To achieve effective Integrated Pest Management (IPM) of rice requires not only farmer training, but also guidance to pesticide retailers who are a major source of pest management advice to the agricultural community.

The Vietnam rice IPM project therefore aims to train 300 pesticide retailers, as well as 15,000 farmers.

Nguyen Ngoc Thong, a retailer from the Mekong Delta, underwent the IPM training in 2016. He tells his clients that crop protection products are just one tool to control pests.

“Because rice farmers are always afraid of yield losses due to pests, they want to use protection methods. I tell farmers to apply pesticides properly. Only when pests cause great damage, should they use plant protection products to keep things under control. If not, they can use other methods.

To avoid pesticide resistance, I usually suggest farmers apply the recommended dose of pesticide, and avoid an overdose. Secondly, they should avoid using the same product repeatedly, in many crops, in the same year.”