

Original Research Article

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Estimation of Avoidable Losses Due to Defoliators (Semilooper Complex and Common Cutworm, *Spodoptera litura* Fab.) in Different Varieties of Soybean

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ABSTRACT

Keywords

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An experiment was conducted during *Kharif* 2014 to 2016 at ARS, MPUAT, Banswara. The objective was to estimate avoidable losses due to defoliators in seed yield of soybean on four varieties viz., JS-335, JS-93-05, JS-95-60 and RKS-24. The semilooper population varied from 1.21 to 3.96 larvae/mrl on different soybean varieties. The maximum population was observed on JS-335 then JS-93-05 and JS-95-60 was significantly lower semilooper than that on RKS-24. Similarly, from the pooled data of three years, it is evident that the *Spodoptera litura* larval population varied from 1.54 to 4.77 larvae/mrl on different varieties of soybean. It was maximum on JS-335 and minimum on JS-95-60 and JS-93-05. Under protected conditions, the minimal *S. litura* larval incidence of less than one larva/mrl was observed in all the soybean varieties. From the data it was evident that maximum yield loss in JS-335 during 2014 and 2016 corresponded with the maximum population of semilooper and *S. litura* larvae.

Introduction

Soybean (*Glycine max* Merrill) is one of the most important oil seed crops grown in India. It contains a high amount of quality protein (42%) and 20% oil rich in lysine and vitamins A, B and D (Jain *et al.*, 2017). It is the fifth largest oilseed crop in India next only to castor, safflower, groundnut and rapeseed-mustard (Sinha and Netam, 2013). Soybean is mainly grown in USA, Brazil, China, Argentina and India among them USA stands

first with an area of about 76.53 million acres (Anonymous, 2012). Rajasthan has become third soybean growing state in India and shares 11.63 per cent overall production of soybean in the country next to Madhya Pradesh (57.13%) and Maharashtra (24.46%). The area of about 11.67 million hectares with a production of 8.59 million tonnes and productivity of 737 kg per hectare during *Kharif*-2015-2016 under soybean in the country (Anonymous, 2017). In Rajasthan, this crop is cultivated in about 1.20 million hectares area with the production of 804066

tonnes and an average productivity of 667 kg per hectare (Anonymous, 2015-16). The productivity of soybean is less as compared to world average (1.8 tonne ha⁻¹) and this is due to several biotic and abiotic factors during the crop growth period (Sinha *et al.*, 2013).

About 380 species of insects have been reported on soybean crop from many parts of the world. In India, soybean is reported to be attacked by as many as 275 insect species (Patil *et al.*, 2014 and Kambrekar *et al.*, 2017). Girdle beetle, *Oberea brevis* Swed., jassids, *Empoasca* sp.; whitefly, *Bemisia tabaci*; defoliators like Bihar hairy caterpillar, *Spilosoma (Diacrisia) oblique* (Walker); semiloopers [*Thysanoplusia (=Trichoplusia) orichalcea* (Fab.); *Chrysodeixis eriosoma* (Walker); *Gesoniagemma* (Swinhoe); *Mocisundata* (Fab.)] and common cutworm, *Spodoptera litura* (Fab.) were common in this Zone IVb of Rajasthan (Ramesh Babu *et al.*, 2017). Among them, semiloopers are serious, devastating pests in which immature stages larvae feed on the vegetative and reproductive stages which results in complete defoliation and in case of severe infestation, complete devastation of soybean crop occurs. Common cutworm, *Spodoptera litura* Fabricius (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae) is a serious another devastating polyphagous pest causing huge losses (Singh and Jalali, 1997). Larvae feeding on the soybean foliage often results in complete defoliation and complete devastation of crop. Yield losses in soybean are directly associated with higher larval densities and increased defoliation (GeonHwi *et al.*, 2006).

The pest infestation varies depends on the agro-climatic conditions prevailed in the zone and to need to generate location specific information on damage by different defoliators. Thus, there is a need to estimate crop damage due to semiloopers and common cutworm in different soybean varieties. Keeping in view, the present work was

formulated to study the infestation of semiloopers and common cutworm in different soybean varieties to generate location specific information on the damage and to identify the soybean varieties that suffer the minimum damage due to these defoliators.

Materials and Methods

The experiment was conducted during threekharif seasons from 2014 to 2016 at the research farm of Agricultural Research Station, Borwat Farm, Banswara, Rajasthan, India. Estimation of avoidable losses in seed yield of soybean was done on four major soybean varieties viz., JS-335; JS-95-60; JS-93-05 and RKS-24. The experiment was laid out in randomized block design, with two different treatments viz., protected and unprotected. The crop was sown in the last week of June or first week of July. Plot size was kept at 3x3 m and there were three replications for each soybean varieties with 3 each for protected and unprotected conditions.

Under protected conditions, each soybean varieties were treated with imidacloprid 600 FS{48% (w/v)} @ 1.5 ml/kg seed and also kept free from the attack of insect pests by spraying it two times with triazophos 40 EC @ 800 ml/ha and chlorantraniliprole 18.5 SC at 15 days interval. Whereas, only water spray was given in the unprotected conditions.

Weekly observations were taken in per row meter length on semilooper and *Spodoptera litura* larvae population from each plot. Data on yield per plot were recorded and converted into yield per hectare basis from protected and unprotected plots and the avoidable losses was calculated.

The avoidable yield loss due to pest was worked out by using following formula of Pradhan (1969).

(T-UT)

Per cent avoidable loss in yield = $\frac{\text{-----}}{T} \times 100$

Where, T= seed yield in treated plots, UT= seed yield in untreated plots.

Data obtained were subjected to analysis of variance (ANOVA) after transformation of data and data were analyzed with the help of web based software, Wasp (WEB AGRISTAT PACKAGE).

Results and Discussion

Incidence of semiloopers under protected and unprotected conditions

In 2014, the semilooper larval incidence per meter row length (mrl) in soybean varied from 1.99 to 5.55 in the unprotected condition while the protected condition was significantly different and recorded low larval incidence from 0.00 to 0.11 per mrl. The maximum larval population of was recorded in RKS-24 variety, while minimum damage was in JS-95-60 under unprotected conditions (Table 1).

Similarly, in 2015 and 2016, soybean varieties, JS-335, JS-95-60, JS-93-05 and RKS-24 recorded semilooper larval incidence per mrl of (4.55; 3.22), (2.22; 1.22), (1.10; 0.55) and (4.10; 2.41), respectively, under unprotected condition while under protected condition all the soybean varieties had traces of larval population of semiloopers (Table 1).

From the pooled data of three years, it is evident that the semilooper population varied from 1.21 to 3.96 larvae/mrl on different soybean varieties (Table 4). The maximum population of 3.96 larvae/mrl was observed on JS-335. The semilooper population on the varieties, JS-93-05 and JS-95-60 (1.21 and 1.72/mrl, respectively) was significantly lower than that on RKS-24.

Incidence of *Spodoptera litura* under

protected and unprotected conditions

During 2014, crop season the *S. litura* larval population varied from 1.55 to 4.77 larvae/mrl in the unprotected condition. The protected condition had traces of *S. litura* larval population infestation.

The minimum *S. litura* larval population of 1.55 larvae/mrl was observed on soybean variety, JS-95-60 while the maximum population on JS-335 was (4.77 larvae/mrl) (Table 2). It was followed by RKS-24 (3.00 larvae/mrl).

In 2002–2003, again the minimum *S. litura* larval population of 1.53 to 1.55 larvae/mrl was observed on JS-95-60 and JS-93-05 while it was maximum on JS-335 (4.77 larvae/plant) in the unprotected condition. Almost the same trend was observed in 2016.

From the pooled data of three years (table 4), it is evident that the *S. litura* larval population varied from 1.54 to 4.77 larvae/mrl on different varieties of soybean. It was maximum (4.77 larvae/mrl) on JS-335 and minimum (2.4 larvae/mrl) on JS-95-60 and JS-93-05. Under protected conditions, the minimal *S. litura* larval incidence of less than one larva/mrl was observed in all the soybean varieties.

Avoidable yield loss

During 2014, the loss in the yield by semiloopers and *S. litura* varied from 42.20 to 42.68 per cent on JS-335 and JS-95-60, respectively (Table 3). However, no yield loss was observed in RKS-24 (Figure 1). In soybean variety, JS-335, the maximum yield loss corresponded with the maximum population of semilooper (4.11 larvae/mrl) and 4.77 larvae/mrl of *S. litura* under unsprayed conditions.

Fig.1 Avoidable losses (%) in different varieties of soybean during *Kharif*, 2014-2016

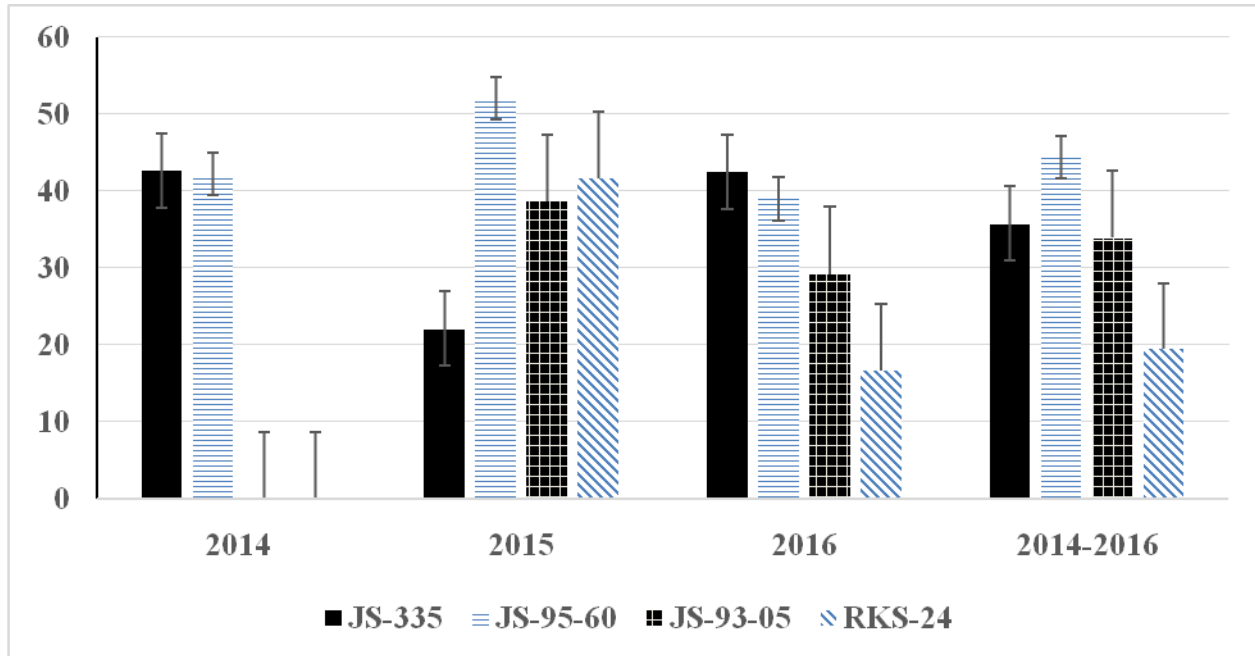


Table.1 Number of semilooper larvae per metre row length in different varieties of soybean from 2014 to 2016

Soybean Varieties	No. of larvae/ mrl								
	2014			2015			2016		
	P	UP	Mean	P	UP	Mean	P	UP	Mean
JS-335	0.00 (0.70)*	4.11 (2.14)	2.05 (1.42)	0.22 (0.84)	4.55 (2.24)	2.38 (1.54)	0.11 (0.77)	3.22 (1.92)	1.66 (1.34)
JS-95-60	0.11 (0.70)	1.99 (1.57)	1.05 (1.17)	0.0 (0.70)	2.22 (1.64)	1.11 (1.17)	0.00 (0.70)	1.22 (1.31)	0.61 (1.00)
JS-93-05	-	-	-	0.33 (0.91)	1.10 (1.26)	0.72 (1.08)	0.00 (0.70)	0.55 (1.02)	0.27 (1.02)
RKS-24	0.00 (0.70)	5.55 (2.44)	2.77 (1.58)	0.33 (0.91)	4.10 (2.14)	2.21 (1.52)	0.11 (0.77)	2.41 (1.70)	1.26 (1.25)
	0.03 (0.72)	3.88 (2.05)		0.22 (0.84)	3.00 (1.82)		0.05 (0.74)	1.85 (1.49)	
Varieties			0.19			0.10			0.13
Protection			0.14			0.08			0.08
Interaction			0.25			0.14			0.17

Protected UP-Unprotected *Figures in parentheses are $\sqrt{X+0.5}$ transformed values

Table.2 Number of *Spodoptera litura* larvae per metre row length in different varieties of soybean from 2014 to 2016

Soybean Varieties	No. of larvae/ mrl								
	2014			2015			2016		
	P	UP	Mean	P	UP	Mean	P	UP	Mean
JS-335	0.11 (0.77)	4.77 (2.29)	2.05 (1.53)	1.00 (1.22)	4.77 (2.29)	2.88 (1.75)	1.23 (1.31)	5.77 (2.45)	3.50 (1.90)
JS-95-60	0.33 (0.89)	1.55 (1.42)	1.05 (1.16)	0.00 (0.70)	1.53 (1.31)	0.76 (1.01)	0.66 (1.05)	2.22 (1.32)	1.44 (1.32)
JS-93-05	-	-	-	0.00 (0.70)	1.55 (1.43)	0.77 (1.07)	0.33 (0.87)	1.74 (1.48)	1.04 (1.18)
RKS-24	0.11 (0.77)	3.00 (1.86)	2.77 (1.32)	1.00 (1.22)	4.11 (2.14)	2.55 (1.68)	1.33 (1.34)	4.77 (2.27)	3.05 (1.81)
	0.18 (0.81)	3.10 (1.86)		0.50 (0.97)	2.99 (1.79)		0.89 (1.14)	3.62 (1.95)	
Varieties			0.21			0.29			0.39
Protection			0.17			0.20			0.27
Interaction			0.29			0.41			0.55

Protected UP-Unprotected *Figures in parentheses are $\sqrt{X+0.5}$ transformed values

Table.3 Seed yield in different varieties of soybean under protected and unprotected conditions from 2014 to 2016

Soybean Varieties	Seed yield/ha								
	2014			2015			2016		
	P	UP	Mean	P	UP	Mean	P	UP	Mean
JS-335	17.64	10.11	13.87	23.48	18.30	20.89	23.24	16.33	19.78
JS-95-60	22.25	12.86	17.55	18.42	6.74	12.58	12.63	9.05	10.84
JS-93-05	-	-	-	21.14	12.97	17.05	13.30	10.21	11.76
RKS-24	14.02	14.63	14.33	17.60	10.25	13.92	11.80	7.63	9.72
	17.97	12.53		20.16	12.07		15.24	10.80	
Varieties			2.28			3.51			2.23
Protection			1.86			2.48			1.57
Interaction			3.23			4.97			3.15

Protected UP-Unprotected *Figures in parentheses are $\sqrt{X+0.5}$ transformed values

Table.4 Population of defoliators (semilooper and *S. litura*) and seed yield in different varieties of soybean (pooled data from over a period of 3 years)

Soybean Varieties	Semilooper No. of larvae/ mrl			<i>Spodoptera litura</i> No. of larvae/ mrl			Seed yield/ha		
	2014-2016			2014-16			2014-16		
	P	UP	Mean	P	UP	Mean	P	UP	Mean
JS-335	0.11 (0.78)	3.96 (2.10)	2.03	0.70	4.77	2.73	21.45	15.53	18.18
JS-95-60	0.00 (0.70)	1.72 (1.48)	0.86	0.00	1.54	0.77	15.53	7.89	11.71
JS-93-05	0.14 (0.80)	1.21 (1.30)	0.68	0.11	1.55	0.83	18.90	12.01	15.45
RKS-24	0.14 (0.80)	4.02 (2.12)	2.08	0.70	3.73	2.22	14.47	10.84	12.66
	0.10	2.73		0.37	2.90		17.60	11.41	
Varieties			0.39			0.87			1.30
Protection			0.27			0.61			0.93
Interaction			0.55			1.23			1.85

Protected UP-Unprotected *Figures in parentheses are $\sqrt{X+0.5}$ transformed values

In 2015, the yield loss in different chickpea varieties varied from 22.06 to 52.01 per cent and data are presented in (Figure 1). The maximum yield losses (52.01%) in seed yield of soybean variety, JS-95-60 even though this variety had minimal larval population of semilooper and *S. litura*. This may be due to climatic conditions of the zone and also the short-duration nature of the variety. It was followed by RKS-24(41.70%), JS-93-05(38.65%) and JS-335(22.06%). In RKS-24, the maximum yield loss corresponded with the maximum population of semilooper (4.10 larvae/mrl) and *S. litura* (4.11 larvae/mrl) under unsprayed conditions.

In 2016, the loss in seed yield of soybean varied from 16.67 per cent to as high as 42.45 per cent (Figure 1). The maximum loss (42.45%) in JS-335 corresponded with the maximum population of semilooper (3.22 larvae/mrl) under unsprayed conditions, while the population of *S. litura* was 5.77 larvae/mrl. The high loss in yield i.e. 38.96 and 29.19 per cent in JS-95-60 and JS-93-05 was observed

even though low population of semilooper and *S. litura* larvae. Three years of pooled data on the seed yield of soybean and larval population of the semilooper and *S. litura* on different varieties are presented in table 4.

On the basis of three years of experiments, it can be stated that losses in various genotypes due to defoliators varied from 19.45 to 44.39 per cent. The genotype, JS-95-60 suffered the maximum loss in seed yield (44.39%). It was followed by JS-335(35.73%), JS-93-05(33.92%) and RKS-24(19.45%) (Figure 1).

The population of the semilooper varied from 1.21 to 4.02 larvae/mrl under unprotected conditions. This aphid population was significantly lower in JS-93-05 and JS-95-60 than other soybean varieties. The population of the *S. litura* larvae varied from 1.54 to 4.77 larvae/mrl. The minimum population was observed in JS-95-60 and JS-93-05(1.54-1.55 larvae/mrl), which was significantly lower than other soybean varieties, JS-335 and RKS-24.

From the data it was evident that maximum yield loss in JS-335 during 2014 and 2016 corresponded with the maximum population of semilooper and *S. litura* larvae.

In contradiction, JS-95-60 and JS-93-05 had low larval population of semilooper and *S.litura* but recorded higher yield losses in soybean seed yield. This may be due to varietal character and other environmental conditions. Moreover, soybean variety JS-335 has the ability to compensate the seed yield in spite of having higher population of semilooper complex and *S.litura*.

Ahirwar *et al.*, (2014) reported avoidable seed yield losses due to insect pest complex of soybean from unprotected plot was recorded 14.84 q/ha as compared to protected plots 21.47 q/ha. It clearly showed that when the crop was protected from insect pest complex, the yield losses may be avoided up to 30.8%. Abudulai *et al.*, (2012) reported that the yield loss in soybean ranged from 25.8 to 42.8 per cent in untreated plots.

The average seed yield of soybean obtained in protected and unprotected plot was 21.13 & 22.86 and 13.37 & 15.33 q/ha, respectively which depicted that insect pests of soybean caused an average loss of 35.92 and 32.79 per cent equivalent to 7.76 and 7.53q/ha during 2003 and 2004, respectively (Padiwal, 2007).

It can be concluded from the present results that there was a significant reduction in the number of larvae per mrl of semilooper complex and *Spodoptera liturain* the protected plots when compare to unprotected plots due to the spraying of effective insecticides. Ultimately, there is an increase in soybean yield over unprotected plots and about 20-45% losses in seed yield of different varieties of soybean can be avoided by taking proper control measures against semiloopers and *S. litura*.

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