

## What is Community IPM?

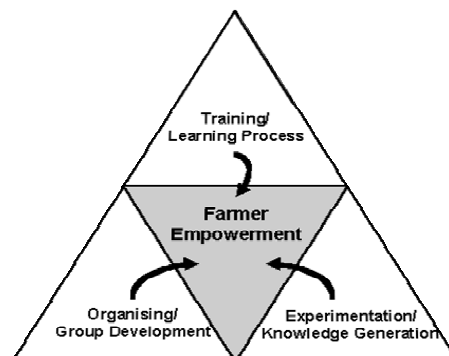
IPM Farmer Field Schools (FFS) were first carried out in Indonesia and later extended to other countries in the region including Vietnam. It has offered small farmers practical experience in agro-eco system analysis as well as an impetus for innovation in areas ranging from crop management and insect balance to soils and water control.



On the basis of the success of IPM FFS a new approach has been adopted in the operation of the scheme. Building on their enthusiasm, intellectual curiosity and pro-active participation in the IPM training, the farmers are regarded as managerial agents/instigators. Hence, the farmers are encouraged to initiate and operate IPM practices that are tailored to the circumstances of their communities. In this regard, the FFS are not considered an end in themselves but a foundation for the development of the farmer's own sustainable agricultural practices in their respective communities. In addition, this facilitates the formation of concerted farmer and community groups, local leadership and community-centred initiatives on sustainable agriculture.

Against this background, the Community IPM has emerged as one of the most important features of IPM programme. **The objective of Community IPM is to institutionalize IPM at the local level and to encourage farmers to initiate and establish their own local IPM programmes.** The farmer groups are intended to employ the agro-ecological concepts of IPM in analyzing problems, designing field studies and carrying out experiments to promote and protect farming practices that are sustainable. It is anticipated that the Community IPM will result in farmer empowerment and sustainable livelihoods of the rural communities.

The three basic elements of Community IPM are illustrated in the triangular diagram below:



Source: <https://www.communityipm.org>



With the purpose of promoting the community ownership of IPM programmes, several steps have been taken. Commencing at the village level, the most capable and eager farmers are trained in becoming certified IPM farmer trainers. Subsequently, the IPM is spread across the broader farming community through FFS and follow-up activities moderated by farmer trainers such as field studies and village IPM planning meetings for community action. In addition, cultural activities including poems, songs and traditional dances have been effective educational tools for IPM in Vietnam.



Although Community IPM was originated in rice cultivation with the emphasis on pest management, it has gradually moved into other crops primarily vegetables, soybean, tea and maize. Likewise, the focus has shifted from pest management to include other issues such as water management, marketing and soil fertility.