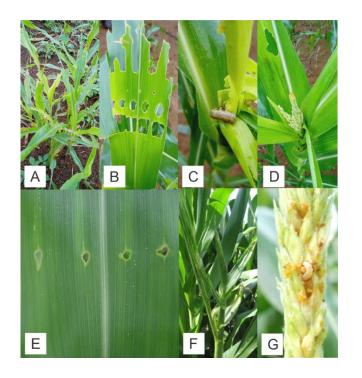
Knowledge Gap



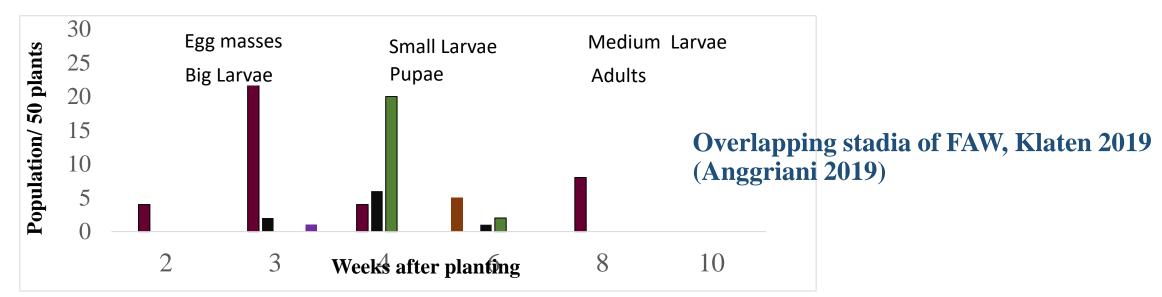


Different planting times with different level of damage due to FAW





Two major insect pests: FAW (damaging the first month) and ACB (the following month)





Needs

- Immediate results
- Simple and workable programs
- Medium term of assistance
- Fostering self-reliance

Questions and Answers

Y. Andi Trisyono

Please use the Q & A Box to ask questions to our speakers





By Delisa Jiang,

Director for Sustainability and Advocacy, CropLife Asia

June 8, 2021





Today's presentation

 How have we been communicating to farmers?

- What is behavioral science?
- Behavioral science around the world
- Case study in India on farmer PPE uptake
- Lessons for farmer communication





How have we been communicating to farmers?













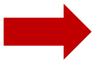


Yet, concerns over mis-use or lack of safe practices in pesticide application continue to persist

Our traditional stewardship training approach

There are many factors besides knowledge that influence the way we behave

Exercise is good for you



Smoking is bad for health





Over-use of pesticides is bad







Our traditional stewardship training approach

How can we ensure we identify the right problem so we can increase our return on investment?

Farmers don't wear PPE Farmers don't know which product to use

Farmers find purchasing and using PPE costly

Farmers find PPE uncomfortable

Farmers do not understand the importance of safety







What is behavioral science?

A field at the intersection of psychology, economics and design...



...We use our understanding of decision making and context to design solutions for social impact.





What is behavioral science?



VS





What is behavioral science?

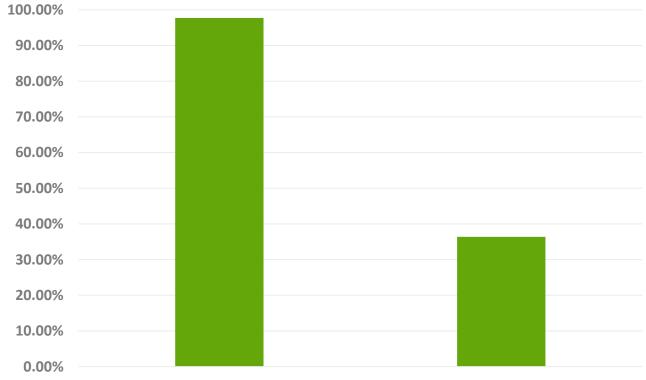




FARMERS INTEND TO USE FERTILIZERS,

BUT FEW DO SO





% of farmers who said they % of farmers who actually used would use fertilizer in the next

fertilizer

season

Duflo, Esther, Michael Kremer, and Jonathan Robinson. 2011. "Nudging Farmers to Use Fertilizer: Theory and Experimental Evidence from Kenya." American Economic Review, 101(6): 2350-90.

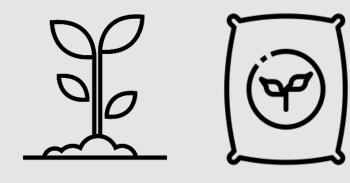
FERTILIZER PURCHASE PRE-COMMITMENT AND HOME DELIVERY

At Harvest:





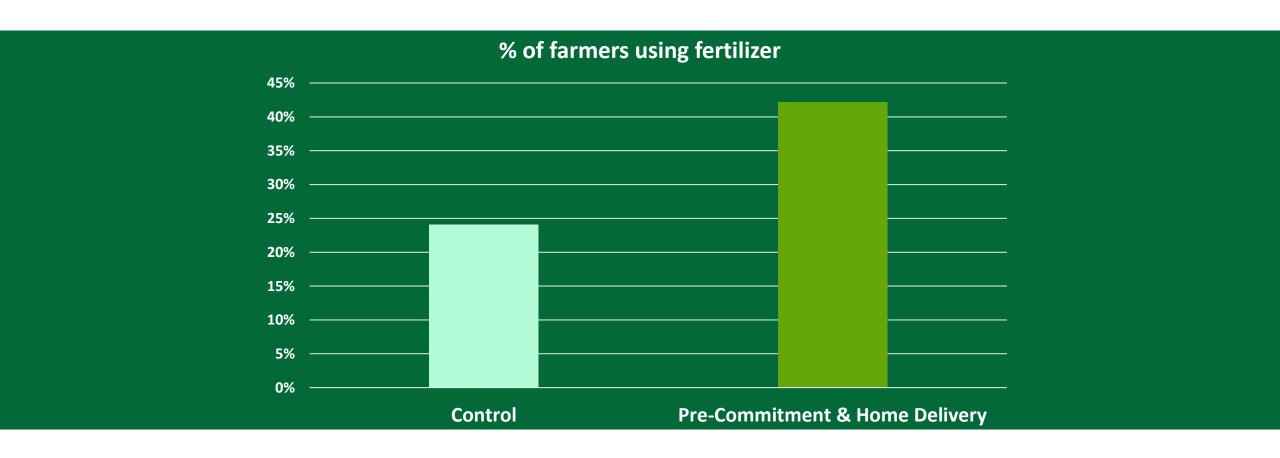




Option to pre purchase fertilizer when flush with cash

Fertilizer delivered to farm exactly when needed

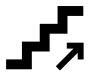
COMMITMENT DEVICES INCREASED FERTILIZER USAGE



Context MATTERS

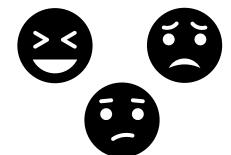


Physical Environment





Mood/Affect



Social context







Time

Choice Set/Presentation



Chronic Scarcity





Psychological factors





Social Norms

Our perception of others' behavior impacts our own



Present bias

The tendency to favor immediate rewards at the expense of our long-term goals



Hassle Factors

Inconveniences and/or obstacles that impede the desired behavior.



Tunneling

The brain's tendency to focus on the most urgent or pressing unmet needs in situations of scarcity

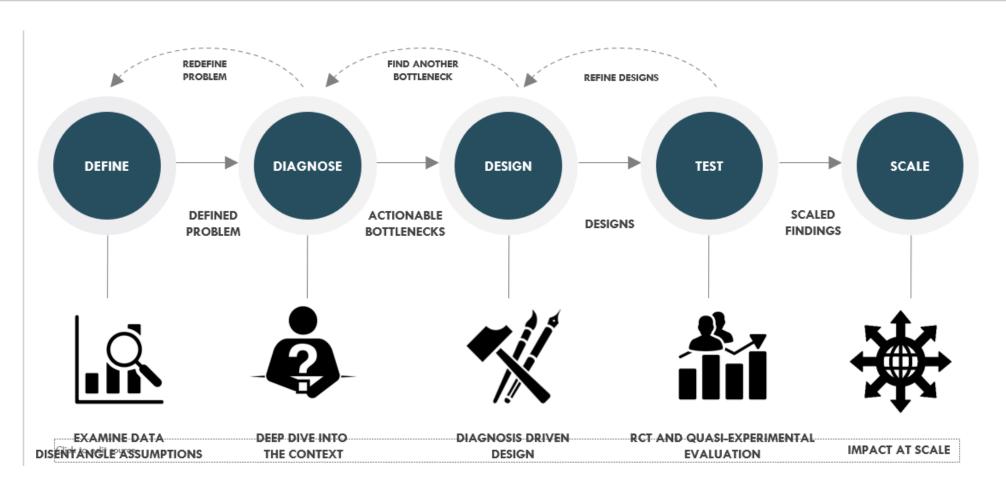


Limited Attention

We selectively concentrate on certain aspects of our environment, ignoring other features around us



Behaviour science is data-driven





https://www.oecd.org/gov/regulatory-policy/1%20Overview%20PDF.pdf



Behavioral science applications around the world

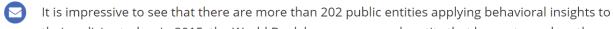




Behavioral science in public policy: Future of government?

CAROLINA SÁNCHEZ-PÁRAMO, RENOS VAKIS & ZEINA AFIF | APRIL 25, 2019

This page in: English | Español | Français



their policies today. In 2015, the World Bank became one such entity that began to explore the relevance and potential benefit of behavioral insights to development policy with the publication of

our World Development Report on Mind, Society, and Behavior. Since then, we have jo

other countries and development agencies in establishing the Mind, Behavior, and Dev Unit (eMBeD), a team to support our projects and guide government entities on how b

Unit (eMBeD), a team to support our projects and guide government entities on how b integrate behavioral science in their policy work.

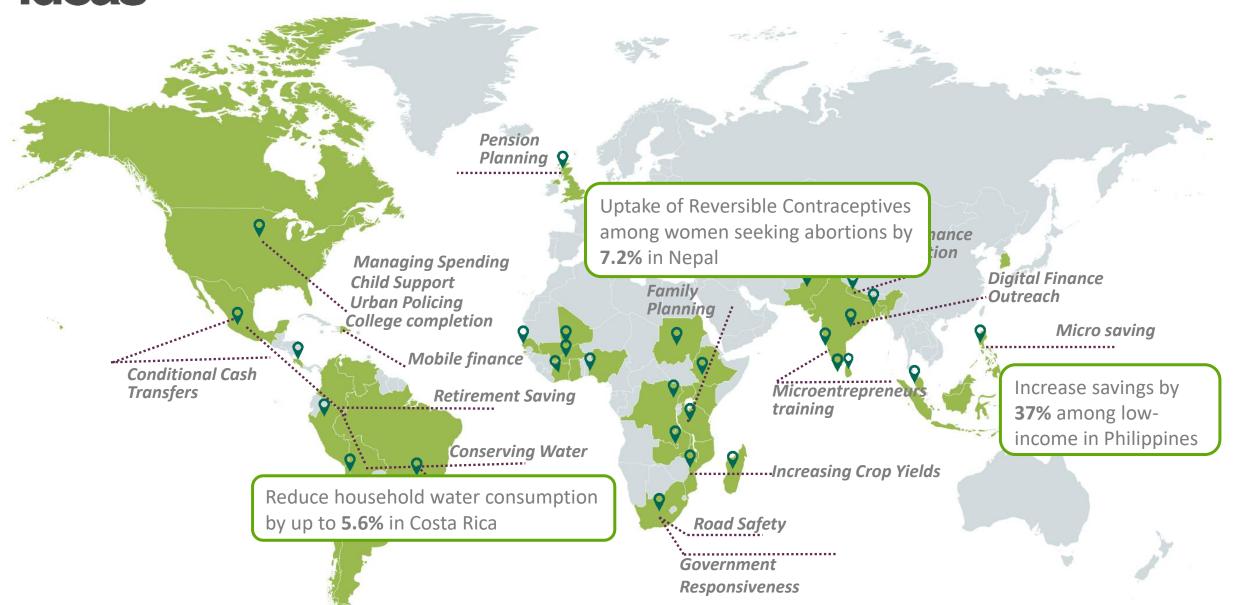
https://bsp.ucd.ie/applications-of-behavioural-economics/





ideas 42

100+ projects across 40 countries

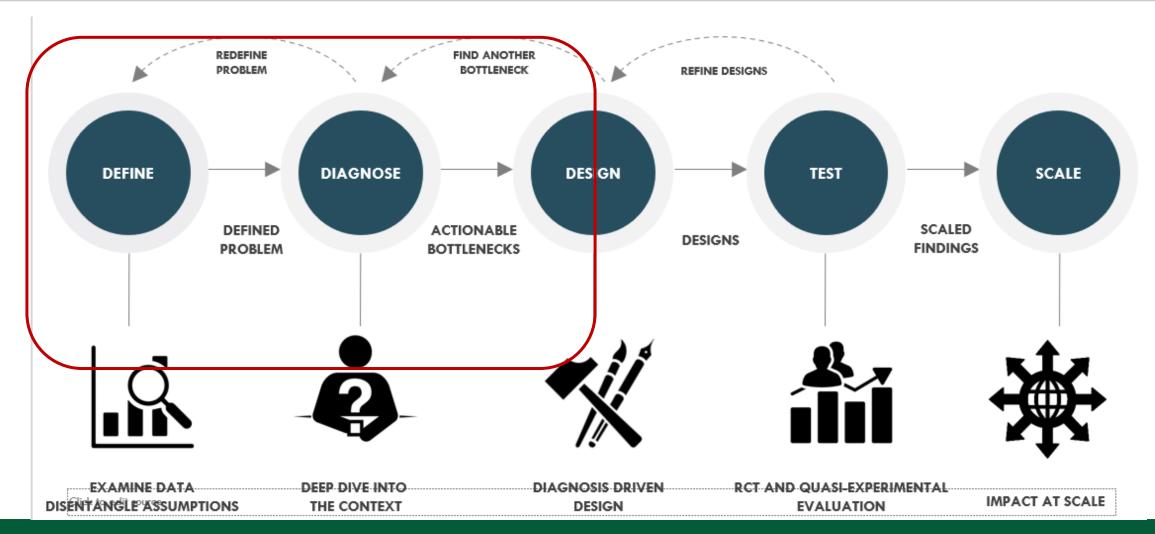


Case study in India on farmer PPE uptake





Project status in India





Our project findings



SUMMARY OF BEHAVIORAL BARRIERS

PRIMARY BARRIERS

- A. Farmers use incorrect rules of thumb to decide when PPE is needed
- B. Farmers hold faulty mental models around PPE components and use
- C. Farmers' perceptions of pesticide exposure are inaccurate
- D. Farmers are present-biased when making PPE-related decisions

SECONDARY BARRIERS

There are hassles involved in PPE use, which deter continued utilization

Farmers expect and seek out product-related information, rather than safety information, from company staff and retailers. Hence, product information is most salient



What our assumptions were



WEAK BARRIERS (NO SUPPORTING EVIDENCE)

These barriers were raised in initial conversations with member companies, but we found no or very little supporting evidence

PPE cost is prohibitive for farmers

No supporting evidence. Cost was not mentioned as a deterrent to use or purchase.

Farmers expect that companies will provide PPE for free

 Free distributions are relatively infrequent. Most farmers who did receive PPE kits for free, did not end up using.

Farmers choose not to wear PPE because they don't want their peers to view them as weak

No evidence of stigma attached to PPE usage.



Our project findings



SUMMARY OF BEHAVIORAL BARRIERS

PRIMARY BARRIERS

- A. Farmers use incorrect rules of thumb to decide when PPE is needed
- B. Farmers hold faulty mental models around PPE components and use
- C. Farmers' perceptions of pesticide exposure are inaccurate
- D. Farmers are present-biased when making PPE-related decisions

SECONDARY BARRIERS

There are hassles involved in PPE use, which deter continued utilization

Farmers expect and seek out product-related information, rather than safety information, from company staff and retailers. Hence, product information is most salient

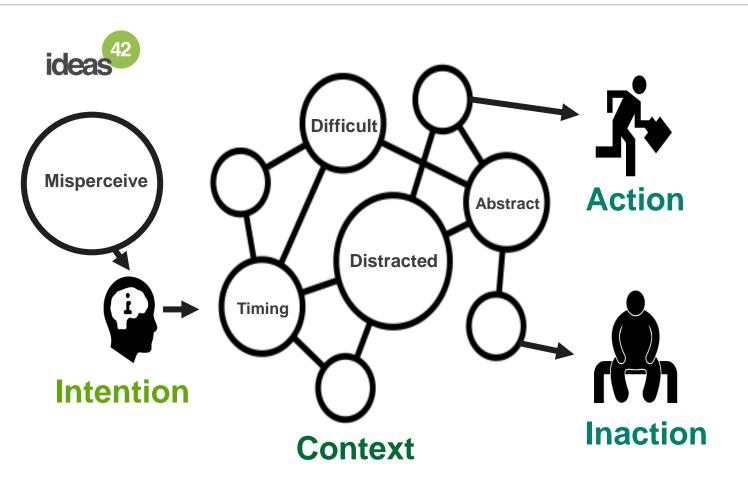


Sample designs

Design Objective	Sample Design Concepts	Behavioral Barriers Addressed
Correct faulty rules of thumb for PPE usage	- Physical re-design of PPE kit/components, to a one-piece item	Faulty heuristics
Correct inaccurate understanding of chronic pesticide exposure effects	- Simulate health/appearance in old age with and without chronic exposure (e.g. the ageing app)	Optimism bias, Misperception of dangerous exposure
Increase salience of actual pesticide exposure	 Spraying demonstrations using water + food coloring/glitter to show where pesticide residues land Daily health log on spraying/non-spraying days 	Overconfidence, Fundamental attribution error/Misattribution
Introduce commitment devices	- "Buddy system" to remind/check whether wearing full PPE and wearing it every time	Hassles, Present bias



Lessons from behaviour science for farmer communication



We are using behaviour science to:

- Use a scientific, data-driven and measurable method to identify the correct contextual factors that drive action or inaction
- 2) Based on these factors, design more accurate and effective training to change farmer behaviours
- 3) Research insights can be applied at low cost to improve outcomes with high returns





Thank you. Questions?

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Questions and Answers

Delisa Jiang

Please use the Q & A Box to ask questions to our speakers



Understanding Farmer Behavior and Driving Change:

A behavioral science perspective



Environmental problems are behavioral problems, so their solutions must also be behavioral...

CONVENTIONAL EFFORTS TO CHANGE BEHAVIOR ARE FAILING

Material incentives:

 Increasing or decreasing the costs, time, or effort for doing a behavior.

Rules and regulations:

 Laws or guidelines that encourage or restrict a behavior.

Information provision:

 Explaining what the desired behavior is, why it is important, and how to engage in it.





BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE PROVIDES ALTERNATE LEVERS OF CHANGE

Choice architecture:

Constructing an actor's choice environment without changing the value of said actor's underlying options.

Social influences

 Leveraging an actor's social networks and influences.

Emotional Appeals:

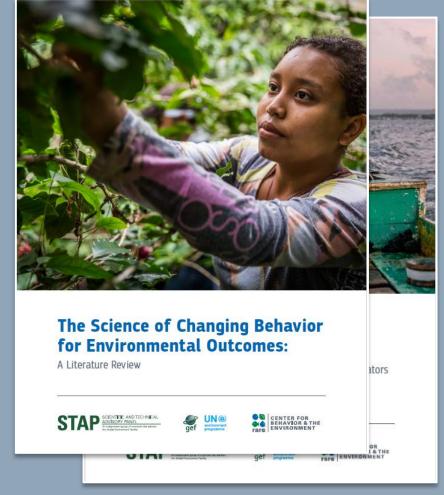
 Changing how an actor feels about a set of options.





WHAT ARE THE BEHAVIORAL INSIGHTS MOST RELEVANT FOR BEHAVIOR CHANGE EFFORTS IN AGRICULTURE?

- We have limited/bound cognitive resources:
 - We tend to focus on what is salient <u>in</u> the moment, and often rely on <u>habits</u>.
- We are social beings:
 - We inherently seek to conform to the norms we <u>observe</u>.
- We are uncertainty averse:
 - We avoid choices that <u>feel</u> risky or ambiguous.









Lands for Life

Designing a Behavioral Science-based Program

- Overuse of chemical fertilizers
- Overirrigation
- Use of raw manure on fields



- Fertilizing based on need
- Irrigate based on need
- Enrich the soil with compost





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Key Barriers

- Ambiguity Aversion, farmers feel uncertain about new or different practices.
- Confirmation Bias, farmers overlook information in a way that supports their viewpoint
- Time + financial investment feels like a loss at the start of the harvest season.
- Intensive agriculture, not sustainable, is the norm.





- Overuse of chemical fertilizers
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- Fertilizing based on need
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Farmers differ in their "resistance to ambiguity"

(how much certainty they need)



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Low resistance farmers (LRFs):

Farmers that require minimal evidence of results to adopt new practices.





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Low resistance farmers (LRFs):

Farmers that require minimal evidence of results to adopt new practices.



Moderate resistance farmers (MRFs):

Farmers that require evidence of results and social proof to adopt new practices.



High resistance farmers (HRFs):

Farmers that require evidence of results, social proof, and social pressure to adopt new practices.

Farmers differ in their "resistance to ambiguity"

(how much certainty they need)

How do we reach these different people?

LRFs



minimal evidence

MRFs



social proof

HRFs



social pressure



Recruitment-type Interventions

LRFs



minimal evidence

MRFs



social proof

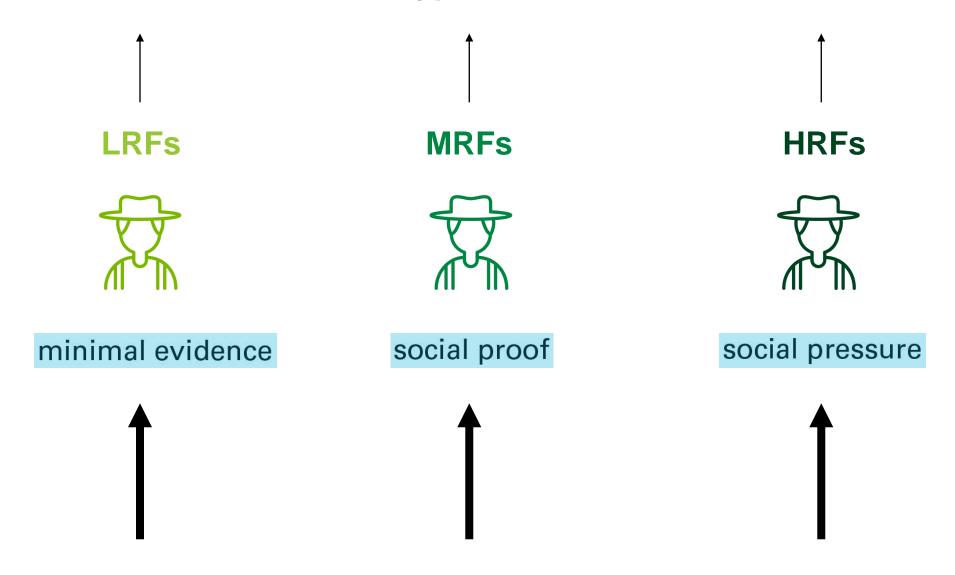
HRFs



social pressure



Blanket-type Interventions



How do we reach these different people?





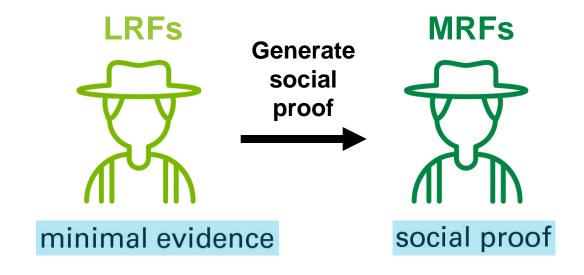






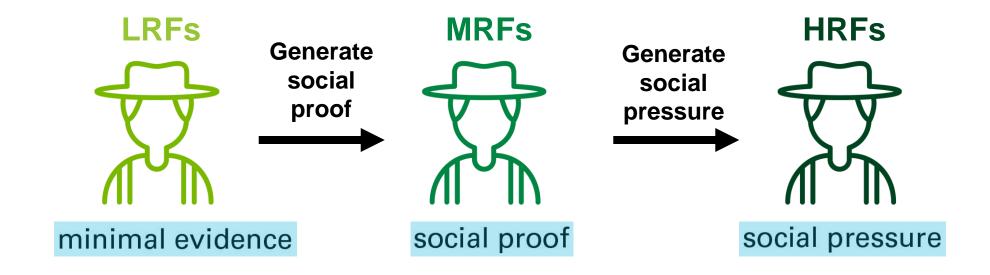


Simplify existing evidence





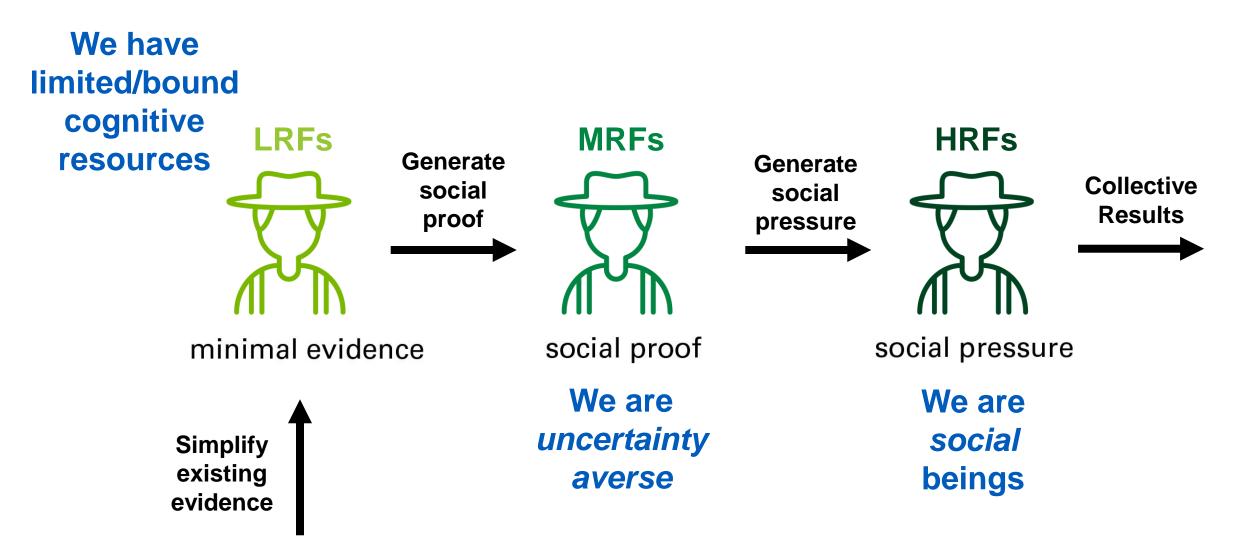
Simplify existing evidence



Simplify existing evidence



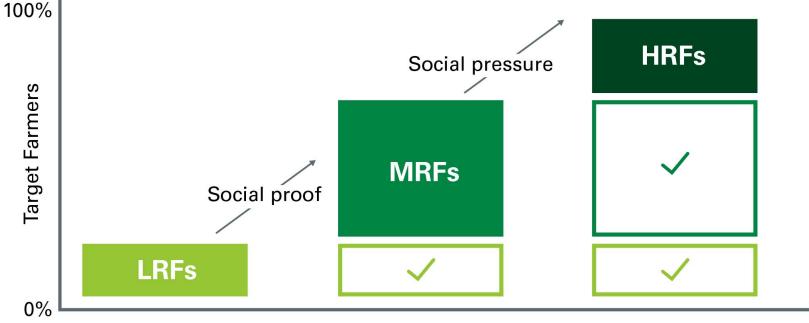
Simplify existing evidence



Snowballing Social Proof into Social Pressure

PHASE 0:

Generates tangible evidence of adoption ease and relevant, local success.



Phase 0

Make the benefits of adoption simple and clear, and make adoption easy.

Low-Resistance Farmers (LRFs)

Require *minimal* evidence of results to adopt new practices.

Phase 1

Publicly showcase the adoption-rate and successes of LRFs.

Mid-Resistance Farmers (MRFs)

Require *evidence* of results + social proof to adopt new practices.

Phase 2

Leverage LRFs and MRFs to generate widespread expectation of adoption.

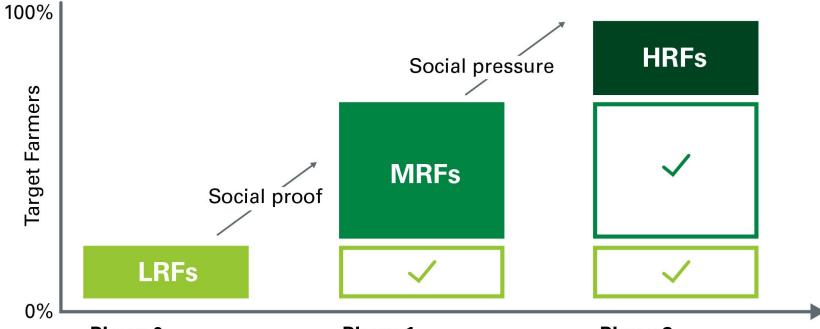
High-Resistance Farmers (HRFs)

Require evidence of results + social proof + social pressure to adopt new practices.

(Crentsil et al., 2020; Ross et al., 2012; Warnick et al., 2011).

Snowballing Social Proof into Social Pressure

PHASE 1:
Publicly
showcases the
increasing number
of farmers that are
adopting and
benefiting from
sustainable
practices.



Phase 0

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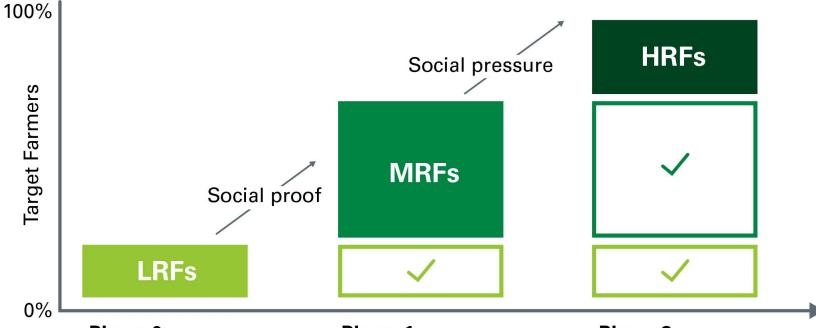
High-Resistance Farmers (HRFs)

Require evidence of results + social proof + social pressure to adopt new practices.

PHASE 2:

Generates a community-wide understanding that everyone (but particularly farmers) benefits from *all* farmers farming sustainably.

Snowballing Social Proof into Social Pressure



Phase 0

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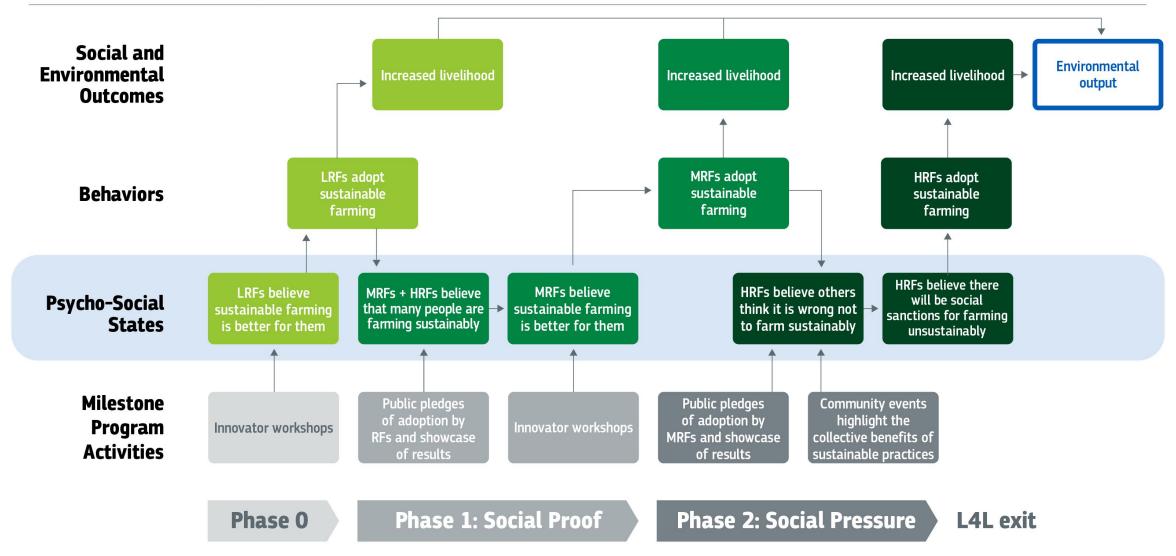
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Psycho-Social Theory of Change

Rare's Lands for Life Program

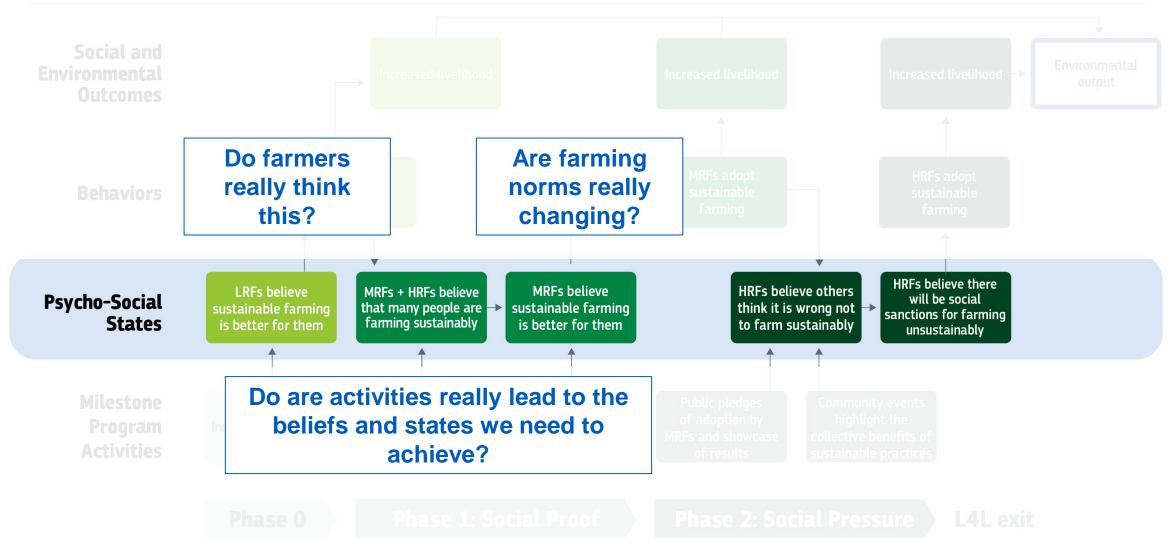




Psycho-Social Theory of Change

Rare's Lands for Life Program

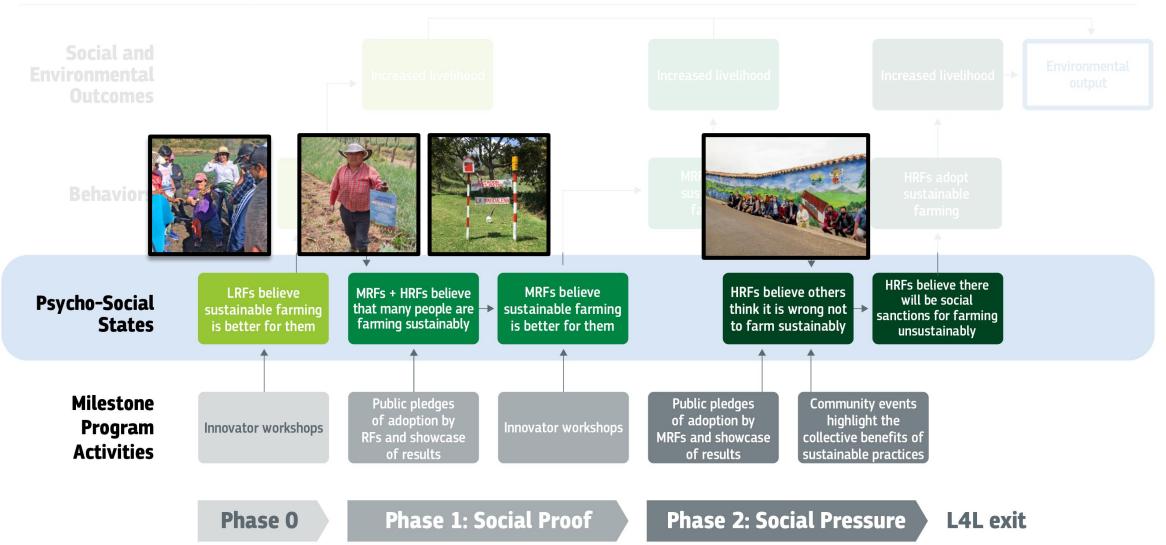




Psycho-Social Theory of Change



Rare's Lands for Life Program



BEHAVIORAL INSIGHTS CAN INFORM BEHAVIOR CHANGE EFFORTS IN AGRICULTURE:

- We have limited/bound cognitive resources:
 - Salient and simplified information delivered when most relevant can help align intentions with actions.
- We are social beings:
 - Social norms are a powerful, cost-effective tool in getting people to align their behavior towards a target (and stick to it).
- We are uncertainty averse:
 - The outcome of novel practices feels less uncertain if producers know others have trialed and succeeded in adopting.

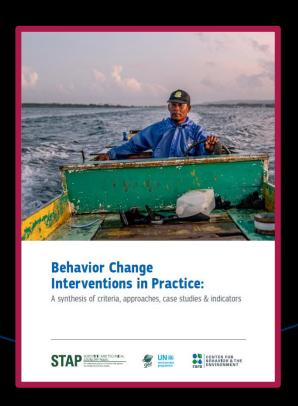


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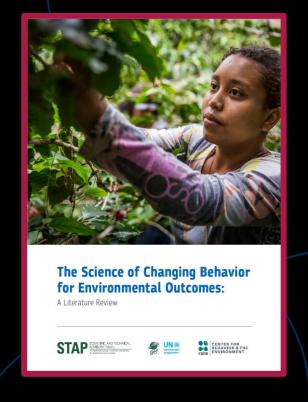


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Questions and Answers

Philipe Bujold

Please use the Q & A Box to ask questions to our speakers



Summary:



Build confidence of farmers through in-field training but all by increasing ecological literacy

Understand better the constraints of farmers, their beliefs, perceptions and practices. Consider smallholder farmers as "loss averse not risk averse".

Develop new innovative ways to communicate to farmers

Initiate in parallel - policy and structural reforms or new policies to accommodate new practices.

Consider holistic multi-purpose solutions/communication for farmers with the aim to build more resilience to all threats to farmer livelihoods.

Understand the behaviour of farmers and what drives farmer decision-making before designing communication and interventions — your perceptions of the problem may be very different than farmer perceptions!

Consider...We have limited/bound cognitive resources: We tend to focus on what is salient in the moment, and often rely on habits. We are social beings. We inherently seek to conform to the norms we <a href="https://observe.com/observe

ASEAN Action Plan on FAW Farmer Communication Workshop Series

A four-part series to catalyse action on the development and design of more effective farmer communications on IPM and FAW control.

Session 1: Behaviour

Session 2: Case studies of Farmer Communication

Tuesday 27 July 2021

Session 3: The Behaviour of Pesticide Purchasing and Use

Tuesday 7 September 2021

Session 4: Guidance for Communication – Top Tips for Effective Farmer Outreach

Tuesday 23 November

Register at: https://www.aseanfawaction.org/events

Case-Studies: We want your case-studies and examples – contact us at faw@growasia.org



EFFECTIVE FARMER COMMUNICATION:

A critical component of achieving IPM



Part 1: The importance of understanding farmer behaviour to improve IPM and FAW control





