

## FARMERS' AWARENESS ON PESTICIDE USAGE, CLIMATE CHANGE AND ADOPTION OF STRATEGIES: A CASE STUDY OF SHIMLA DISTRICT IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

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### **ABSTRACT**

The study was conducted in Shimla district of Himachal Pradesh in India to assess farmers' awareness of pesticide usage, productivity, change in climate and adoption of strategies used by the farmers to minimize adverse impact of pesticide usage on biodiversity and soil. The primary data was collected from the farmers who were using the agro-chemicals for growing vegetable and apple crops. Awareness about the impact of pesticide use and immediate treatment practices for pesticide poisoning and precautionary measures against the exposure of pesticides were slightly more on large farms than small farms. The farmers' response on the perception of decrease in productivity was also more on large farms. For increase in cost of production, there was similar response on both farms. The climate was the main factor to decrease in productivity followed by disease and pest and lack of pollination in the study area. There was a variation in the perception of farmers of both farms for the change in temperature and rainfall. The humidity and snowfall were also decreasing. The temperature fluctuation and hailstones were the main prevailing problems of the study area which affecting the productivity of apple on both farms. A few farmers were using the anti hail net to protect their apple orchards from the hailstones on both farms. The study concluded that there is a need to create awareness in farmers by the extension workers for growing resistant varieties of crops and government should provide subsidy for anti hail net to protect their apple crop from hailstones. Also, the use of agro-chemicals in a scientific way and organic agro-chemicals should be encouraged. This could be very useful to reduce the cost of production, minimize the adverse impact on biodiversity, soil and human health. It will play a vital role to save the livelihood of the farmers and our ecosystem.

**KEYWORDS:** Adverse Impact, Awareness, Biodiversity, Climate Change, Pesticide and Strategies