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Advancing Sustainable Agriculture: A Comprehensive Analysis of Integrated Pest Management Strategies in Global Rice Production

Shaista Sarwar
Bahauddin Zakria University
*** Correspondence**: shazi.s19@gmail.com
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Effective pest management is imperative for sustaining global rice production, given rice's significance as a staple for half of the world's population. The implications of pest-related challenges extend to global policies and vulnerable communities, emphasizing the potential for improvements in human well-being. Pest-induced losses in rice output can range from 20% to 30%, necessitating a nuanced consideration of absolute values alongside percentages. While rice is vital for many economies, increased plant densities have inadvertently led to surges in specific pests, triggering excessive use of insecticides and herbicides. The study underscores the importance of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) to address these challenges sustainably. The widespread use of insecticides has led to epidemics of secondary pests, creating challenges such as resistance and environmental contamination. IPM, incorporating ecological techniques and biological controls, emerges as a sustainable alternative. In this context, the paper reviews the ecological dimensions of pest management, emphasizing the delicate balance between pests and their natural predators. It discusses challenges posed by intensive agricultural practices, highlights the role of bio-based IPM, and explores allelopathy as a promising biological phenomenon for sustainable agriculture. Contemporary challenges, such as herbicide resistance, underscore the need for evolving weed management strategies rooted in ecological principles. The paper presents case studies illustrating the efficacy of IPM, especially in rice cultivation, showcasing significant reductions in pest losses and associated economic benefits. The discussion extends to the role of IPM in controlling pests like rats and birds, emphasizing community-wide efforts for effective pest management. Looking ahead, the study calls for increased research into insect-resistant cultivars, sustainable management practices, and enhanced education to reduce agriculture's environmental impact. It concludes that IPM, with its multifaceted approach, is essential for achieving sustainable agriculture, ensuring crop protection while minimizing ecological harm.
Keywords: Vulnerable Communities Pest-Induced Losses, Insecticides, Allelopathy.

Introduction:

Effective pest management is crucial for achieving sustainable rice production, considering the global significance of rice as a staple food for the largest populations worldwide [1]. The implications of advancements in sustained rice production extend to global policies and political considerations, especially for vulnerable communities. Addressing pest-related challenges in rice cultivation holds the potential for significant improvements in human well-being [2]. Pest-induced yield losses in global rice output, attributed to diseases, animal pests, and weeds, can range from 20% to as much as 30% of the attainable yield. However, the absolute yield loss varies across different production situations, highlighting the need to consider absolute values alongside percentage expressions. For instance, absolute yield losses between 1.2 to 2.2 tons/ha have been estimated due to the combined effects of median disease, insect, and weed injuries in lowland rice fields in Asia [3]. Conversely, improved pest management has the potential to yield substantial gains, with estimates suggesting increases of 10–20% in current actual yields. Additionally, the externalities and associated costs related to human health, environmental impact, and ecosystem service maintenance are often overlooked dimensions of sustainable pest management, emphasizing the need for a holistic approach [4].

Rice stands out as one of the most crucial cereal crops, serving as a staple food for approximately half of the global population. Cultivated in around 114 countries, particularly in developing nations across Asia and Africa, rice production holds significant economic importance for these regions. Any factor that substantially diminishes rice yield directly impacts the economy of these countries [5]. In response to the escalating demand for higher grain yields, farmers worldwide are adopting increased plant densities in their management strategies, inadvertently leading to a rise in the population of specific pests. Consequently, there has been frequent and often excessive use of insecticides and herbicides, with adverse implications for the environment and economy [6]. Several practices, including indiscriminate pesticide and chemical fertilizer use, intensive tillage, deforestation, rangeland degradation, and escalating soil issues like erosion, compaction, and organic matter depletion, are identified as key contributors to environmental pollution in soil, water, and air resources [7]. The repercussions of intensive agricultural practices extend to various ecosystem functions, impacting nutrient cycling, organic matter decomposition, environmental detoxification, and the regulation of insect pests and disease epidemics in both aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems. The ongoing application of chemical agents, such as insecticides, weedicides, and fungicides, has led to nutrient leaching into groundwater and the emission of greenhouse gases from agricultural soils, resulting in severe deterioration of the natural ecosystem. Despite these challenges, various biotic and abiotic stresses continue to reduce rice production by more than 200 million megagrams annually. Viral diseases like Tungro and yellow dwarf, transmitted through insects, pose significant threats to rice crops, with Lepidopteran stem borers and the rice leaf folder emerging as particularly harmful, causing approximately 10 million megagrams of yield losses each year.

Approximately half of the global population relies on rice as a primary food source, making it a pivotal energy provider for humans. The Green Revolution, spanning from 1965 to 1975, played a crucial role in averting predicted famines in Asia during the 1980s. This agricultural movement involved developing high-yield rice varieties and employing cutting-edge technologies. Rice irrigation, constituting over 72% of the crop, has significantly advanced, with non-irrigated lowland rice accounting for more than 92% of global production, particularly in Asia [8]. Given the economic significance of rice production for many countries, any crisis leading to a decline in rice output could have severe consequences. Insect pests and crop diseases are widely recognized as major contributors to reduced rice yields in most rice-producing nations. Unfortunately, the progress in rice cultivation through irrigation and the rise in pesticide expenses have exacerbated issues related to insect pests. Interactions between living organisms and inanimate elements result in an annual loss of nearly 200 million tonnes of rice). Insects, such as mosquitoes, are capable of spreading viruses that cause rice-related diseases like yellow dwarf disease and tungro. Destructive activities of lepidopteran stem borers (Tryporyzaincertulas and T. annotate) and the rice leaf folder (Cnaphalocrocismedinalis) lead to the annual destruction of over 10 million metric tonnes of rice [9].

The use of pesticides, initiated to control pests, has led to the emergence of secondary pests like the brown planthopper (Nilaparvatalugens). Concerns about pesticide resistance have resulted in the cancellation of extensive rice-growing initiatives. Disease-carrying insects in flooded fields have developed resistance due to exposure to chemicals used in pest control. Pesticide poisoning among agricultural laborers is also a significant concern. To address these challenges, it is imperative to optimize the efficacy of ecological techniques that do not rely heavily on costly pesticides [10]. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) techniques, incorporating various strategies such as the deliberate use of chemical pesticides and the utilization of natural predators and parasites, offer a sustainable approach. Predators, often underutilized, play a vital role in maintaining a harmonious balance in pest control. Encouraging the global adoption of IPM techniques is crucial for sustainable agriculture, considering the environmental risks associated with conventional farming practices.

Challenges and Sustainable Strategies in Modern Agriculture

The widespread use of insecticides has led to epidemics of secondary pests, particularly the brown planthopperNilaparvatalugens (Stal) (Hemiptera: Delphacidae) [11]. Increased insecticide application to control the surging population of these secondary pests has introduced additional challenges, such as emerging and consistent pest resistance. The toxicity of insecticides poses a serious threat to farmers' health, contributing to a polluted environment and contaminated food sources. Moreover, chemical applications against rice pests have amplified insecticide resistance among vectors breeding in flooded fields. Simultaneously, the intensive and indiscriminate use of chemical herbicides has resulted in the degradation of soil, groundwater, and the atmosphere. Residual effects of herbicides are detrimental to beneficial insects, arthropods, and microbes, emphasizing the urgent need for improved herbicide management in modern agriculture due to severe ecological and environmental consequences, including increased weed resistance, population shifts, and dominance of minor weeds [12].

The escalating herbicide resistance in many weed species exacerbates the issue. Modern agriculture requires non-conventional weed management strategies, particularly those based on ecological principles. Among these strategies, Integrated Pest Management (IPM) has gained significant attention. IPM encompasses diverse and synergistic approaches, ranging from the targeted use of chemical pesticides to biological techniques employing natural opponents/enemies for pest control [13]. Proper insecticide use, under specific conditions, remains a valuable resource within the IPM framework to enhance control provided by natural control agents. Identifying effective beneficial predatory species and implementing management practices to sustain their populations is crucial for the long-term success of IPM [14].

Bio-based IPM, employing allelopathy or microbes like viruses, fungi, bacteria, protozoa, and nematodes as bio-control agents, plays a pivotal role in suppressing insect pests and weeds. Microbes are cultured in vitro and then employed for short or long-term purposes. Depending on environmental conditions, bio-based pest management options offer viability. Natural predators, such as spiders, contribute significantly to pest control in the long term while maintaining crop growth and yield in the short term [15]. Despite their potential, limited knowledge of the ecological action of predators hinders their comprehensive use as biological control agents. Predators, such as spiders, typically increase in population around mid-July in rice fields, contributing to effective pest control [16]. Allelopathy, a widespread biological phenomenon involving the release of allelochemicals influencing the growth and development of other organisms, holds promise in sustainable agriculture. Allelochemicals can serve as insecticides, herbicides, and antimicrobial crop protection products. Previous research has explored allelopathy, particularly for weed management in various arable crops. Different allelochemical weed management methods include the application of allelopathic water extracts, using cover crops with allelopathic potential in crop rotation, incorporating or retaining allelopathic crop residues, intercropping with allelopathic crops, and enhancing the inherent potential of allelopathic crops [17].

Table 1: Dangerous Rice Insect Pests and Their Characteristics [18]

Common Name	Scientific Name	Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family	Genus	Metamorphosis	Host Range	Destructive Stage	Symptoms
Stem Borers											
Yellow stem borer	Scirpohaga incertulas (Walker)	Animalia	Arthropoda	Insecta	Lepidoptera	Crambidae	Scirpophaga	Complete	Rice (Oryza spp.), Cyperus, Cyanodon dactylon, Leptochloa panicoides	Larvae	The presence of a brown-colored egg mass near the leaf tip
White stem borer	Scirpophaga innotata (Walker)	Animalia	Arthropoda	Insecta	Lepidoptera	Crambidae	Scirpophaga	Complete	Rice, Cyperus spp., Saccharum officinarum, S. spontaneum, S. arundinaceum, Eleocharis sp., Cyanodon dactylon, Oryza australiensis	Larvae	-
Striped stem borer	Chilo suppressalis (Walker)	Animalia	Arthropoda	Insecta	Lepidoptera	Crambidae	Chilo	Complete	Rice, maize, Scirpus gressus, Panicum crusgalli, sorghum, Panicum miliaceum, Echinochloa spp., Phragmites communis, Saccharum sp., Typha latifolia, water oats (Zizania latifolia, Z. caduciflora, Zizania aquatic)	Larvae	Dead hearts or dead tillers
Pink stem borer	Sesamia inferens (Walker)	Animalia	Arthropoda	Insecta	Lepidoptera	Noctuidae	Sesamia	Complete	Rice, maize, sorghum, Setaria italica, and other grass weeds	Larvae	Dead hearts and white heads at the vegetative and flowering stages
Leaf Folders											
Rice leaf folder	Cnaphalocrocis medinalis (Guenee)	Animalia	Arthropoda	Insecta	Lepidoptera	Crambidae	Cnaphalocrocis	Complete	Rice, maize, millet, oats, sorghum, sugarcane, wheat, wild grasses, sedges	Larvae	Leaves folded longitudinally
Rice leaf folder	Marasmia patnalis (Bradley)	Animalia	Arthropoda	Insecta	Lepidoptera	Crambidae	Cnaphalocrocis	Complete	Rice	Larvae	Defoliated, and the affected leaves are scorched or white, plastic
Leafhoppers and Planthoppers											
White-backed planthopper	Sogatella furcifera (Horvath)	Animalia	Arthropoda	Insecta	Hemiptera	Delphacidae	Sogatella	Incomplete	Rice, maize, and many grassweeds	Nymphal and adult	Stunted growth
White leafhopper	Cofana spectra (Distant)	Animalia	Arthropoda	Insecta	Hemiptera	Cicadellidae	Cofana	Incomplete	Rice, apple, grapes, strawberry, potato	Nymphal and adult	Discoloration and dwarfing or stunting of leaves
Grasshoppers											
Rice grasshopper	Hieroglyphus banian (F.)	Animalia	Arthropoda	Insecta	Orthoptera	Acrididae	Hieroglyphus	Incomplete	Rice, maize, millet, sugarcane, and other grasses	Nymphal and adult	Defoliation of the plants, leaving only the midribs and the plant growth
Small grasshopper	Oxya multidentata (Will.)	Animalia	Arthropoda	Insecta	Orthoptera	Acrididae	Oxya	Incomplete	Rice, sugarcane, wheat, maize, and fodder crops	Nymphal and adult	Yellow-green oblong to linear spots on the base of the youngest leaves
Rice hispa	Dicladispa armigera (Oliver)	Animalia	Arthropoda	Insecta	Coleoptera	Chrysomelidae	Dicladispa	Incomplete	Rice	Nymphal and adult	Tunneling through the leaf tissue, causing irregular translucent white patches

Maintaining the delicate balance between insect pests and their natural predators is crucial for sustainable pest management. Overuse of pesticides often disrupts this equilibrium, emphasizing the need for judicious insecticide application, even when deemed necessary in specific situations [19]. Recognizing that some insect pests, even those with populations not directly impacting the economy, play a role in the food chain is essential. This ensures that beneficial species' populations remain at levels sufficient to deter harmful insect infestations. The production of a large number of predatory organisms for use in rice fields comes with a significant cost. To sustain bio-control agents, reducing the use of broad-spectrum pesticides or employing insecticides that specifically target pests without harming predators are effective strategies [20]. Traditional insect pest management techniques often face challenges due to the scale of agricultural production. There is a growing emphasis on understanding the ecological dynamics of primary pests for effective pest management. Utilizing bio-control agents like nematodes, viruses, fungi, bacteria, and protozoa is crucial for pest management, either for long-term biological control or rapid control similar to chemical methods [21].

This study will delve into the latest ecologically based pest management techniques employing living organisms to control pests in rice crops. The objective is to highlight the significance of implementing IPM strategies in agriculture and explore potential directions for IPM project development with a focus on environmental sustainability. The assessment aims to identify farmer-friendly tactics for optimizing diverse natural controls as an alternative to an overreliance on pesticides, making IPM the preferred choice [22].

Integrated pest management, proposed twenty-five years ago, has become a prominent notion in agricultural sciences. It involves a comprehensive approach to managing pests in crops, incorporating diverse tactics such as chemical, biological, genetic, mechanical, and cultural methods. These strategies work together harmoniously to control insect populations at a level that avoids economic threats, with chemical pesticides used only in exceptional circumstances. The process of globalization, marked by increased commerce and travel, has facilitated the widespread dissemination of invasive species across nations worldwide. Effectively addressing these pests requires meticulous planning, with optimal decision-making involving the selection of the most effective course of action that minimizes potential hazards and maximizes advantages. This comprehensive approach often involves various components related to integrated pest management tactics [23].

The concept of IPM has gained popularity as an ecologically friendly approach to pest control in recent years, aiming for sustainable production of goods. "Integrated pest management strategies" represent the optimal combination of pest control techniques used in agricultural environments to minimize economic losses caused by insect pests while ensuring minimal harm to other organisms [24]. This research highlights the use of several integrated pest control systems for rice worldwide, with variations based on the distinct environmental and socioeconomic aspects of each country. Effective integrated pest management systems for rice production have been developed in the US, Europe, and Asia through dedicated research on rice insect control.

Background Information:

Synthetic organic insecticides became widely available after World War II, prompting scientists to anticipate unintended repercussions. The concept of "supervised insect control," introduced by Smith and Smith in 1949, involved applying pesticides under the guidance of knowledgeable entomologists overseeing insect management. This approach aimed to replace calendar-based pesticide operations and was initially focused on the lucerne caterpillar species. Environmental contamination, rising insect infestations, pest resistance, and the resurgence of targeted pests led to concerns about careless pesticide use [25].

In response to these issues, the idea of "integrated control" was introduced by four entomologists from the University of California a decade later, emphasizing the optimal combination of chemical and biological treatments for pest infestation. The concepts of economic threshold and economic damage level were also proposed during this time. The 1960s saw the emergence of the term "pest management," covering a broader spectrum of pest management strategies beyond insects, including host plant resistance, cultural control, and the application of semi-chemicals.

While initially focusing on insects, integrated control and pest management evolved into more commonly used terms over time. The concept of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) emerged in the early 1970s, broadening to encompass all categories of pest species. Over the past thirty years, IPM has served as a crucial foundation for organizing global research and extension initiatives [26].

Integrated Pest Management:

IPM stands as a cornerstone in the field of agricultural sciences, especially in combatting insect pests during the latter half of the twentieth century. IPM strategies leverage a diverse range of tools, incorporating cultural, genetic, mechanical, biological, and chemical techniques, to keep harmful insect pests below the economic injury level for specific crops. Central to the IPM approach is the regular monitoring of crop pests, garnering global recognition as a pivotal tool for achieving agricultural sustainability. IPM principles are gaining prominence globally, particularly in Latin America and Africa, under the term "integrated production and pest management." The core tenets of this approach involve sustaining natural predator populations, fostering the cultivation of beneficial crops while preserving soil health, conducting regular field inspections encompassing pests, natural predators, plants, soil, and water conditions, and acquiring comprehensive industry knowledge. IPM for rice relies on economically motivated decision-making, applying effective agricultural practices, and implementing proactive pest control measures within the production context. Four accessible biological procedures offer sustainable and environmentally friendly pest control options. Despite the historical use of synthetic insecticides since the late 1940s, their widespread application raises concerns about risks to human health, visual unattractiveness, and environmental pollution. Recognizing these challenges, farmers are increasingly exploring alternative approaches to reduce dependence on pesticides, aligning with the foundational principles of IPM [27].

Biological control emerges as a viable alternative to the conventional use of insecticides. This approach entails deliberately deploying beneficial organisms or natural enemies to effectively manage various insects and pests. Many pests have inherent adversaries, and by efficiently regulating these adversaries, the population of almost all pests can be significantly reduced. While not infallible in eradicating all pests, biological control serves as a foundational element in an integrated pest management system that incorporates multiple pest control techniques within an environmentally protected area. Given the widespread recognition of biological control as a safe, practical, and beneficial method, it is essential to expand its application beyond current limitations. This study underscores the intricate role of interactions between species, their targeted pests, and the environment in facilitating biological management, making it more intricate than conventional pest management approaches such as chemical pesticides. In rice cultivation, five methods are employed to implement biological control. Rice, a member of the Poaceae family alongside maize and wheat, stands as one of the three main crops on which global dependence is substantial. Recognized as a staple grain in numerous nations, rice is anticipated to retain its pivotal role in the future. Cultivated in at least 114 countries, particularly in some of the world's poorest nations, rice holds a crucial position in providing income and employment opportunities for over 100 million households in Asia and Africa, according to FAO (2004) [28]. China, India, and Indonesia collectively contribute approximately 75% of the world's rice output and over half of its rice-growing land.

Food security concerns are escalating, particularly in developing nations where rice production has struggled to keep pace with population growth. Notable rice farmers in these countries have reduced or ceased exporting the grain. Conversely, as land becomes scarcer, the demand for fertilizers to meet rising needs has increased alongside rice production. Consequently, the susceptibility of rice crops to insect damage is significant, and pest management efforts have unintentionally led to an upsurge in pest populations. The reference to [29] is utilized. Insect pests substantially reduce crop yield in numerous agricultural enterprises in tropical Asian countries. Rice fields have been found to host insects from 128 different species, with a relatively small percentage, approximately 15 to 20 percent, causing economic harm. Notably, the brown planthopper (Nilaparvatalugens) is identified as a secondary pest with the potential to inflict severe damage on rice fields, historically contributing to significant harm. Pesticides, often a result of poorly enforced regulations and chemical subsidies, are implicated in causing outbreaks of pests like the brown planthopper.

Recognizing the crucial role of brown planthoppers in the ecosystem is vital for sustaining the profitability and sustainability of rice cultivation. Effective control measures must be implemented, especially in regions where indiscriminate pesticide use is prevalent, presenting a significant challenge. Brown planthoppers are often managed using natural predators, acknowledging the importance of maintaining a balanced ecosystem. The misuse of pesticides in the 1970s led to epidemics in tropical areas, as applying insecticides would exacerbate the resurgence of brown planthopper populations, resulting in widespread crop damage known as "hopper burn." Eggs laid inside the stem remain mostly unaffected, and after hatching, nymphs flourish in an environment devoid of predators. The necessity for biological control methods is evident in areas where treatment is absent. Stem borers, particularly the yellow stem borer (Scirpophagaincertulas), pose a significant threat to rice crop productivity. This species is considered the most destructive among borers, covering a substantial portion of India's territory. The lack of precise control measures calls for an evaluation of the effectiveness of national pest management plans, especially concerning local implementation. The information in this study reinforces the idea that pesticide use, particularly in the early stages of the growing season, disrupts the natural predator-prey balance, leading to the extinction of native species like the brown planthopper and providing pest strains an advantage over previously resistant rice cultivars. This scenario impedes effective biological control of major pests, including stem borers, and contributes to the emergence of other pest infestations [30].

Figure 1: Stem bores crawling in a rice field [31].

A West Bengal experiment conducted by Kaushik aimed to validate the effectiveness of the rice-integrated Pest Management module in reducing the population of yellow stem borer insects. The study spanned five consecutive winter cropping seasons from 2003 to 2007, using the Swarnamashuri (MTU 7029) rice variety. The experiment revealed significant differences in the prevalence of damage caused by yellow stem borers between plots with and without integrated pest management. Integrated pest management plots showed a notable reduction in dead heart and whitehead occurrences compared to non-integrated pest management plots. Additionally, the experiment assessed the population of spiders and coccinellid beetles, with integrated pest management plots exhibiting a higher density. Analysis of grain and fodder yields also indicated the positive impact of integrated pest management, with increased production and economic benefits. The Cost-Benefit Ratio further highlighted the economic advantages of integrated pest management.

Another study by [32] emphasized the positive impact of integrated pest control on crop yields in the southern Bengal region. Pesticide use was found to significantly reduce the number of natural predators, leading to the proliferation of secondary pests like the green leafhopper Nephotettix spp. Integrated pest management plans can contribute to reduced pesticide demand and improved knowledge of predators and their roles among farmers. Despite concerted efforts to establish a comprehensive global integrated pest control system for rice, challenges, such as the influence of pesticide manufacturers and distributors, have delayed widespread implementation. [33]advocates for integrated pest control, which employs various treatments based on ecological principles. The study underscores the need for comprehensive research into the root causes of pest epidemics, emphasizing the importance of understanding the rice environment. It is crucial to investigate the relationships between predators, parasitoids, pests, and the ecosystem. The table presents various predators and parasitoids that feed on the eggs and larvae of brown planthoppers, green leaf folders, and yellow stem borers, highlighting the diverse biological control strategies used in rice fields.

The specific species under consideration is a wolf spider belonging to the Lycosidae genus, named Pseudoannulata. This spider preys on nymphs and adults of Brown Plant Hopper and Green Leafhoppers, as well as larvae and adults of Stemborer and Leaffolder larvae. Another member of the C genus, the mirid insect Lividipennis, targets nymphs and eggs of Brown Planthoppers, Green Leafhoppers, and Leaffolders. The grasshopper Longipennis, identified with the letter C, consumes eggs laid by stemborers and leaffolders. Parasitoids, characterized by a higher degree of specialization in their decision-making process, make up a significant portion of arthropod species in Java's irrigated rice fields. While some farms continue to rely on conventional pesticides, an undeniable conclusion from data on crop productivity and economic evaluation is that IPM surpasses chemical treatments and farmer-initiated solutions.

Implementing integrated pest control techniques is crucial for mitigating pest infestations affecting various crops, including rice. Rats, gastropods, and avian species are among the pests causing considerable damage, demanding comprehensive planning and community-wide efforts to address their detrimental effects. Rats, in particular, pose a significant threat to rice plants in agricultural environments, often necessitating various tactics like pesticide application to reduce their population. Identifying the prevailing rat species is essential for selecting appropriate baits, and community-level mapping tools enhance coordination for implementing continuous rat traps. The use of toxic pesticides with severe consequences, such as zinc phosphide and aldicarb, is strictly prohibited in most countries. Educational activities on rat biology and behavior can enhance community initiatives, and year-round community-level management is critical for efficient rat control [34].

A unique owl habitat strategy successfully reduced the rat population in Malaysia, highlighting the importance of natural predators. Additionally, a plastic trap-and-barrier system demonstrated effectiveness in rice fields. Bird species also present a significant risk to rice fields, especially when gathering in large numbers. The use of nets to capture birds for use in rice and other agricultural products has been effective in Asia, although challenges persist in some African regions. Avian netting is widely used in northeast Asia to protect crops during the growing season, while various bird deterrence methods are employed in Asia and Africa, including scare tactics and yelling. However, activities such as using poisoned baits and destroying nesting habitat are prohibited due to potential harm to non-target species in aquatic ecosystems. The effective management of pests like rats and birds often requires increased cooperation and community effort.

Role of Integrated Pest Management in Enhancing Agricultural Production:

The effectiveness of IPM is evident in various instances, as highlighted in Table 2, showcasing substantial reductions in pest losses and corresponding benefits. Noteworthy examples include the successful biocontrol measures against the Cassava mealybug, Andean potato weevil, Striga weed in maize, Diamondback moth in cabbage, and Rice leaf feeders, implemented by organizations such as the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), Institut Pasteur Collection (CIP), International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE), and Asian Vegetable Research and Development Center (AVRDC).

Table 2: Impact of Integrated Pest Management on Pest Losses and Crop Productivity [35].

Pest	Loss/Situation in Selected Locations	Intervention and Method	Benefits
Cassava Mealybug	40% loss in 27 countries of sub-Saharan Africa	International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) – Biocontrol	90% drop in losses, US$8–20 million
Andean Potato Weevil	50% loss in Peru	Institut Pasteur Collection (CIP) – Microbials	Loss drops to 5%, US$12 million
Striga Weed in Maize	US$13 million loss in Kenya	International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE) – Habitat Management	>100% yield gain, >2.5 benefit-cost ratio
Diamondback Moth in Cabbage	20 sprays needed per season in the Philippines	Asian Vegetable Research and Development Center (AVRDC) – Pesticide Use Management plus Biocontrol	Sprays drop to four, US$10 million/year
Rice Leaf Feeders	68% of farmers apply insecticides in the Philippines	International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) – Communication	The proportion of farmers spraying dropped to 11%

The global movement of people and the globalization of the food market have introduced numerous pest species to new areas, necessitating precautionary measures, planning, and strategic execution. In this context, an efficient IPM strategy is crucial to optimize pest control benefits while minimizing adverse environmental impacts. IPM has gained recognition as an environmentally friendly approach, ensuring agricultural product quality and production. Essentially, IPM can be defined as a superior pest control strategy that reduces crop yield losses without causing residual chemical toxicity to beneficial organisms, a pivotal factor in its practical efficacy.

Current programs in Africa and Latin America amalgamate integrated production and pest management, emphasizing key principles such as promoting healthy soils and crops, protecting natural enemies, regular monitoring, and disseminating technical knowledge to the farming community. IPM strategies successfully manage various pests, contributing to the reduction in synthetic pesticide use and preserving the environment [1].

Bio-Based Integrated Approaches against Insect Pests:

Since the advent of synthetic chemical pesticides in the late 1940s, their high efficacy, economic feasibility, and ease of application have made them a primary focus for pest control. However, the detrimental side effects of synthetic pesticides, such as water and soil contamination, harm to human health, and destruction of flora and fauna, have prompted a global search for techniques to reduce reliance on these chemicals. In rice production, management strategies, including fertilizer and irrigation management, have increased production but aggravated the problem of insect pests. The substantial damage caused by various pests poses a significant threat to achieving high rice production for the growing global population. Biological control emerges as a promising alternative to synthetic pesticides, targeting only harmful insect pests. While not a universal solution, biological control becomes a crucial component of an IPM strategy, creating an ecologically sheltered system.

Notably, N. lugens, a destructive pest impacting rice crop productivity, has faced challenges due to insecticide applications, leading to the development of insecticide tolerance and increased populations. Biological control agents and biopesticides, such as plant extracts and extracts from Polygonum hydropiper, demonstrate significant mortality rates in controlling N. lugens populations. Stem borers, especially S. incertulas, contribute to rice production limitations. Destruction of natural enemies by certain insecticides disrupts natural control mechanisms, leading to secondary pest outbreaks. IPM techniques, emphasizing biological control, have shown success in increasing grain rice production in various regions.

The role of ecological considerations in IPM tools is crucial, with a shift towards understanding the atomistic system approach of rice ecosystems. Predators and parasitoids, including wolf spiders and mirids, play a significant role in managing rice insect pests. The application of IPM strategies, focusing on ecological and biological tools, holds great potential for the future, ensuring effective pest control while preserving the environment [36].

Integrated Weed Management in Rice:

Weeds pose significant competition to cash crops, leading to growth suppression and yield reductions. With multiple weed species associated with rice crops, effective weed management becomes imperative. Traditional practices, such as puddling for rice transplanting, have proven effective, but changing agricultural practices have led to the need for Integrated Weed Management (IWM) strategies.

IWM in rice involves a multi-dimensional approach, combining preventive measures, tillage, adjustments in seed rate and planting geometry, and the introduction of weed-competitive cultivars. Water management plays a crucial role, especially in direct-seeded rice, where water-conserving techniques can lead to increased weed infestation. While herbicides remain a successful tool in weed control, their residual effects on environmental safety raise concerns. Alternative herbicides with novel structures and modes of action present viable options for weed management in direct-seeded rice.

IWM in rice is a complex endeavor requiring the integration of various management strategies tailored to prevailing conditions. The use of alternative herbicides, preventive measures, and the adoption of weed-competitive cultivars contribute to the success of IWM programs, ensuring optimal weed control while minimizing environmental impact [37].

Evolving Trends in Pest Management:

In the foreseeable future, the prevalence of herbicide resistance is expected to become the predominant trait in cultivated crops, exacerbating the existing issue of herbicide resistance among various weed species. In contemporary agriculture, unconventional weed management strategies rooted in ecological principles have become indispensable. Notably, integrated pest management has emerged as the focal point of attention. IPM employs synergistic approaches, ranging from targeted chemical pesticide use to biological methods employing natural enemies for pest control. Under the IPM paradigm, the judicious use of pesticides is recognized as a valuable tool, enhancing the control provided by natural agents in specific conditions. Identification of critical insects and animals as effective predatory species, coupled with appropriate management measures, is essential for ensuring their proliferation and long-term survival. IPM integrates pest management into a plant's life cycle, adapting to the behavior and cycles of insects. Farmer involvement is crucial in developing effective IPM plans by adapting agricultural practices and understanding pest species within the agroecosystem.

The understanding of pesticide life cycles at the ecosystem level forms the foundation for successful IPM plan development and implementation, closely linked to a farmer's practices and a well-defined IPM plan for rice ecosystems. A comprehensive IPM plan encompasses the protection of beneficial insects, prevention of secondary pests, control of disease dissemination, and mitigation of air, water, and soil contamination. The broad adoption of IPM in rice agroecosystems offers substantial net benefits to farmers. This study introduces a new IPM program, a farmer field school model applicable globally to rice agroecosystems, designed to prevent pesticide-induced disease resurgence, a primary focus in national IPM programs worldwide.

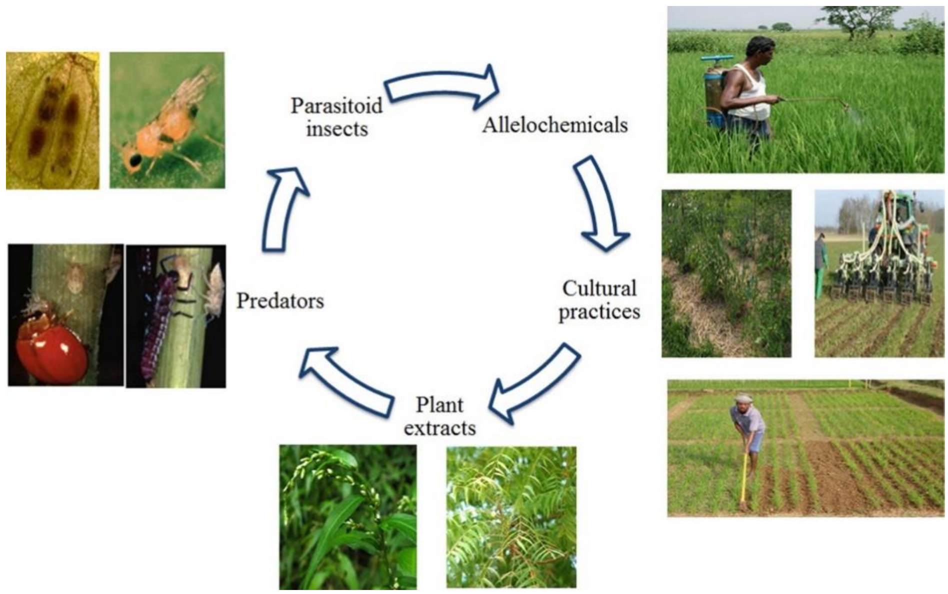

Figure 2: IPM on rice field based on biochemicals [35].

The history of pest management reflects a shift from the overuse of pesticides in the 1950s, leading to insect resistance, to the development of IPM as a sustainable approach. In the second half of the 20th century, IPM became a fundamental foundation for managing insect pests in agriculture. IPM tactics integrate cultural, genetic, mechanical, biological, and chemical methods to economically control hazardous insect plagues. Regular monitoring and pest management based on IPM principles are recognized globally as vital for sustainable agriculture. As globalization increased the movement of people and expanded the food industry, effective IPM plans became essential to counter invasive pests. The IPM approach, promoting environmentally acceptable pest control, emphasizes the reduction of crop damage without causing lasting chemical toxicity to beneficial organisms. The integration of production and pesticide management is a prevalent concept in African and Latin American countries, with IPM emphasizing healthy soils, promotion of natural enemies, regular monitoring, and widespread dissemination of technical expertise. By incorporating these principles, IPM provides a system enabling farmers to monitor pesticide activity while minimizing synthetic pesticide use, thereby enhancing environmental protection.

Needs for the Future:

Anticipating substantial challenges for the agriculture industry, integrated pest control (IPC) in rice production requires further investigation and development to enhance effectiveness. Insect-resistant cultivars, despite potential benefits, have not been extensively studied for their application in rice cultivation within IPC strategies. Barriers, including farmers' reluctance, slow progress in creating resistant germplasm, and a disconnect between crop protection and productivity, hinder the adoption of insect-resistant cultivars. Utilizing resistant cultivars and sustainable management practices is crucial for reducing ecological damage caused by pests in tandem with increasing agricultural productivity.

Several countries, such as the Republic of Korea, are making significant efforts to address agricultural challenges. Legislation in Korea prohibits pesticide use in areas supplying water to Seoul, promoting organic farming for food production and clean water. Some communities are diversifying strategies by including the production of vegetables, rice, and fish to meet nutritional and food security needs. This trend is likely to persist due to the demand for profitable non-grain products and the need to protect the environment from nitrogen levels and costly fungal diseases.

Conclusion:

Extending IPC activities globally is imperative, emphasizing education in formal and informal institutions to reduce agriculture's environmental impact while enhancing production. IPM must be integrated into educational programs and accompanied by field research to address challenges related to IPC, integrated production, and pest management systems. A significant improvement in the IPM strategy is necessary to eliminate harmful chemicals and incentives for pesticides. Financial support for locally produced goods, such as pheromones, attractants, biological agents, premium seeds, and disease-resistant cultivars, is crucial to maximize benefits for farmers.

Recent advancements in IPC for rice crops show promise, but further research is essential to understand the consequences of microbial pesticides, natural enemies, and cultural practices. Despite these developments, insect pests remain a global challenge for rice farming. The application of biological management techniques has led to the proliferation of beneficial insects, reducing reliance on chemical pesticides and enhancing natural pest control. IPM techniques contribute to rice farmers' financial stability by reducing pesticide-related costs while maintaining crop production. The decline in reported cases of sickness among IPM producers highlights the health benefits. Implementing IPM strategies aligned with conservation efforts is crucial, emphasizing the removal of vulnerable varieties and promoting the growth of robust varieties resistant to nematodes, pests, and diseases.

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