

Cabbage, locally known as bandha kobi is a native of Western Europe and the Mediterranean sea. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United nation tested cabbage as a top twenty vegetable and an important food source sustaining world population. It is a great source of dietary fibres, essential minerals and vitamins.

Tawang district of Arunachal Pradesh is famous for production of cole crops specially cabbage. But the productivity is much lower than its potential because of many causes and among them, insect pests are major constraints.

Among all, the large white cabbage butterfly *Pieris brassicae* and small white cabbage butterfly *Pieris repae* are the most destructive pest of cole crops in Tawang district. The insect causes damages in all stages of the crop, i.e. from nursery to maturity.

Marks of identification:

Female adult butterfly is creamy white with a pair of black dots in forewings. The caterpillars are tiny with body covered with short hairs. Adult lays around 170 eggs in clusters of 60-90 on leaf surface. Egg period is 7-12 days. Adult longevity is upto 13 days.



Fig. Adult of Cabbage butterfly



Fig. Caterpillars of Cabbage butterfly

Nature of damage:

The caterpillars feed voraciously on the leaves, shoots and heads, when they are grown up, they disperse themselves to various parts of the plants. They start feeding from the margin of the leaf and proceed to the centre. The whole leaf and plant may be stripped resulting in poor yield and quality of produce.

Management :

➤ **Cultural Control :**

Modification of time of transplantation of cole crops.

➤ **Mechanical Control :**

Hand picking and destruction of eggs and larvae, use of pheromone traps & stickers.



Fig. Management of Cabbage butterfly

➤ **Biological Control :**

Conservation of bio-control agents by providing floral sources nearby cabbage field.

➤ **Chemical Control: 02 (Two)**

sprays of Fenvalerate 0.1% or Deltamethrin 0.003 % at 15 days interval after 22-25 DAT. About 200-400 litres spray fluid is required for one hectare of the crop.



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ECO-FRIENDLY MANAGEMENT OF CABBAGE BUTTERFLY



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