

Original Research Article

<https://doi.org/10.20546/ijcmas.2017.604.272>

Efficacy of Fungicides and Bio-Agents against *Pyricularia grisea* in Paddy and Yield Gap Analysis Through Frontline Demonstration

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ABSTRACT

Keywords

Blast, *Pyricularia*,
Paddy,
Trichoderma,
Pseudomonas,
bio-agents.

Article Info

Accepted:
20 March 2017
Available Online:
10 April 2017

The study was carried out to evaluate the efficacy of fungicides and bio-agents against the leaf and neck blast disease in paddy during Kharif season of 2013-14. Among the evaluated fungicides and bio-agents, Tricyclazole 75% WP was effectively manage the incidence of leaf and neck blast (16.3 and 21.22 %, respectively) and found most economical fungicide among all treatments with highest yield (35.61q/ha) and B: C ratio (1: 2.03), maximum reduction of leaf and neck blast (66.61 and 43.15 %, respectively) followed by Tebuconazole 25.9% EC and combination of Tebuconazole 50% EC + Trifloxystrobin 25% WG. All these three fungicides were found quite effective against the leaf and neck blast of paddy. Bio-agents were less effective as compared to fungicides. In the field demonstration, Tricyclazole 75% WP reduced the incidence upto 78.13% and recorded 17.56 q/ha technology gap, 11.52 q/ha extension gap and technology index was calculated as 29.25%.

Introduction

Rice blast is one of the most devastating disease among all the cereals, mostly in low and wet area of upland farming situation, caused by *Pyricularia oryzae* Cavara (Synonym – *Pyricularia grisea* Sacc., the anamorph of *Magnaporthe grisea* (Hebert Yaegashi and Udagawa).

The disease is causing significant reduction in yield of paddy crop. The average rice production of the Bilaspur district is very low due to poor management strategies adopted against leaf and neck blast disease which reduce quality and quantity of the crop significantly. Disease appears throughout the crop starting from nursery stage to maturity

stage and symptoms appear on the leaves and nodes (Seebold *et al.*, 2004).

Currently these diseases are being managed by application of chemical fungicides such as carbendazim, mancozeb, tricyclozole, propiconazole etc. and many workers have reported these chemicals are effective against rice blast (Hegde, 2015). Some workers are worked on the evaluation of organic or botanical product for management of rice blast (Amadioha, 2000; Rout and Tewari, 2012). Management through fungicides is one of the most widely used management methods, but they are costly and at the same time the chemical will have an adverse

climatic impact. However, research during the previous two decades indicates another potential option for plant disease management through the use of biocontrol agents (Vidhyasekaran *et al.*, 1997; Gade, 2013; Sarkar *et al.*, 2014).

The objectives of the present study were to develop a cost effective protection measures for effective management of rice diseases for sustainable production. Also the studies emphasis towards the dissemination of technologies through demonstrations to the local farmers.

Materials and Methods

The field experiments were carried out at Nawgaon (22°12'07"N and 82°07'59"E) and Pendarwa village (22°13'47"N and 82°08'37"E) of block- Bilha, District-Bilaspur (C.G.) in Kharif season of 2013-14 as per need based study of the district Bilaspur. The mean rainfall in the area over last five year was 1253.28 mm and during 2013-14, the annual rainfall was 1104.60 mm with 93 rainy days. The study was performed under assured irrigated conditions in low land ecosystem. The highly susceptible rice variety "Swarna" was grown with recommended standard agronomic practice. The size of experimental field under each treatment was 0.50 acres. The seedlings of age 20-25 days were transplanted with spacing of 20 X 20 cm. The experiment was designed using Randomize Block design (RBD) with seven treatments and four replications. The details of treatments used in the experiment are given in Table 1. Three sprays were given, first sprays during active tillering stage (30 DAT), second spray after 20 days from first spray

and third spray was given during panicle initiation stage. The spray was given when the incidence of leaf blast disease at the Economic Threshold Level (ETL). The calculated data was worked out from the observed data. Later the data subjected to simple RCBD (ANOVAs) during statistical analysis Panse and Sukhatme (1985).

Yield gap analysis through front line demonstrations (FLD)

Front Line demonstrations were carried out on farmers' field in Kharif season of 2014-15 and 2015-16 at Khargahan village of block - Takhatpur, district - Bilaspur which was adopted under National Initiative for Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA) project funded by CRIDA, Hyderabad and at village Birgahani of block - Kota, district – Bilaspur which was KVK adopted model village situated at 22°14'01"N; 82°03'42"E and 22°21'37"N; 82°06'43"E, respectively. The demonstrations were conducted based on the finding of need based study and best effective & economical management practices were followed in the Front Line Demonstration. Existing farmers' practices was taken as control. There were fifteen replications having 0.46 ha area in each demonstration. Two sprays were scheduled at active tillering and panicle initiation stage (Table 2).

No artificial inoculations were made and data were recorded based on natural incidence of the disease. Leaf blast was calculated by selecting 50 hills randomly in four corners and middle of the plot. The third leaf from the top of each tiller was taken and per cent disease index (PDI) was calculated by using the disease rating scale of 0-9 (IRRI, 1996)

$$PDI = \frac{\text{Sum of the individual rating}}{\text{Number of leaf observed} \times \text{Highest number in rating}} \times 100$$

Neck blast was calculated by the number of neck blast affected panicles in square meter area.

$$\text{Per cent neck blast} = \frac{\text{Number of infected Panicles}}{\text{Total number of Panicles}} \times 100$$

The percent disease control was worked out using the formula given by Abbotts (1925).

$$\text{Per cent disease control (Disease reduction, \%)} = C - T/C \times 100$$

Where, C is the population of control and T is the population of treated field

The crop yield were measured by selecting 3×2 m² area in each field using a wire frame (Seebold *et al.*, 2004) and tillers within the frame were harvested and threshed in order to determine the yield. The cost economics was worked out based on the cost of fungicides, spraying cost, yield and the Govt. support

prize of Paddy during 2013-14. Selection of site, farmers and layout of demonstration etc. were followed as per suggestions given by Choudhary (1999). For the experiment, critical input fungicides were provided by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Bilaspur. All the relevant data were collected and technology gap, extension gap and the technology index were worked out (Samui *et al.*, 2000 and Verma *et al.*, 2014).

Technology gap = Potential yield – Demonstration yield

Extension gap = Demonstration yield – Farmers' yield

$$\text{Technology index} = \frac{(\text{Potential yield} - \text{Demonstration yield})}{\text{Potential yield}} \times 100$$

Results and Discussion

Study was carried out using new molecules of fungicides and bio-agents on leaf blast (PDI) and per cent incidence of neck blast disease of rice under field conditions. The result shows that all treatments had significantly reduced the leaf and neck blast incidence as compared to farmers' practice. Among all treatments, Tricyclazole 75% WP showed the best fungicides in terms of minimum disease incidence in both stages of blast i.e. leaf and neck blast 16.3 and 21.22 %, with maximum disease reduction of about 66.61 and 43.15%, respectively followed by combination of Tebuconazole 50% EC + Trifloxystrobin 25% WG and Tebuconazole 25.9% EC. Contrasting results were obtained in case of neck blast incidence i.e. Tebuconazole 25.9% EC showed better effect than Tebuconazole 50% EC + Trifloxystrobin 25% WG. Other

treatments Pycuron (29.32 and 26.24%), *Trichoderma harzianum* (31.25 and 28.15 %) and *Pseudomonas fluorescens* 10% WP, statistically differ with Tricyclazole, Tebuconazole + Trifloxystrobin and Tebuconazole fungicides, having no significant difference with each other. Our findings are in conformity with the earlier reports i.e. Tricyclazole was effective in reducing the leaf and neck blast (Gouramanis, 1995; Enyinnia, 1996; Sood and Kapoor, 1997; Sireesha, 2013). The treatment of Tebuconazole showed lower incidence of rice blast disease (Ghazanfar *et al.*, (2009). According to Tirmali *et al.*, (2001) Carpropamid, Tebuconazole and Tricyclazole 75 WP significantly reduced the neck blast. Yashoda *et al.*, (2000) observed that leaf and neck blast incidence was minimum in seed treatment with carbendazim @ 2g/kg followed by three spray of Tricyclazole 75%

WP @ 0.6g/lt at tillering, 20-25 days after 1st spray and panicle initiation stage.

Among the eco-friendly treatment *P. fluorocens* expressed better bio-agent against leaf blast, while in case of neck blast *T. harzianum* showed better option reduced as compared to *P. fluorocens*. Similarly, Shyamala and Sivakumar (2012) tested *Pseudomonas fluorocens* alone and in combination of fungicides and salicylic acid and reported that the *P. fluorescens* was effective but less effective as compared to chemical alone. Various workers observed that the *P. fluorocens* and *T. harzianum* all treatment significantly control the neck blast and leaf blast disease (Sueyadi *et al.*, 2013; Hegde, 2006).

The treatment with Tricyclazole 75 WP (35.61 q/ha) with higher B:C ratio 1:2.03 followed by Tebuconazole (35.25q/ha and 1:1.89), Tebuconazole + Trifloxystrobin (32.25 q/ha and 1:1.68) and Pycuron (31.45

q/ha and 1:1.66). These three fungicides were significantly not differ with each other in comparison of yield and B: C ratio as compared to farmers practice (24.72 q/ha and 1:1.38) (Table 3, 4 and fig 1). Our results are in conformity with earlier reports by Sood and Kapoor (1997), Tirmali *et al.*, (2001), Prabhu *et al.*, (2003) Debashis *et al.*, (2012), Ganesh *et al.*, (2012) and Prasanna and Veerabhadraswamy (2014) which reported that fungicides application increases the yield of rice.

Yield gap Analysis through Front Line demonstration

Perusal of demonstration data presented in the table 5 and 6, revealed that the PDI was recorded minimum (5.63 and 10.53%) with an average of 8.08 % as compared to the farmers' practice (26.86 and 46.25%, respectively) during the year 2014-15 and 2015-16. Recommended practice reduced PDI up to 78.13%.

Table.1 Details of treatments used in the experiment

Treat ments	Treatments Details	Dosage /lt)	g or ml/ha
T1	S.T. with Carbendazim 50% WP @3g/Kg of seed+ Foliar spray of Tebuconazole 50% EC +Trifloxystrobin 25% WG	0.4gm/lt	200gm
T2	S.T. with Tricyclazole 75 % WP @2g/Kg of seed + Foliar spray of Tricyclazole 75% WP	0.6gm/lt	300gm
T3	S.T. with Carbendazim 50% WP @3g/Kg of seed + Foliar spray of Tebuconazole 25.9% EC	1.25ml/lt	625ml
T4	S.T. with Carbendazim50%WP@3g/Kg of seed +Foliar spray of Pycuron 22.9% SC	2ml/lt	1000ml
T5	S.T. with <i>Trichoderma harzianum</i> 10% WP @10g/Kg of seed + Foliar spray of <i>Trichoderma harzianum</i> (CFUs 10 ¹⁰ /g)	10gm/lt	5000gm
T6	S.T. with <i>Pseudomonas fluorescens</i> 10% WP @3g/Kg of seed + Foliar spray of <i>Pseudomonas fluorescens</i> (CFUs 10 ¹⁴ /g)	10gm/lt	5000gm
T7 (FP)	No seed treatment + Foliar spray of Neem Seed Kernal based EC 0.15% (1500 ppm)	3ml	1500ml

Table.2 Details of treatments and dose in frontline Demonstration

Treatments	Treatments Details	Dosage /L)	g or ml/ha
T1 (RP)	S.T. with Tricyclazole 75 % WP @2g/Kg of seed + Foliar spray of Tricyclazole 75% WP	0.6gm/l	300g
T2 (FP)	No seed treatment + Neem Seed Kernal based EC 0.15% EC (1500ppm)	3ml	1500ml

S.T. = Seed treatment, **RP**= Recommended Practice, **FP**= Farmer's Practice (Control)

Table.3 Evaluation of Fungicides and bio-agents against leaf and neck blast of rice

Treatments	Leaf Blast (PDI)	Reduction in leaf blast disease % over control	Neck Blast (%)	Reduction in neck blast disease % over control	Yield (q/ha)	Yield increase over control
T1	20.13 (26.63)	58.76	23.05 (28.61)	38.25	32.65	32.07
T2	16.3 (23.79)	66.61	21.22 (27.34)	43.15	35.61	44.05
T3	22.14 (28.04)	54.64	22.35 (28.07)	40.12	35.25	42.59
T4	29.32 (32.70)	39.94	26.24 (30.74)	29.70	31.45	27.22
T5	31.35 (34.02)	35.78	28.15 (31.97)	24.59	26.34	6.55
T6	30.21 (33.32)	38.11	32.18 (34.47)	13.79	26.48	7.11
T7 Control	48.82 (44.32)	-	37.33 (37.58)	-	24.72	-
SEM+	1.75		2.74		2.44	
CD at 5%	3.68		5.77		5.14	
CV %	7.79		12.74		11.40	

Table.4 Calculation of cost benefit ratio of treatments (ha)

TREATMENTS	Fixed Cost	Cost of Fungicides	Spray cost	Total Cost	Yield	CG Govt. Support Price @ 1310/q	Net Return	BC RATIO
T1	20,500	3960	900	25,360	32.65	42,772	17,412	1:1.68
T2	20,500	1500	900	22,900	35.61	46,649	23,749	1:2.03
T3	20,500	2925	900	24,325	35.25	46,178	21,853	1:1.89
T4	20,500	3375	900	24,775	31.45	41,200	16,425	1:1.66
T5	20,500	1500	900	22,900	26.34	34,505	11,605	1:1.50
T6	20,500	1500	900	22,900	26.48	34,689	11,789	1:1.51
T7 (FP)	20,500	2025	900	23,425	24.72	32,383	8958	1:1.38

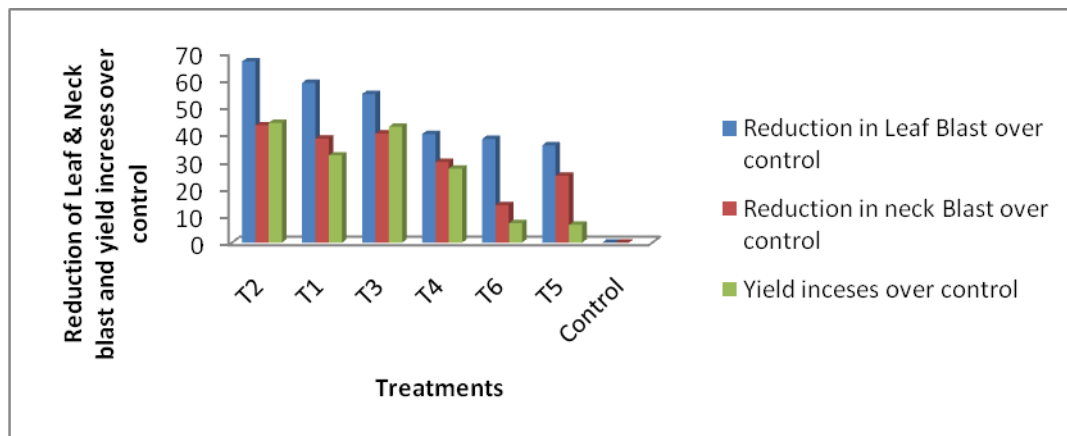
Table.5 Demonstration of Tricyclazole Fungicides against blast of Paddy

Treatment	Leaf Blast (PDI)		Pooled Mean	Reduction % PDI Over control		Pooled Mean	Yield (q/ha)		Pooled Mean
	2014-15	2015-16		2014-15	2015-16		2014-15	2015-16	
T1	5.63	10.53	8.08	79.03	77.23	78.13	46.25	38.63	42.44
T2	26.86	46.25	36.55				32.12	29.72	30.92

Table.6 Analysis of technology gap, extension gap and technology index for the demonstration of Tricyclazole fungicides against the management of blast of Paddy

Year of Demonstration	No. of Demonstration	Area (ha)	Yield (q/ha.)			% increase over check	Technology gap (q/ha)	Extension gap (q/ha)	Technology index (%)
			Potential	Demonstration	Farmers Practice				
2014-15	15	6	60	46.25	32.12	43.99	13.75	14.13	22.90
2015-16	15	6	60	38.63	29.72	29.98	21.37	8.91	35.61
Total	30	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pooled Mean	15	-	60	42.44	30.92	37.25	17.56	11.52	29.25

Fig.1 Comparisons of reduction % in Leaf and Neck blast disease and Yield increases over control



The yield in demonstration ranges from 38.63 - 46.25 q/ha which was 30.92% higher as compared to farmers' practice (29.72 - 32.12 q/ha). The technology gap were found 21.37 to 13.75 during the year 2014-15 and 2015-16

respectively on avg. technology gap was 17.56 q/ha. The technology gap was observed due to the many reasons i.e. the dissimilarity in the soil fertility and status, local climatic condition and the most important agricultural

practices etc. The technology index shows the feasibility of the demonstration technology at the farmers' field. The lower the value of technology index more the feasibility of the technology demonstrated (Sagar and Ganesh Chandra, 2004), the technology index varied from 22.90 to 35.61 (Table 6), which shows the efficacy and good performance of technology intervened to increase the yield of paddy and lower down the loss due to the leaf blast.

The results of present study are in conformity with the findings in Front Line Demonstrations by Tomar *et al.* (2003^a) Tiwari and Saxena (2001) and Tiwari *et al.* (2003) in other crops. The variation in yield from location to location can be accounted for varying climatic conditions, prevailing microclimate and variation in agricultural practices followed. More or less similar reason and findings were provided by other workers (Singh *et al.*, (2014) Mishra *et al.*, (2007) Barua and Tripathi (2015) Sagar and Ganesh Chandra, (2004) and Tomar *et al.*, (2003^b).

In conclusion, among all the new molecules of fungicides and bioagents, Tricyclazole 75% WP found most effective in all the parameter i.e. per cent disease incidence, reduction of leaf and neck blast over control, with highest yield, maximum net return with highest B:C ratio among the treatments. Apart from this, Tebuconazole 25.9% EC was second most effective fungicides followed by Bioagents are less effective as compared to fungicides. Finally on the basis of research and demonstration, it was found that Tricyclazole 75% WP fungicide was effective, cost economical and feasible to the farmers. Demonstration s based extension activities are important to educate the farmers, for better adoption of improved agricultural technology to revert the trend of wide extension gap.

Acknowledgement

Authors are thankful to Deputy Director Agriculture, Bilaspur (C.G.) for providing financial support under ATMA for conducting investigation and CRIDA, Hyderabad for funding through the project National Initiative for Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA).

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How to cite this article:

Vinod Kumar Nirmalkar, Prasant P. Said and Dushyant Kumar Kaushik. 2017. Efficacy of Fungicides and Bio-Agents against *Pyricularia grisea* in Paddy and Yield Gap Analysis Thought Frontline Demonstration. *Int.J.Curr.Microbiol.App.Sci.* 6(4): 2338-2346.
doi: <https://doi.org/10.20546/ijcmas.2017.604.272>