Chapter - 7

FUTURE SCOPE OF RESEARCH

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Past always envisage the future and throws light on the lacunae in previous findings. Therefore present research would act as spectacles to see the future inventions. In the present investigation, quite a substantial information regarding the key pests of important cucurbitaceous vegetables (with special reference to bitter gourd and pumpkin), their population dynamics, biology, behavioural and management aspects have come out which could be incorporated in formulating sustainable and biorational management programme befitting for the agro-ecological region under consideration. However, several areas need to be studied further so as to refine or upgrade the present status of pest management technology. Some of the important areas are stated hereunder:

- Yield loss assessment and economic threshold level of key insect-pests in all the growing seasons in a year in diffrerent places under terai region of West Bengal should be worked out.
- Biology of the insect pests may be studied exhaustively in other cucurbitaceous vegetables so as to find out their feeding preferences.
- More high yielding, open pollinated and local cultivars having multiple pest resistance against the pest complex may be tried in the terai agro-ecological region of West Bengal.
- Chemical as well as other important morphological basis of resistance against the important pests observed in local cultivars may be investigated.
- Influence of ecological factors other than soil type and moisture content therein on pupal behaviour and survival of melon fruit fly to be investigated.
- Bait materials having higher efficacy as compared to the molasses, sugar and alcohol (which are used in the present study) may be searched for.
- Resultant effects of the toxicant (used in bait spraying) on other foliage feeding pests and non-target organisms may be investigated.
- Residual toxicity of insecticides (used in bait materials) on the produce may be studied.
- Botanicals and trap cropping may be investigated so as to enrich the non-chemical pest management technology.