

Comparative assessment about knowledge of non-traditional organic inputs among female farmers in GRAPE implemented and non-implemented sites in Birendranagar

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Introduction

Organic inputs refer to organic fertilizers and organic pesticides produced without the use of any synthetic chemicals. Traditional organic inputs pertain to those produced from farm residues like farmyard manure, chicken manure, and compost containing appropriate levels of different nutrients. Non-traditional organic fertilizers refer to fertilizers produced in an improved manner to conserve nutrients and/or beneficial microorganisms.

Research questions

- How does training impact female farmers in adoption of organic inputs?
- How does frequent contact with agrovets by farmers contribute to their knowledge and use of organic inputs?

Methodology

The survey was carried out in Birendranagar Municipality of Surkhet district in Karnali province. A two stage sampling technique was used to collect information from respondents. In the first stage, purposive sampling was used to choose GRAPE FA2 implemented and non-implemented sites. This research considered GRAPE FA 2 implemented sites as treatment and the others as control sites. Two sets of semi-structured questionnaires were prepared to collect data from both farmers and agrovets.

Key findings

Total land size and education significantly impacted the adoption of organic inputs. Key Informant Interviews (KII) was performed with six agrovets; three in the study area and three in city area. KIIs revealed that almost 100% agrovets surveyed had negligible sale of commercial organic inputs in the study area but had larger sale from city area.

Figure 1 Awareness and use of non-traditional organic fertilizers

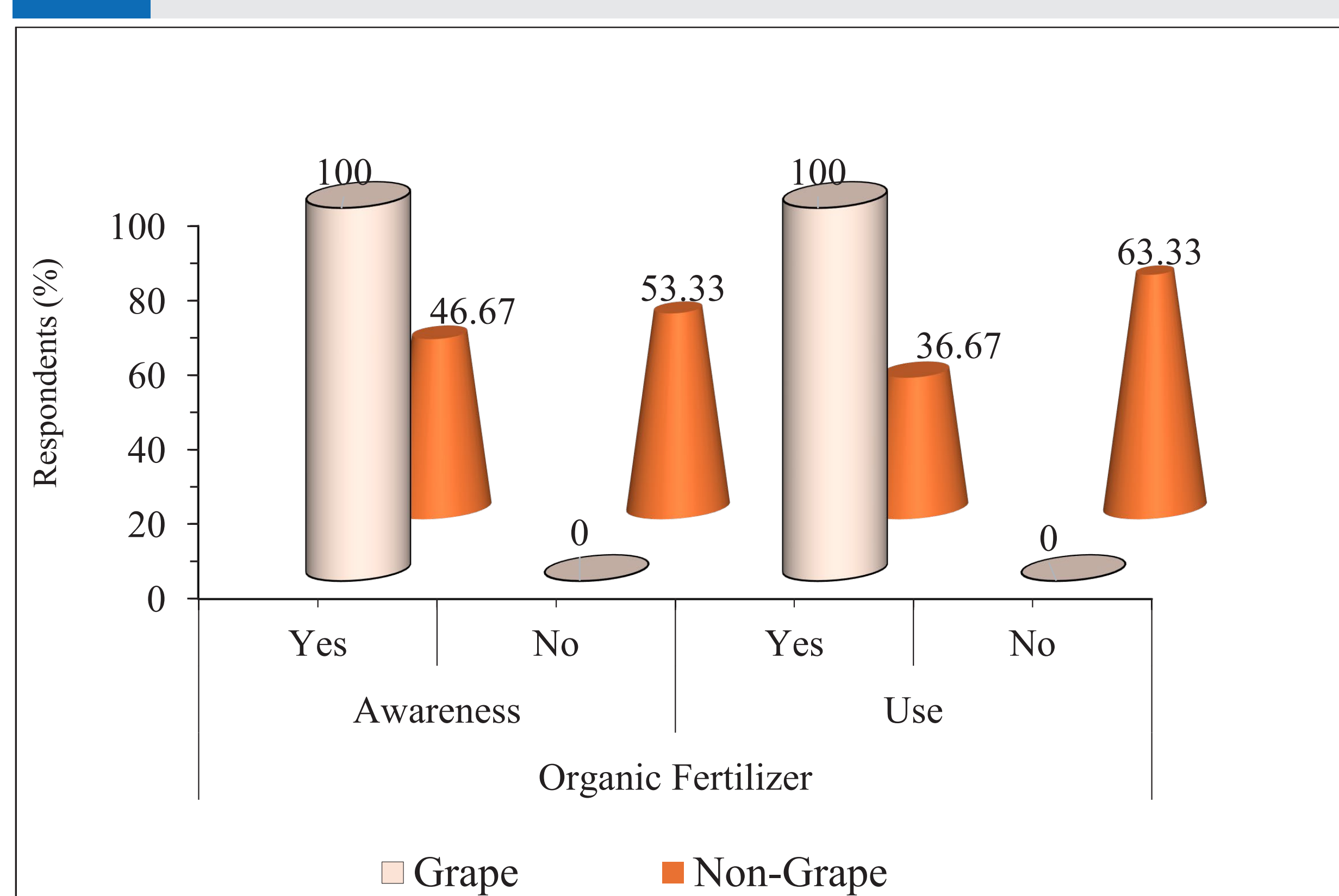


Figure 2 Predominantly used organic fertilizer in treatment and control sites

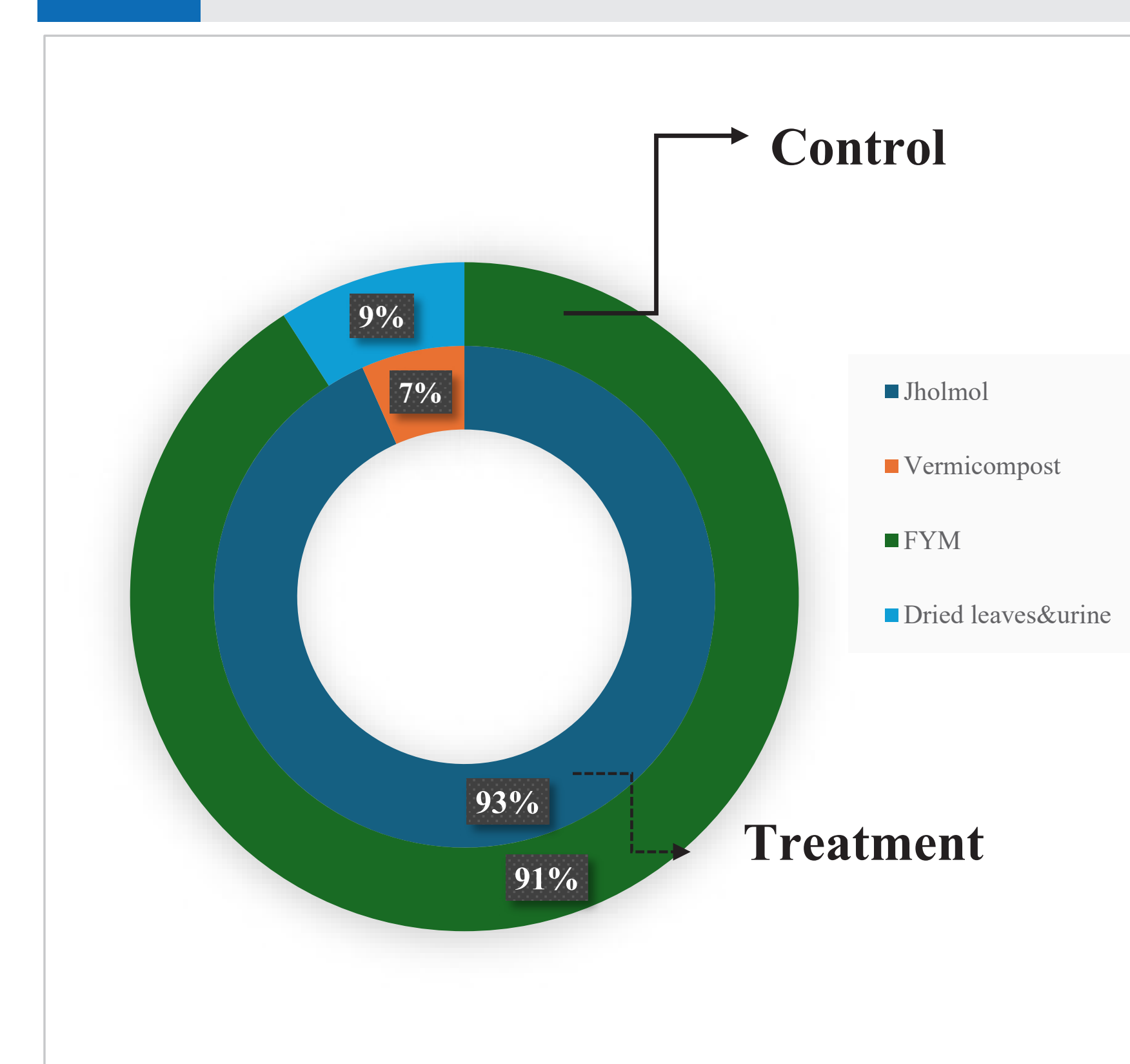
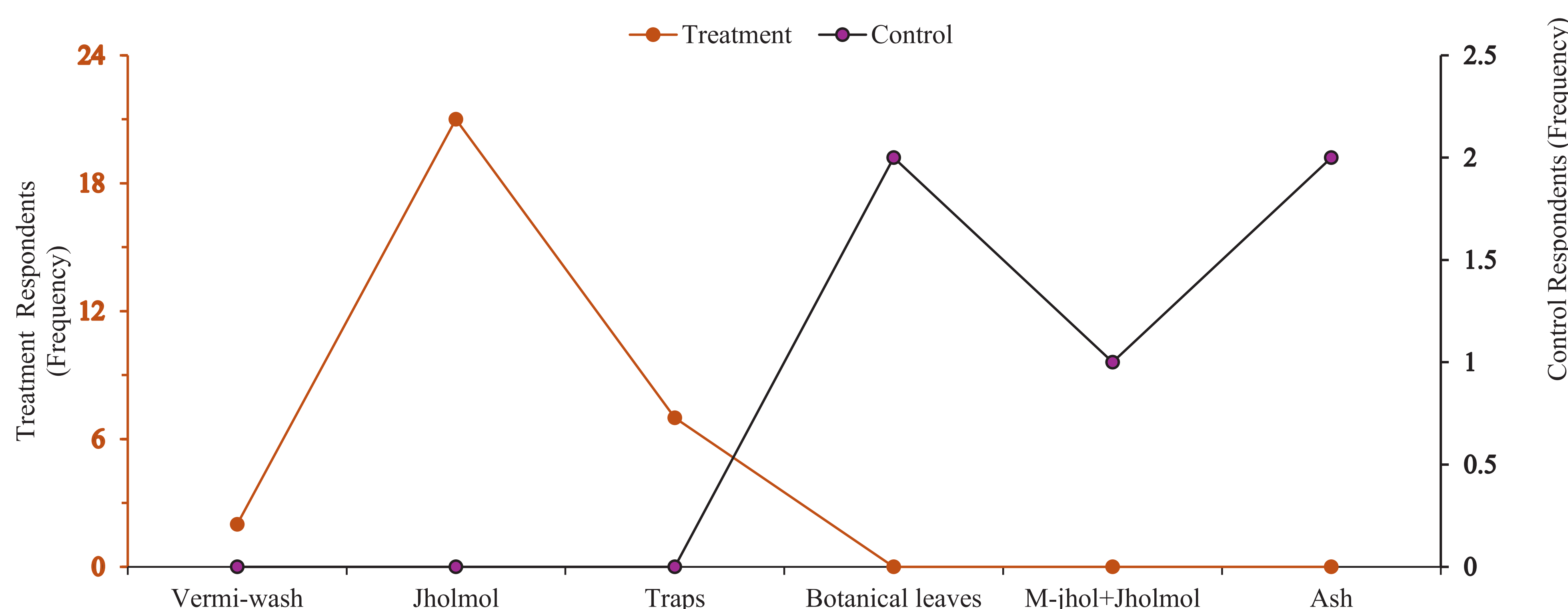


Figure 3 Mostly used organic pesticides in treatment and control sites



Conclusion

Respondents trained by the GRAPE project exhibited higher levels of awareness and use of organic inputs compared to non-GRAPE sites. Local stakeholders could consider the project approach of knowledge dissemination to promote organic agriculture. However, unavailability of commercial organic inputs in the study area limits organic production.

