

**PREVENTIVE BEHAVIOR ON PESTICIDE USAGE AMONG  
THE RICE FARMERS IN MUANG DISTRICT,  
SUPHANBURI PROVINCE, THAILAND**

**NGUYEN THI PHUONG MAI**

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**NGUYEN THI PHUONG MAI 4637959 ADPM / M**

**M.P.H.M. (PRIMARY HEALTH CARE MANAGEMENT)**

**THESIS ADVISORS: KITTI SHIYALAP, Ph.D., PANTYP RAMASOOTA, Dr.P.H., SOMSAK WONGSAWASS, M.P.H.**

**ABSTRACT**

The purpose of this descriptive cross sectional study was to assess the significant factors affecting practicing preventive behaviors on pesticide usage among the rice farmers in Suphanburi province, Thailand. The data was collected from nine villages in Muang district, 2004 by interviewing from a structured questionnaire. Number and percentages, Pearson Chi-square, and Spearman rank correlation tests were used to analyze data at  $\alpha = 0.05$ .

Based on the median value (69 scores or 82.1 % of total scores) as cut point value, 50.2 % of them had higher practicing score level than the cut point. 56.2 % of the respondents were male; most of them had an age of more than 30, were married, and lived with their children. The majority of them were self-employment, graduated from primary school, and had family incomes between 1000-5000 Baht per month. 13.5 % of them had good knowledge but not quite good perception, low accessibility to information, and high availability of good equipment.

It was revealed that their behaviors while using pesticides were significantly positively correlated with age, years of using pesticides, knowledge on pesticide danger and its usage, and availability of good equipment. Behaviors after using pesticides were significantly related with perception on seriousness, susceptibility, and benefits. Behaviors on days when not using pesticides had a significant correlation with age, and perception on susceptibility. In addition, perception on barriers, the accessibility to information and social support, all had a positive correlation to the three types of behaviors at  $p < 0.05$ .

To decrease the occupational pesticide poisoning, the agricultural officers and community participants should educate the rice farmers more regularly with details of information about not only using but also after using and on days when not using pesticides.

**KEY WORDS: PREVENTIVE BEHAVIORS/ PESTICIDES/ RICE FARMERS**

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