

Review Article

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Eco-friendly Management of Blast (*Magnaporthe oryzae*) of Rice

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ABSTRACT

Rice blast caused by *Magnaporthe grisea* (Hebert) Barr (Anamorph: *Pyricularia grisea* (Cooke) Sacc.) is a key concern in combating global food insecurity given the disease is responsible for approximately 30% of rice production losses globally—the equivalent of feeding 60 million people. This loss increases the global rice price and reduces consumer welfare and food security. Chemicals are commonly applied for controlling rice blast disease, but when chemicals are used indiscriminately, they also pose a serious threat to the environment. Control methods like resistant cultivars, healthy seed, fertilizer management, cultural systems, burning or composting of diseased tissues and chemical control are commonly used. In chemical control uses of any one fungicide i.e. tricyclazole (Beam 75WP)@0.75g/L, edifenphos (Hinosan 35WP) @1g/L, iprobenfos (Kitazin 48EC) 1.0g/L, mancozeb (Dithane M-45) @ 2.5g/L,blastimidin (Bla-S) @ 0.1g / L, thiophanate-methyl (Neotopsin 70WP)@ 0.5g/l, difenconazole (Score 25 EC) @ 1.0g/l, hexaconazole (Contaf 25 EC) @ 1.0g/L, propiconazole (Tilt 25 EC) @ 1.0g/L have the potential to be used as highly effective against rice blast disease.(59.99%). Any one uses of biopesticides namely, Achook (5ml), Spictaf (4.5 ml), Neem-Azal (3 ml),Neem gold (10 ml) Nimbicidine (5ml), Wanis (5 ml) and tulsli leaf extract (10 ml)and biocontrolagents like *P.fluorescens* (Bioshield-5ml), *Gliocladium virens* (Soilgard-5g)and *Trichoderma harzianum* (Bioderma-5g) *Trichoderma viride*(Ecoderma-5g)as seed treatment per kg and foliar sprays per liter thrice at tillering, booting and panicle initiation stage most effective in reducing the disease incidence. Silicon compounds are recognized and classified as biostimulants in rice crop. These increase defense mechanism against direct penetration of pathogens. So, One foliar spray of KSi @4 g/L or NaSi@0.5g/L should be applied on the 22nd day after emergence. Integrated disease management is the best method to solve problems of pests and it is combination of different methods to control pests in sound environmental management and cost effective way.

Keywords

Rice blast;
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Introduction

Rice (*Oryza sativa* L.)- Asian and

glaberrima Steud.)-African (Silue and Notteghem, 1991) is a member of family Gramineae. Nearly half of the world

population, including all of East and Southeast Asia, is solely dependent upon rice as a staple food; humans eat 95 percent of the world's rice crop. Globally during 2017-18, rice crop occupied an area of about 162.62 million hectares with 495.07 million metric tonnes of production and productivity of 4.54 metric tonnes per hectare (USDA, 2018). China ranks first in rice production followed by India and Indonesia in second and third place respectively.

In India Total Rabi Rice production during 2017-18 was estimated to be 15.41 million tonnes which is 2.01 million tonnes more than total rabi rice production in 2016-17 and 1.71 million tonnes more than the five years' average production of Rabi rice. Total production of Kharif rice was 99.24 million tonnes which is 1.74 million tonnes than the last year's production. Further, it is higher by 6.64 million tonnes over the average production of Kharif rice during the last five years (Department of agriculture cooperation and farmer welfare)

Since the appearance of blast in China by Soong ying-shin in 1637 (Manibhushan Rao, 1994), blast has outbreak recurrently several times infecting rice grown all over the world. Each year rice ample to feed 60 million people is destroyed by blast alone (Zeigler *et al.*, 1994). Environments with higher humidity and with lower day temperature, high dose of nitrogenous fertilizer are more favorable to blast (Chiba *et al.*, 1996; Liu *et al.*, 2004). *Pyricularia grisea* can damage more than 80 graminaceous hosts (Urashima *et al.*, 2007). (Galbieri and Urashima 2008) found that pathogen can cause significant damage on wheat, triticale and barley.

Economic importance

Grain loss of 75 per cent has been reported in India (Padmanabhan 1965), 40 per cent in

Nigeria (Ou 1985), 30-50 percent in China (Huang *et al.*, 2005), 50 per cent in Philippines (Awodera and Esuruoso 1975) and 10-20 per cent yield loss in susceptible varieties, but in severe cases up to 80 per cent loss in Nepal (Manandhar *et al.*, 1992). (Chandrasekhara *et al.*, 2008) reported that rice blast caused by *P. oryzae* is one of the devastating disease of rice resulting in yield losses up to 65% in susceptible rice cultivars. Mahesh *et al.*, (2012) recounted that the damage of blast in terms of grain yield under conventional system of rice cultivation was 8.2 percent and in System of Rice Intensification (SRI) methods 7.5 percent respectively. The pathogen lead to the annual destruction of approximately 10–30% of the rice harvested globally (Fernandez and Orth, 2018).

Host range

Many research workers demonstrated that although *M. grisea* can infect a wide range of plant hosts, some strains are species and even cultivar specific (Valent and Chumley 1991, Borromeo *et al.*, 1993). Kumar and Singh (1994) reported that *Pyricularia grisea* is parasitic on number of host plants belonging to the family Gramineae which includes cereals and grasses such as *Oryza sativa*, *Eleusine coracane*, *Eleusine indica*, *Digitaria sanguinalis*, *Pennisetum typhoides*, *Echinochloa colonum* (Urashima *et al.*, 2007) reported that *Pyricularia grisea* is pathogenic on more than 80 graminaceous host plants. The pathogen is also pathogenic on wheat, triticale and barley and is responsible for causing significant yield losses in these crops (Galbieri and Urashima 2008). *P. grisea* is also reported on the following plants: *Agropyron repens*, *Agrostis palustris*, *A. tenuis*, *Alopecurus pratensis*, *Andropogon sp.*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Arundo donax*, *Avena byzantina*, *A. sterilis*, *A. sativa*, *Brachiaria mutica*, *Bromus catharticus*, The role of these host plants in the rice blast

disease cycle remains subject of controversy (Borromeo *et al.*,1993)

Taxonomic position

Hori (1898) compared the Japanese blast fungus with American specimen referred to as *Pyriculariagrisea* and maintained that *P.grisea* produced 3-5 conidiophores while *P.oryzae* produced only one conidiophore. The causal organism was named as *Pyricularia grisea* by Saccardo in 1880 and as *Pyricularia oryzae* by Cavara in 1891 (Rosseman *et al.*, 1990). The names *P.grisea* and *P.oryzae* have been used by different workers at different times. The pathogen belongs to sub-division Deuteromycotina, class Hyphomycetes, order Moniliales and family Dematiaceae.

Morphology of the pathogen

Hossain (2000) observed mycelium in cultures was first hyaline in colour, then changed to olivaceous, 1 – 5.2µm in width, septate and branched. The spore measurements were 15 – 22µm x 4 – 7µm (Average, 17.4µm x 5.2 µm). (Nishikado 1917) described conidial morphology of *P. grisea*, which measured 16-33x5-9 µm, usually 22-27x7-8 µm, with a small basal appendage. Other dimensions were basal appendage 1.2-1.8 µm in width, basal cell 4.8–11.5 µm, middle cell 1.8-11.5 µm and apical cell with 6-14 µm in length. (Veeraraghavan and Padmanabhan 1965) reported that the dimensions of conidia produced by *P. oryzae* ranged from 17.6 to 24.0 µm in length and 8.0 to 9.6 µm in width.

Effect of pH on growth of the pathogen

Sy *et al.*,(1977) studied the effect of pH on the mycelial growth, formation of conidia and conidial germination of *P. oryzae*. They observed that increase in mycelial growth occurred at all the pH levels except 2.35 – 2.95. Mycelial growth was maximum at pH 4

– 6, formation of conidia was maximum at pH 4.60 – 6.45 and germination of conidia was best at 4.60 – 5.45. The increased in growth of *P.oryzae* was seen from 3.5 to 6.5 with maximum growth at pH 6.5 and least at pH 3.5 (Hossain, 2000)

Symptoms and Histopathology

Rice blast pathogen infect all the above ground parts of rice plants at different growth stages, i.e, leaf, collar, nodes, internodes, base or neck and other parts like panicle and leaf sheath Castilla *et al.*,(2009), also on rachis, joints of the culm and even on the glume (Manandhar 1996).

Symptoms

Leaf blast-lesions may initially appear gray-green and water-soaked with a dark green border, which expand, rapidly to several centimeters in length often becoming light tan in color with necrotic borders (Plate-1). On resistant cultivars, lesions often remain small in size (1-2 mm) and brown to dark brown in color which may vary according to environmental conditions (Tebeest *et al.*,2007). When the fungus attacks young leaves, purple spots could be observed changing into spindle shape having gray centre and purple to brown border. Brown spots appeared only on older leaves or leaves of resistant cultivars (Hajimo, 2001). At the severely case the nursery infection leads to burnt appearance. *Nodal / Collar blast*-A region of necrosis at the junction of leaf and the stem sheath. Collar infections can kill the entire leaf and may extend a few millimetres into and around the sheath. The fungus produces abundant spores on these lesions (Padmanabhan, 1974 and Manibhushanrao, 1994). (Ram *et al.*, 2007) reported that when the last node is attacked, it causes partial to complete sterility. *Panicle/ neck blast*- neck blast are characterized by infection at panicle

base (Plate-1), it is the most destructive phase of the disease and is found at the reproductive and ripening stage of the crop (Bonman *et al.*, 1991).

The node immediately below the ear is infected and become dark brown to black in colour, the symptom is called neck infection. The infected panicles often break and fall off, or the whole inflorescence may break off at the rotten neck. *Seed blanking*-Seeds are not produced when pedicels become infected, a condition called blanking (Plate-1). In case of early neck infection inhibition of grain filling, whereas partial grain filling in the late infection is seen (Padmanabhan 1974 and Manibhushanrao, 1994).

Disease cycle

Magnaporthe grisea and *M. oryzae* have a hemibiotrophic life style, in which the fungus undergoes an initial biotrophic stage during which the plant immune system is suppressed, and then switches to a necrotrophic stage that promotes plant cell death. The primary source of inoculum present in rice straw, seeds, weeds, planting debris, soil, bamboo or bamboo grass or on alternate hosts in the form of mycelium which retains its variability up to the new growing season. The blast fungus survives as mycelia in plant residues, conidia or in living plant tissue; in tropical and subtropical areas, all three modes are considered important as sources of initial inoculum. Air, water or seed may also transport conidia. Mycelia surviving in rice straw have been found to remain viable for up to 3 years at 18-32°C and to produce conidia when moistened, while conidia are reportedly viable for 1 year at 8°C and 20% RH. Although *M. grisea* conidia are associated with seed, there is no evidence that seed infection plays a role in initiating epidemic. In paddy rice ecosystems, puddling greatly reduces survival of conidia in rice refuse or

seeds.(URL-1).There are three seasons for growing rice in India *viz.* autumn, winter and summer. Some states like Assam, Bihar Orissa East U.P., West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala are growing all three seasons. So, primary inoculum is present throughout year and disease also present (URL- 2). In irrigated rice areas such those of Tamil Nadu, India, it is common to find germinated rice seedling around threshing flats in villages which grow two rice crops a year. The storage of rice straw for cattle feed and the use of the straw as thatching in many South Asian villages also provides other sources. In intensively cropped irrigated rice areas, such as the triple-cropped Mekong Delta in Vietnam, the turnaround period between successive rice crops is as short as 15 days in some provinces. Not all fields are fully synchronized in each province and it is common to find live rice tissue throughout the year(URL-3).

Epidemiology and Phytopathometry

Khan and Libby (1958) Reported that the optimum temperature for lesion development was 27-29°C and the minimum temperature was 14-15°C. They also reported that the optimum temperature for disease development and sporulation was 22-26°C. Munoz (2008) reported that maximum concentration of airborne spores was 0.8 per cm² recorded between the 20th and 25th August with relative humidity of 95% and the average temperature was around 26°C. Second maximum spore concentration of 0.5 spores per cm² was observed between 25th to 30th of September. This period was optimum for blast infection. Saifulla *et al.*, (2011) find out that Rice blast severity reduced gradually with increased minimum temperature from 19°C to 26°C. The rice blast severity was increased with increase of rainfall from 5 mm to 17 mm. The rice blast severity increased with increase of relative humidity from 72 to 90%. Tebeest *et*

al., (2007) reported that period of high moisture of 12 hours or more with temperature of 24°C was highly favorable for the development of the disease. Resistance to blast is governed not only by genetic factors but also by a set of very critical environmental factors including night temperature (20°C) which influence the metabolic pattern of the host (Subramanian 1967). Even growing host plant continuously at low temperature can lead to partial breakdown of resistance (Manibhushanrao and Day 1972). (Leung *et al.*, 1988) reported that the average life span of resistant rice cultivar is 2 to 3 years.

Phytopathometry

The prevalence of the disease was calculated using the number of fields affected by the disease divided by the total number of fields assessed and expressed in percentage. Scoring scale of blast disease under field condition was rated according to standard International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) scale of 0-9 (IRRI, 2009 and Asfaha *et al.*, 2015).

Integrated disease management

Scouting for blast should begin early in the season starting at tillering and continuing through heading. Leaf blast usually appears in elevated areas of the field where the irrigated water is shallow or has been lost. Loss of flood is the most favorable agronomic practice that favors blast.

Blast is several times more severe under upland conditions than when flooded because aerobic environment favors the pathogen. If the flood must be removed for insect control, herbicide damage, straight head control, or some other reason, reestablish the flood as soon as possible and scout regularly for blast (Groth, 2011). Hence, integration of possible cultural practices like well managed flooded and fertilized with optimum N application

field is necessary along with fungicidal application. Kamel and Sharkawy (1989) reported that the pathogen is extremely variable and its management required short and long term measures.

These include exclusion through strict quarantine, cultural practices such as early planting, elimination of alternative hosts, chemotherapy and breeding varieties with stable resistance.

Resistant cultivar

Uses of resistant varieties on tropical lowland condition (IR 20, IR 36, IR 42), temperate lowland (Fu She 94, Shuang Feng 4, Xiang Ai Zao 9, Zhenluon 13), upland condition (Fukuton, IAC 25, Kuroka, Moroberekan, OS 6) (Bonman and Mackill, 1988).

In India, some resistant cultivars developed for the disease are Co 4, TKM-1, Co-29, Co-30, T-603, T-141, A-67, A-90, A-200, A-249, IR-579, NLR 34449 and Bala late-6.

Twelve elite germplasm *viz*; HPR- 917, HPR- 933, HPR- 977, HPR- 1001, HPR- 1009, HPR- 1020, HPR- 1062, HPR- 1064, HPR- 1153, HPR- 1155, HPR-1161 and HPR- 1174 and six released varieties *viz*; Himalaya 741, Himalaya 799, Himalaya 2216, RP-2421, IR 64 and Palam Dhan 957 resistant against rice blast (Sharma, 2006).

Cultural control

Field sanitation and synchronized planting reduce carryover and/or spread of disease. Excessive nitrogen fertilization is known to increase blast severity. So, uses of proper nitrogen fertilizers (Long *et al.*, 2000). Application of Sodium silicate (NaSi) @ 0.15g/L (Laane, 2018) or potassium silicate @ 4 g/L (Buck, 2008) on the 22nd day after emergence. Silicon compounds has been

shown to have a high impact on plant-pathogen interactions and a silicon input improves rice tolerance against blast (Seebold *et al.*, 2000).

Uses of no-tillage system decrease in blast severity as compared to the conventional cropping system (Sester *et al.*, 2013).

Crop sowing into water eliminates disease transmission because of the anaerobic condition, which is adverse to the pathogen (Sester *et al.*, 2013)

Bio-pesticides control

Any one uses of biopesticides namely, Achook (5ml), Spictaf (4.5 ml), Neem-Azal (3 ml), Neem gold (10 ml) Nimbicidine (5ml), Wanis (5 ml) and tulsli leaf extract (10 ml) and biocontrol agents like *P.fluorescens* (Bioshield-5ml), *Gliocladium virens* (Soilgard-5g) and *Trichoderma harzianum* (Bioderma-5g) *Trichoderma viride* (Ecoderma-5g) as seed treatment per kg and foliar sprays per liter thrice at tillering, booting and panicle initiation stage most effective in reducing the disease incidence (Anonymous, 2000, Hossain and Kulkarni 2001; Sharma, 2006).

Chemical control

Uses of any one fungicide i.e. tricyclazole (Beam 75WP)@0.75g/L, edifenphos (Hinosan 35WP) @1g/L, iprobenfos (Kitazin 48EC) 1.0g/L, mancozeb (Dithane M-45) @ 2.5g/L, blasticidin (Bla-S) @ 0.1g / L, thiophanate-methyl (Neotopsin 70WP)@ 0.5g/l, difenconazole (Score 25 EC) @ 1.0g/l, hexaconazole (Contaf 25 EC) @ 1.0g/L, propiconazole (Tilt 25 EC) @ 1.0g/L have the potential to be used as highly effective against rice blast disease (Arun *et al.*, 2011; Singh *et*

al., 2011; Hajano *et al.*, 2012).

Seed treatment with carbendazim @ 2g/kg + spraying of tricyclazole @ 0.06% + spraying of plant extract of *Ocimum sanctum* @ 15%, 7 days of first spray + spraying of *Pseudomonas fluorescens* @ 0.4 g/l after 7 days of first spray (Varaprasada *et al.*, 2018)

Seed treatment with carbendazim @ 2g/kg + spraying of tricyclazole @ 0.06% + second spray of tricyclazole @ 0.06% after 7 days of first spray (Varaprasada *et al.*, 2018)

The major biotic challenge for rice production comes through blast disease. To overcome these confront farmers and growers started arbitrary use of chemical pesticide.

It destroyed the balance of ecosystem and imposed health risk to consumers. Pest resistance against such chemicals has also been reported. Complete dependence on cultural, mechanical and biological control is also not practical.

Hence considering all above challenges we tried to combine maximum possible minimum/non chemical approaches in one platform, which earlier was scattered or confined, to the only research.

This review suggests some eco-friendly management approach for significantly important and serious blast of rice. Eco-friendly approaches not only will reduce excessive chemical use but also improves quality of produce and soil health. If these methods are implemented right from field preparation to harvesting and storage this will lead to low chances of disease development (or) at least to maintain it to below Economic Injury Level/ Economic Threshold Level.

Table.1

Scale	Disease reaction
0	No lesions
1	Small brown specks of pin point size or large brown speck without speculating centre
2	Small round dish to slightly elongated necrotic grey spots about 1-2 mm in diameter with distinct brown margin lesions are mostly found on lower leaves.
3	Lesion type is the same as in scale 2, but significant number of lesion are on the upper leaves.
4	Typical blast lesion infecting less than 2% of the leaf area.
5	Typical blast lesion infecting 2-10% of the leaf area.
6	Typical blast lesion infecting 11-25% of the leaf area.
7	Typical blast lesion infecting 26-50% of the leaf area.
8	Typical blast lesion infecting 51-75% of the leaf area, many leaves dead.
9	More than 75% of the leaf area affected.

Plate.1 Symptom of Leaf blast, neck blast and seed blanking in rice



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