

Original Research Article

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Integrated Management of Dry Root Rot of Blackgram Caused by *Rhizoctonia bataticola*

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ABSTRACT

Keywords

Blackgram, Dry root rot, *Rhizoctonia bataticola*, Carbendazim and Trichoderma

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The field experiment was conducted for the management of dry root rot disease is caused by *Rhizoctonia bataticola* in blackgram during 2015 and 2016 Kharif with biocontrol agents and fungicides. Among the different treatments evaluated, T8 treatment (seed treatment (ST) with carbendazim (2 g/kg of seeds) followed by one foliar spray (FS) with carbendazim 0.1%) was found superior in managing the disease by recording lowest disease incidence (8.38%) with highest seed yield (619 kg/ha). This treatment was followed by T6 treatment (ST with *T. viride* @ 5 g/kg of seeds with one foliar spray of Carbendazim 0.1 %) with disease incidence of 10.18 and seed yield of 602.22 kg/ha. However, untreated check recorded highest disease incidence (29.44%) and lowest seed yield (425.75 kg/ha).

Introduction

Blackgram (*Vigna mungo* L.) is an important pulse crop grown throughout India. Blackgram is a rich protein food containing about 25 per cent protein, which is almost three times more than that of cereals. Blackgram supplies a major share of protein requirement of vegetarian population of the country. In India, it occupies an area of 3.5 million ha with a production of 1.5 to 1.9 million tonnes and productivity of 500 kg/ha. Whereas in Karnataka, blackgram occupies an area of 1.26 lakh ha with the production of 0.64 lakh tonnes and productivity of 508 kg per ha.

Blackgram is grown in Bidar, Kalaburagi, Raichur, Yadgir, Vijayapur, Dharwad, Bellari and Belagavi districts of Northern Karnataka (Anonymous, 2012).

Blackgram is known to be affected by more than twenty diseases. Among them, anthracnose caused by *Colletotrichum lindemuthianum*, *Cercospora* leaf spot caused by *Cercospora canescens*, powdery mildew caused by *Erysiphe polygoni*, leaf crinkle disease caused by Leaf Crinkle Virus and a new disease, aerial blight and dry root rot of blackgram caused by *Rhizoctonia bataticola* is more destructive and known to cause more

than 60 per cent yield loss. Hence, in the present study an attempt was made to manage this soil borne disease with some bio agents and chemicals.

Root rot disease caused by *Macrophomina phaseolina* (Tassi) Goid is one of the most important fungal diseases of black gram. It inflicts series economic loss to the crop. It was reported to cause yield loss of 28.6 per cent in black gram. It is an important disease of wide range of crops (Srivastava *et al.*, 2001) particularly in regions with warm and dry weather conditions. *M. phaseolina* is reported to produce charcoal rot disease over 500 species of plants (Sinclair, 1982). *M. Phaseolina* is primarily soil borne in nature, with heterogeneous host specificity i.e., the ability to infect monocots as well as dicots and non-uniform distribution in the soil (Mayek-Perez *et al.*, 2001). The pathogen is seed-borne and seed-to-seedling transmission of this disease has been documented when infected seeds used (Pun *et al.*, 1998). This pathogen attacks on all parts of plant like, root, stem, branches, petioles, leaves, pods and seeds. The disease symptom starts initially with yellowing and drooping of the leaves and later infected leaves fall off and the plant dies within a week. This disease shows dark brown lesions on the stem at ground level and bark shows shredding symptom. The affected plants can be easily pulled out leaving dried, rotten root portions in the ground. The rotten tissues of stem and root contain a large number of black minute sclerotia (Rangaswami, 1993). Disease incidence is often high when plants are stressed by drought and high temperature. Sclerotia produced in infected plant tissue function as long term survival structures in soil and as primary inoculum. *M. phaseolina* can be seed-borne and pycnidia and conidia formed on certain hosts enable aerial transmission (from soil conidia spread to leaf and stem by rain and wind) (Pratt *et al.*, 1998) (Soil, seed and air

borne) of the disease possesses problems for an effective management disease. Hence, seed treatment can manage seed born pathogen and foliar spray can manage aerial transmitted pathogen.

Therefore, an attempt was made to management the root rot disease of blackgram (*Vigna mungo* L) caused by *Macrophomina phaseolina* (Tassi) Goid using bioagents and fungicides.

Materials and Methods

The field experiments were conducted for two consecutive years during kharif 2015 and 2016 at Agricultural Research Station Bidar. The experiment was laid out in Randomized block design with nine treatments replicated thrice (as detailed in Table 1). Blackgram var. DU-1 was sown at 30 cm × 10 cm spacing and all the recommended package of practices was followed to raise the crop, except for disease management. Observations on per cent disease incidence were recorded at the end of cropping season. The seed yield was recorded plot wise at the time of harvest and converted in to hectare basis. The data thus collected were subjected to analysis of variance after making necessary transformation.

Percent disease incidence

Disease incidence (%) was calculated by counting the number of plants infected and total number of plants in an experimental plot (for each treatment) using the formula given by Vincent (1947).

$$\text{Percent disease incidence (PDI)} = \frac{\text{Number of infected plants in a plot}}{\text{Total number of plants in plot}} \times 100$$

Results and Discussion

The present investigation was carried out using bio-agents and fungicides with different

combinations to manage dry root rot of blackgram for two consecutive years. The pooled results of the first and second year revealed that T8 treatment (seed treatment (ST) with carbendazim @ 2 g/kg of seeds followed by one foliar spray (FS) at the time when diseases symptoms were noticed with carbendazim (0.1%) found significantly superior in managing the disease by recording least disease incidence (8.38%) with highest seed yield of (619 kg/ha) compared to untreated check which recorded highest dry root rot incidence (29.44%) and lowest seed yield (425.75 kg/ha). This treatment was followed by T6 treatment (ST with *T. viride* (5 g/kg) - FS with Carbendazim (0.1 %) with disease incidence of 10.18 per cent and seed yield of 602.22 q/ha.

The next best treatments were T7 Treatment (ST with *P. fluorescens* (5g/kg) + FS with Carbendazim (0.1 %), T4 Treatment (ST with *T. viride* (5 g/kg) + soil application (SA) of *Trichoderma* 2.5 kg/250 kg FYM) and T5 (ST with *P. fluorescens* (5g/kg) + SA of *P. fluorescens* 2.5 kg/250kg FYM) with dry root rot incidence of 12.88%, 13.30% and 15.25% respectively and seed yield of 576.06 kg/ha, 571.13 kg/ha, and 551.13 kg/ha respectively. The highest, per cent reduction in disease incidence of 71.53 per cent was notice in T8 treatment (ST with Carbendazim (2 g/kg) followed by FS with Carbendazim (0.1 %). This is followed by T6 treatment (ST with *T. viride* (5 g/kg) followed by FS with Carbendazim (0.1 %) and T7 treatment (ST with *P. fluorescens* (5 g/kg) followed by FS with Carbendazim (0.1 %) with per cent reduction in disease incidence of 65.42 per cent and 56.25 per cent respectively. The next best treatments were T4 treatment (ST with *T. viride* (5 g/kg) + SA of *Trichoderma* 2.5 kg/250 kg FYM, T5 treatment (ST with *P. fluorescens* (5 g/kg) + SA of *P. fluorescens* 2.5 kg/250 kg FYM), T1 treatment (ST with *Trichoderma viride* (5 g/kg seeds) with per

cent reduction in disease incidence of 54.82, 48.20, 40.63 per cent respectively.

B: C ratio

Benefit cost ratio gives information on whether the technology is economically viable in the farmer's fields or not. Hence, benefit cost ratio is an important parameter for recommendation of any treatment for successful management of plant diseases. In the present study, highest BC ratio (2.44) was recorded in the T8 treatment (ST with carbendazim (2 g/kg) + FS carbendazim (0.1%) and was followed by T6 treatment (ST with *T. viride* (5 g/kg) + FS Carbendazim (0.1 %) with BC ratio of 2.37. However, untreated control recorded lowest B: C ratio of 1.7.

In the present study, seed treatment with carbendazim (2 g/kg) or *T. viride* (5 g/kg) or *P. fluorescens* (5g/ kg) followed by foliar spray with carbendazim (0.1%) was found very effective in management of dry root rot of blackgram caused by *Rhizoctonia bataticola*. These findings are in accordance with Kumar *et al.*, (2011) who reported that, Bavistin and Vitavax were effective in inhibiting the growth of *R. bataticola* and reducing the incidence of jatropha root rot. These fungicides resulted in 100% inhibition of mycelial growth at 50 ppm. Seed treatment with Bavistin and its soil drenching caused the least pre-emergence (16.7%) and post-emergence mortalities (10.1%). *Trichoderma harzianum* showed the highest mycelial growth inhibition (58.9 %) against *R. bataticola*. Bavistin alone at 2 g kg⁻¹ seed was found to be the most effective treatment with 36.3% reduction in root rot. Integrated methods showed higher disease reduction compared with single method. Bavistin (2 g kg⁻¹ seed) + neem extract (20%) was the most effective treatment with 67.3% reduction followed by *T. harzianum* (15 g kg⁻¹ seed) + Bavistin (54.2%).

Table.1 Integrated management of dry root rot of blackgram during 2015-16 and 2016-17 (Pooled analysis)

Treatment No.	Treatments	Dry root rot disease incidence (%)	Dry root rot (%) reduction over control	Yield (kg/ha)	BCR
T ₁	ST with <i>Trichoderma viride</i> (5 g/kg seeds)	17.48 (24.68)	40.63	516.13	2.06
T ₂	ST with <i>Pseudomonas fluorescens</i> (5 g/kg seeds)	19.13 (25.91)	35.02	501.00	2.00
T ₃	ST with Carbendazim (2 g/kg seeds)	18.30 (25.30)	37.84	491.83	1.97
T ₄	ST with <i>T. viride</i> (5 g/kg) + SA of <i>Trichodrema</i> 2.5 kg/250 kg FYM	13.30 (21.36)	54.82	571.13	2.20
T ₅	ST with <i>P. fluorescens</i> (5 g/kg) + SA of <i>P. fluorescens</i> 2.5 kg/250 kg FYM	15.25 (22.99)	48.20	551.13	2.12
T ₆	ST with <i>T. viride</i> (5 g/kg) followed by FS with Carbendazim (0.1 %)	10.18 (18.56)	65.42	602.22	2.37
T ₇	ST with <i>P. fluorescens</i> (5 g/kg) followed by FS with Carbendazim (0.1 %)	12.88 (21.03)	56.25	576.06	2.27
T ₈	ST with Carbendazim (2 g/kg) followed by FS with Carbendazim (0.1 %)	8.38 (16.76)	71.53	619.00	2.44
T ₉	Control	29.44 (32.85)	0	425.75	1.70
	S. Em. ±	0.56		3.95	
	CD at 5%	1.67		11.84	

*Note ST: seed treatment, FS: Foliar spray and SA: Soil application

Further, Sowmya Tetali *et al.*, (2015) reported that seed treatment + soil application with combination of both *T. viride* isolates significantly reduced the dry root rot of blackgram per cent disease incidence of 5.60 which accounted 88.79 per cent reduction over control. Lalita Lakhran and Ahir (2018) reported that in dry root rot of chickpea Maximum disease control over check was recorded with carbendazim (75.39 %), followed by carbendazim + mancozeb (68.00%). The observations made in the present study corroborate with the results by other researchers (Ramadoss and Sivaprakasam (1994), Prajapati *et al.*, (2002) and Sangappa and Mallesh (2016).

Khan *et al.*, (2012) reported that indofilm-45, Bavistin, companion, copperoxyclozide and Benelate were completely inhibited the growth of the fungus on potato dextrose agar medium. The results obtained are in agreement with finding of Singh *et al.*, (1993). Further, three bio-control agents were evaluated in laboratory condition *Trichoderma viride*, *Trichoderma harzianum* and *pseudomonas Fluorescense*, among them *Trichoderma viride* showed best performance against the pathogen, *Rhizoctonia bataticola*, followed by *pseudomonas fluorescence*, which also checked the fungus growth to some extent similar finding were also reported by Singh *et al.*, (2006).

In recent years cultivation of blackgram has been decreased due to major constraint of dry root rot disease. In the present study ST with carbendazim (2 g/ kg of seeds) followed by FS carbendazim (0.1%) or ST with *T. viride* (5 g/ kg of seeds) followed by FS Carbendazim (0.1 %) was found most effective in managing dry root rot disease in blackgram and recorded highest yield. Hence, these treatments can be recommended for the management of the dry root rot disease of blackgram.

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