



Herbal preparation for controlling insects and pests (leaf folder and stem borer) in paddy

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Vijay Prasad (40) uses the leaves of three local plants (names withheld for IP reasons) to control insect-pests in paddy crop.

Born in farmer's family Vijay, had seven siblings, and studied till class ten. All of them are married and settled. His mother lives with one of his brothers, who work as daily wage labourers. His family comprises wife and three children. He is also a farmer and grows rice, maize, pigeon pea, potato and onion in his field. During lean agricultural seasons, he works on a daily-wage basis in white-washing, cement, construction work and other works. Vijay uses home-made herbal formulation for pests in his field. This herbal knowledge has been handed over to him by his late father.

The herbal preparation was evaluated for its ability to control insects and pests in field conditions in Okra

crop. A 37% reduction in the population of leaf hoppers was observed as compared to the untreated control. The formulation was also found to be effective in reducing the population of larvae (77%) at farmer's dose. A reduction of 53% in fruit damage was also found in plants treated with the formulation as compared to the untreated control. The herbal preparation was found to be effective in controlling the leaf folder (*C. medinalis*) of paddy with reduction of 54.0% in the leaf folder population as compared to the untreated one. The herbal preparation showed moderate larvicidal effect against borers' (*Spodoptera litura* and *Helicoverpa armigera*) larvae under *in vitro* conditions.