

UPTAKE OF NATURAL PEST CONTROL SOLUTIONS THROUGH DIGITAL TOOLS

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Current crop protection schemes are overly reliant upon synthetic chemical pesticides. The indiscriminate use of broad-spectrum pesticides can lead to significant consequences for pest resistance and secondary outbreaks, environmental pollution, and impacts both animal and human health. Nature-based pest control solutions are available for use in various cropping systems, but their uptake is still limited compared to chemical control, and its utilization is particularly deficient in most developing countries. The limited uptake of biological control is attributed to several factors from social and economic aspects to technical issues at different scales and levels. To respond to these needs, CABI has developed a number of digital tools which would contribute to improving extension advisory services, and to provide plant doctors and smallholder farmers with rapid access to best practices advice on pest management. One of such digital tools is the CABI BioProtection Portal, which is a free, web-based tool that enables users to discover information about registered biocontrol and biopesticide products available around the world. The portal guides the agricultural advisors and smallholder farmers to identify, source and correctly choose and apply biocontrol and biopesticide products against problematic pests in their crops. Together with the national partners, an AI Green Doctor App has been developed for dragon fruit pests and diseases to provide advisory support to farmers in Vietnam.

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