Agriculture and pest management in the Mekong Delta

Based on an economic comparison between different farmer categories, researcher Håkan Berg found that rice-fish farming provides a sustainable alternative to rice monoculture, provided the farmer takes full advantage of the natural productivity of the rice field ecosystem. Farmers, he suggests, should aim to reduce resource use, avoid overuse of agrochemicals and improve production efficiency through increased recycling of nutrients and matter. Integrated pest management (IPM) strategies should thus be adopted as a necessary complement to fish farming practices. IPM rice-fish farmers have the highest net income (19,500,000 VND per year per hectare), due to comparatively low costs and high yields of both rice and fish. In addition, Berg found that rice-farmers practicing IPM also have a high net income (18,400,000 VND per year hectare). Their production costs are lower, but their rice yield is similar to that of non-IPM rice farmers. Non-IPM rice-fish farmers have the lowest net income (15,800,000 VND per year hectare) due to their high costs and low yields.


Want more information? Contact the corresponding author at hakan.berg@sida.se. Find the full abstract at www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/09218009

Source: Mekong Research Volume 1 No. 1 November 2004