

## **Ponneem – The new pesticide**

Ponneem is an organic based pesticide developed by the department of entomology, Loyola college, Chennai. It benefits are reaped by the farmers at kanchipuram and Thiruvallur. The experiences of the farmers are narrated below.

The entire village of Kolumanivakkam, kanchipuram district is using Ponneem bio pesticide for pest management. The college gave Mrs.Uma Maheswari farm leader, self help group, TANUWA free samples of Ponneem. But she did not have trust. However when her paddy plants were two months old, it got affected by white hopper and shoot borer. She tried with Ponneem and miracle happened. All the pests vanished and she got higher yield. Also she came to know of the beneficial insects from the college students and officials.

Ravi of vayalanallor village, tiruvallur also tried it in his farm consisting of 1 acre brinjal, 1 acre Bhendi and 2 cents chili. The result was visible in 15 days. Almost all the pests were controlled and the field looked fresh.

Ponneem is a product developed by the department of entomology, Loyola college, Chennai. The professor and Head, department of entomology Mr. Inasimuthu, says that, this product was a result of hard work on trials with various combinations of 8 oils including neem oil, pungam oil, elupai oil and cashew oil. They tested it in the farms and submitted the results to the government, who being satisfied gave the needed financial support.

The farmers are also satisfied with its result, hence there is more demand for the product. Presently, it is given free of cost and arrangements are being made to supply it to all farmers of TamilNadu with the government help. It has also been submitted for patent.

The advantage of Ponneem is that it not only kills harmful insects but also improves the population of beneficial insects.

### **Ponneem Preparation :**

To prepare Ponneem, mix 45% of neem oil, pungam oil and 10% of soap solution(wetting agent). Mix 30ml of Ponneem with 10 liters of water and spray. The requirement for 1 acre is 1 ½ liters of Ponneem, it can be reduced based on pest attack. It should be sprayed either in the morning or evening as the pest movement is high at this time.

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