

IMPACT



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Spanish IPM Training Clinics

The Situation

The UI Cooperative Extension System began teaching the Spanish speaking agricultural labor force in their own language in 2001. During these lectures the extension educators noticed a lack of understanding of the basic tenants of integrated pest management or IPM. It was felt that IPM training was needed since many of the in field decisions related to pesticide use are currently being made by farm laborers. How much to apply, when to apply the pesticide, and other decisions of this type are critical in order to maintain a profitable operation. A lack of understanding of these principles can result in resource loss, environmental degradation, and higher input costs. Many of the laborers making critical decisions concerning pesticide use speak Spanish. Most of them have not been adequately trained in IPM. We felt that as extension educators we had not met the needs of our Spanish speaking clientele. Spanish-speaking clientele. Spanish speaking clientele have for years been attending trainings and workshops of this nature. However, due to the language barrier, these clientele have not been able to completely understand IPM concepts.

Our Response

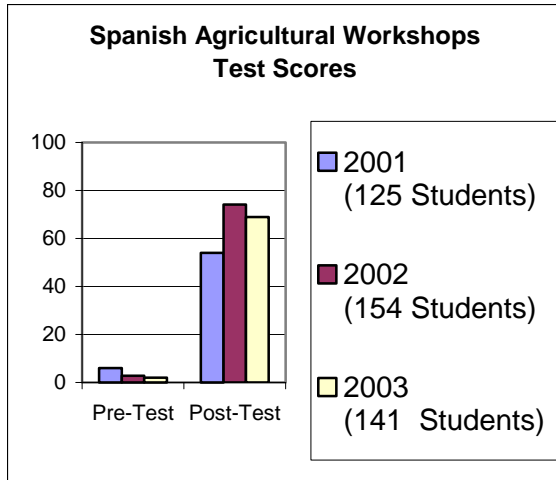
Our team consisted of seven extension educators and specialists working in three districts. Team members developed power point lectures covering IPM concepts. Using these lectures team members taught Spanish speaking laborers the basic concepts of IPM in their own language. Workshops were held at the UI Potato and Sugar Beet Schools. In addition the team taught on farm workshops in Caldwell, Burley, American Falls, Pocatello, Idaho Falls, and Grace. Each workshop consisted of multiple lectures

covering IPM topics entomology, disease management, proper application techniques, soils, and pesticide safety. Each of the lectures included hands on components, and models. The models and hands on nature of the lectures greatly improved the interaction between the students and the educators. This interaction aided in overcoming language barriers.

Program Outcomes



The lectures reached 154 Spanish-speaking students. The team was able to increase knowledge and use of IPM through these lectures. An evaluation instrument in the form of a pre- and post-test was administered to the students. Post-test scores, with an average of 74%, were statistically different from pre-test scores that averaged 3%. The increase in knowledge during the 2002 year, which included IPM training, was greater than the increase in knowledge in the previous year.



Through the workshops Spanish-speaking farm laborers gained a better understanding of IPM practices. With this knowledge they will be able to make more informed decisions related to pesticide use.

For More Information

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