A strategy for empowering Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in a library

Four steps to eradicate the pests from a library is illustrated following two case studies conducted by National Library Sri Lanka

**Eradication the pest Infestation in Martin Wickramasinghe book collection National Library Colombo**

- Crawling pests were monitored by blunder trap survey
- The entire book collection was covered by tarps in to carry out phosphine fumigation

**Well controlled the fungal outbreak of public library of Nuwera Eliya**

- Fungal growth was monitored on selected paper samples for six months. Results were confirmed that fungal growth was in normal condition but library staff continuously complained allergy and irritation conditions while handling books.

**Identification**

- The wheat flour was an ingredient of adhesive used for repairing books. It was replaced by Carboxymethyl cellulose to minimize the attraction of pests to the books.

**Monitoring**

- The area gets high rain fall throughout the year. Daily routine activities were observed carefully and concluded that the books might slightly get wet transport from library to home and home to library by readers owing to the above climatic condition.
- Readers were requested to bring a "Rainy Bag" to collect the books.

**Prevention**

- The books damaged by pests were treated in conservation laboratory at National Library, Colombo.
- The books were fumigated in a Thymol fumigation cupboard.
- Ventilators were covered by glasses in order to block the approach of pests to the book collection.

**Immediate treatment**

- Books and shelves were vacuumed then cleaned by soft paint brushes to remove the dust and fungal spores from the library. Disinfectant was applied to floor area of the library.

**Late treatment**

- The books damaged by pests were treated in conservation laboratory at the National Library, Colombo.