# Validation of IPM Strategies for Bell Pepper

Bell pepper (*Capsicum annum* L.) is an important vegetable crop of Haryana grown over an area of about 1000 acres in Karnal District alone. Its productivity, however, is low owing to severe damage by several pests *viz;* cut worms, aphids, thrips, mites, fruit borer, virus mosaic complex and phytophthora fruit rot etc. at various stages of crop growth resulting in an yield loss of 30-35 % compelling the bell pepper farmers to resort to 12-15 rounds of chemical pesticide sprays in a season to tackle their menace.

National Centre for Integrated Pest Management (NCIPM) during 2007-08 launched an IPM programme in bell pepper in Daha village, District Karnal, Haryana in an area of about 25 acres. The technology comprised of raising of healthy nursery with raised bed, soil solarisation, Trichoderma mixing in soil and seedling root dip in Pseudomonas, neem (for aphids) and spinosad (for thrips) spray, pheromone based monitoring for fruit borer, release of egg parasite *Trichogramma chilonis*, spray of *Ha*NPV and emmamectin benzoate etc. The adoption of IPM technology by vegetable growers has resulted in drastic reduction in number of chemical pesticide sprays from 15 to 5-6 on one hand and substantial increase in yields on the other hand.

More and more farmers are eager to adopt IPM in bell pepper and the technology is spreading fast in the neighbouring villages.  Dr. O. M. Bambawale, Director, NCIPM, Dr. Om Prakash Pandey, Chief Consultant, NHM and Dr. Jage Singh, Professor, Horticulture, HAU, Hissar   recently (23$^{rd}$ & 27$^{th}$ May 2009, respectively) interacted with the farmers in Daha and emphasized upon the need to adopt IPM in vegetable crops particularly bell pepper with a view to reduce the usage of hazardous pesticides. They further said that IPM will have larger and more tangible impact only when more and more area is brought under IPM.

Dr. O.M. Bambawale, Director, NCIPM, N.Delhi, discussing with the farmers about IPM



Dr. Om Parkash, NHM Consultant discussing with the farmers