

Comparative Study On The Different Control Measures Of Pseudostem Weevil In Banana Variety Nendren

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ABSTRACT

The pseudostem weevil (*Odioporus longicollis*) is one of the most dangerous pest which has started causing severe damage to banana crop. A trial was conducted in the field of CARD Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Pathanamthitta District, Kerala, to find out the efficient technology to control pseudostem weevil with five different treatments. The five different treatments followed were T₁, Spraying of plants and soil drenching with carbaryl (50% wp) @ 4 gm/litre of water 3 times at 15 days interval from 4th month onwards. T₂, Injection of monocrotophos 1.2 ml in 2.8 ml of water at two places in the pseudostem at 60 and 150 cm height from the base on opposite directions at 45° angles during 4th month. T₃, Swabbing with 6 gm carbaryl (50% wp) mixed with one kg mud on the outer pseudostem 3 times at 15 days interval from 4th month onwards. T₄, Combination of treatments T₂ and T₃. T₅ Control plants where no treatment was done. Observations were taken on number of plants infected by pseudostem weevil and percentage of plants infected was calculated. The average yield of ten plants was calculated. Injection of monocrotophos 1.2 ml in 2.8 ml of water at two places in the pseudostem at 60 and 150 cm height from the base on opposite directions at 45° angles (treatment 2) is very effective in controlling pseudostem weevil, which is also economical and easily adaptable by the farmers.

Key words : Control of Pseudostem weevil in Banana.

INTRODUCTION

Banana, the most important fruit crop of tropics occupies a unique place among the people of all walks of life. Its ability to yield high returns within a short time when compared to other fruit crops has resulted in its cultivation being taken up by small as well as big farmers. The major varieties cultivated are Nendran, Robusta, Palayamkodan, Poovan, Njalipoovan, Kannan, Koopilla kannan etc. The important commercial variety grown in Kerala is Nendran.

This crop is attacked by about 30 species of insects (Johnson, 1959; Aravindakshan and Pushkaran, 1996) and among them the pseudostem weevil (*Odioporus longicollis*) has become the most dangerous pest recently which has started causing severe damage to the crop. In Kerala it was first reported by Visalakshy *et al.* (1989). The weevil affects 4-6 months old banana crop when the plants are near bunching with pseudostem of 25-50 cm circumference. The adult female weevil punctures and injects eggs into the pseudostem. The grubs emerge out of these eggs and feed extensively on the pseudostem leading to total destruction of the crop. (Jaya Sree, 1992). The portion of pseudostem riddled by the borer decomposes, as a result the plants become very weak and break easily. Damages due to pseudostem borer are severely manifested in the

post flowering phase of the crop. Incidence of the weevil is seldom observed in young plants below five months. Since the attack by this pest causes heavy loss, this has created a situation that the farmers are apprehensive of cultivating banana nowadays. Hence the CARD Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Pathanamthitta, Kerala has conducted a trial to find out the efficient technology to control pseudostem weevil with five different treatments.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This trial was conducted in the fields of CARD Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Pathanamthitta, Kerala in Completely Randomised Design (CRD) with five treatments. The details of treatment are as follows:

Control of pseudostem weevil in banana :

T₁ - Spraying of plants and soil drenching with carbaryl (50% wp) @ 4 gm/litre of water 3 times at 15 days interval from 4th month onwards.

T₂ - Injection of monocrotophos 1.2 ml in 2.8 ml of water at two places in the pseudostem at 60 and 150 cm height from the base on opposite directions at 45° angles during 4th month.

T₃ - Swabbing with 6 gm carbaryl (50% wp) mixed with one kg mud on the outer pseudostem 3 times at 15

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