Dear Editor,

Thank you very much for forwarding the two reviews of the paper titled "Community uptake of safe storage boxes to reduce self-poisoning from pesticides in rural Sri Lanka".

Below please find a point by point response to the two reviewer’s comments.

First reviewer (Linda McCauley)

Ad 1. The last sentence of the abstract has now been modified and broken down in two sentences.

Ad 2. An example on how pesticides could be stored safely in the field has been provided.

Ad 3. The size of the storage boxes are now also presented in inches. Photos of each of the box designs have also been included as Figure 1 and 2.

Ad 4. We have maintained a brief presentation of the growing seasons, irrigation and types of crops cultivated as this makes it easier for the reader to understand the setting and differences between the two study villages, assess how the study period may be influenced by seasonal changes in agricultural practices and to understand how the feasibility of the safe storage approach may be influenced by the agricultural practices.

Ad 5. The number of households with poisoning episodes over a three month period has now been included.

Ad 6. The heading of the Table has been changed according to that proposed by the reviewer.

Second reviewer (Eloisa Caldas)

Ad 1. The term "agricultural benefits" has been removed from the abstract and from the discussion section and replaced by examples highlighting the importance of the safe storage boxes in protecting pesticide containers against environmental factors.

Ad 2. It has now been made clear that only one box was distributed. The size of the box was designed in such a way that farmers using a relatively large number of containers would still have room for this.

Ad 3. The term "compound" has been replaced by the term "homestead".

Ad 4. Although we agree that the pesticide containers and the possibility of contaminating the environment with pesticides, including when bottles break in the field, are concerns, this was not the focus of this study. Also, the storage of pesticides in the homes, around the homestead or in the field carry risks of environmental contamination but the relative risk of the different site for storage was not assessed in this study.
For any further comments please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Flemming Konradsen