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### **Investigation on pesticide use among small-scale vegetable farmers in Central Vietnam – A case study in Thua Thien Hue Province**

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#### **Abstract**

The study aimed to have an insight into the use of pesticides in vegetable production in Thua Thien Hue Province, in which a social practice approach was employed. Data collection was based on both qualitative and quantitative methods. Three communes were selected for this study, including Quang Thanh, Huong An, and Dien Hai. The results show that up to 84.5 % of the vegetable farmers were under secondary education. All the interviewed farmers applied pesticides to their vegetable crops. Up to 20 different active ingredients were utilized for vegetable production at the study sites, in association with incidents of overdose application. Either age, educational level or gender are the main impact factors to the pesticide use of local farmers. The practices on pesticide use were mainly based on the experience of individuals or oral communications. There were few farmers having knowledge on pesticide toxicity as well as awareness of environmental protection, expressed by an indifference to labor protection, or improper pesticide storage and waste disposal that might cause unexpected harmful issues to the environment and to the farmers themselves.

**Keywords:** Pesticide use, Small-scale, Vegetable production.