

Original Research Article

<https://doi.org/10.20546/ijcmas.2018.701.152>

Integrated Disease Management Capsule for Wilt/Root Rot Complex of Chili

Waseem Ali Dar*, Mir Gh. Hassan, Pervaiz Ahmad Sheikh,
Baby Summuna and Shabir Ahmad Ganaie

Division of Plant Pathology, S. K. University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of
Kashmir, Shalimar, Srinagar-190025, Jammu and Kashmir, India

*Corresponding author

ABSTRACT

The present investigation was conducted to assess the wilt/root rot incidence in chilli (*Capsicum annum*) in Kashmir and to examine management practices. Survey was carried out in three districts of Kashmir viz., Ganderbal, Baramullah and Pulwama during 2016. Damping-off and wilt/root rot incidence in the districts varied from 7-34 and 11-52% respectively with maximum in disease incidence in district in Ganderbal and minimum in Pulwama. The pathogens responsible for wilt/root rot are *Fusarium pallidoroseum*, *F. oxysporum*, *F. solani*, *Phytophthora capsici*, *R. solani* and *Sclerotium rolfsii* and *Pythium* sp. was observed to be incitant of damping-off. Wilt/root rot and damping-off being soil borne, the primary infections are needed to be controlled with suitable fungicides. Field experiments were conducted to study the disease control with different fungicides alone or in combination with bioagents. The results indicated that minimum wilt/root rot incidence (7.0%) and maximum dry fruit yield 74.73 q/ha was recorded in treatment combination of carbendazim (seed treatment) + metalaxyl (seedling dip) + hexaconazole (foliar spray) as compared to other possible combinations and their individual treatments. Wilt/root rot and dry fruit yield of chilli was investigated in response to various levels of organic amendments (FYM 20, 30 and 40 t/ha and vermicompost 10, 15 and 20 t/ha) alone and in combination with the recommended nitrogen fertilizer dose (RFD). Also, the impact of split doses of fertilizer application 60:60, 60:30:30, 40:40:40 and 80:40 on wilt/root rot complex was assessed. Vermicompost 20 q/ha + RFD was most effective in reducing the wilt/root rot incidence up to (21.0%) and increased dry fruit yield of chilli (55.10 q/ha) when compared to control.

Keywords

Disease
management
capsule, Chili

Article Info

Accepted:
12 December 2017
Available Online:
10 January 2018

Introduction

Chilli (*Capsicum annum* L.) is an important cash crop grown under both tropical and subtropical conditions. It is mainly cultivated for its green fruits and for the dry chilli as the spice of commerce. It is rich source of vitamin C, A and the green fruits also contain vitamin

P (rutin) in appreciable proportion (Muthkrishnan *et al.*, 2002). India produces 1.446 million tones of ripe dry chillies with an area of 0.869 million ha under its cultivation (Muthukumar *et al.*, 2010; Anonymous, 2013). In Jammu and Kashmir State, chilli is grown on an area of 3280 ha with annual production of 6480 metric tons (Anonymous

2010). Chilli crop is attacked by many biotic and abiotic nature leading to great loss to cultivars up to 12-15% in India (Bagri *et al.*, 2004; Sharma *et al.*, 2005). Several *Fusarium* species viz., *F. oxysporum* and *F. solani* have been reported as the major pathogens causing wilt disease in solanaceous crops in Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh (Yelmame *et al.*, 2010, Dwivedi and Enespa, 2013). *Fusarium* root rot has become an important and widespread disease of cucurbits and solanaceous vegetables in many countries worldwide (Vakalounakis and Chalkias, 2004). Other pathogens from different genera including *Phytophthora*, *Pythium* and *Rhizoctonia* have been found associated with infections on roots and stems (Vatchev, 2007). Vermicompost improves the soil physical, chemical and biological properties along with conserving the moisture holding capacity of soil (Premsekhar and Rajashree, 2009) and also resolves the deficiency of organic matter in soils (Alam *et al.*, 2007). Vermicompost protects plants against various pests and soil borne pathogens by suppressing or repelling or by inducing biological resistance or by killing them through pesticidal action (Sinha *et al.*, 2010). Fertilizer is one of the major factor of crop production and nitrogen is very much essential for good plant establishment and growth while potassium is needed for good fruit yield (Uddin and Khalequzzaman, 2003).

Materials and Methods

Isolation, characterization and identification of pathogenic fungi

The wilt/root rot fungi isolated from the chilli by standard isolation method under aseptic conditions. The infected tissues of the chilli plants were cut into small pieces of 2-5 mm size, surface sterilized and placed in petri plates containing sterilized PDA and incubated at 28±1°C. Outgrowing hyphal tips were sub-cultured to develop a purified culture

(Dasgopta, 1988). The isolated fungi were studied for their colony characters, mycelial growth and pigmentation. Morphological characterization of isolated fungi viz., shape, size and septation of mycelium and spores were recorded. The characteristics observed were compared with authentic descriptions of Nelson *et al.*, (1983) and Sneh *et al.*, (1998). Pathogenicity was established by following Koch's postulates. The disease incidence in nursery/fields was assessed as per the method of Johnston and Both (1983).

$$\text{Disease incidence (\%)} = \frac{\text{No. of infected plants}}{\text{Total number of units assessed}} \times 100$$

Field experiments

Effect of different methods of fungicide/BCA application on wilt/root rot complex in chilli

To study the effect of seed treatment + soil drench, seed treatment + seedling dip and seed treatment + seedling dip + foliar sprays against wilt/root rot complex, field experiments was laid out at Khanbal, Pulwama, Kashmir. Well pulverized plots of 2 m × 2 m were prepared. The seeds of chilli cv. 'Kashmir Long - 1' procured from the Division of Vegetable Sciences, SKUAST-K were treated with fungicides (captan or carbendazim or hexaconazol or metalaxyl) or bio-agent (*T. harzianum*), as per treatment and were sown in first week of April. Forty-five day old seedlings were uprooted and subjected to seedling dip as per treatment before transplantation to field. In some treatments soil was drenched with selected fungicides as per treatment details given in Table 2. Four sprays of selected fungicides were given at 15 days interval no sooner the initial wilt symptoms appeared. The fungicides were procured from the division of Plant Pathology SKUAST-K, Shalimar, Kashmir. The

observation on wilt/root rot incidence and dry fruit yield of chilli was recorded in each treatment at harvest.

Effect of recommended fertilizer dose (RFD), FYM and vermicompost on wilt/root rot complex disease of chilli

A field experiment was conducted at Pohru-Peth, Handwara, Kupwara in 2016 on chillie cv. Kashmir Long – 1' seeds procured from the Division of Vegetable Sciences, SKUAST-K to assess the impact of various levels of organic amendments (FYM and vermicompost) alone and in combination with the recommended nitrogen fertilizer dose (RFD). Also, the impact of split fertilizers application on wilt/root rot complex was assessed. For this, the field was well pulverized and plots of 2 m × 2 m size prepared.

Treatments comprised of 3 levels of well decomposed farm yard manure [FYM] (20, 30 and 40 t/ha) and vermicompost (10, 15 and 20 t/ha) and combined application of FYM and vermicompost along with recommended nitrogen fertilizer dose (120 kg N/ha). The other treatments included split doses of nitrogen fertilizer application *viz.*, 60:60, 60:30:30, 40:40:40 and 80:40 including FYM @ 20 t/ha. An untreated control was also maintained. The FYM and vermicompost was incorporated into the soil 15 days prior to the seedling transplantation. The nitrogen fertilizer in split dose treatments, as per the treatment, was applied in the form of urea either as basal dose and/or one and two months after seedling transplantation. The phosphorus and potassium fertilizers were applied in all the treatments uniformly at recommended dose. The experiment was conducted in a completely randomized block design with all the treatments replicated three times. The recommended package of practices was followed, except for nitrogen fertilizer

and disease control. The disease incidence was recorded 90 days after seedling transplantation and dry fruit yield was recorded at harvest (Table 3).

Results and Discussion

During the period 2014-16, a total of 116 villages in Kashmir valley *viz.*, 56 villages (3 blocks) from Ganderbal, 27 villages (4 blocks) from Baramulla, 33 villages (3 blocks) from Kupwara, were surveyed. In all the surveyed villages chilli/capsicum nurseries/field crops were found affected by several pathogens. Highest wilt/root rot and damping-off disease incidences were observed in Ganderbal district followed by Baramulla and Kupwara districts (Table 1). In district Ganderbal the wilt/root rot incidence range was 15-52, 17-35 and 31-42% in Kangan, Soura and Ganderbal blocks, respectively, with maximum incidence in Kangan block.

In Ganderbal district, block Kangan showed highest damping-off incidence (25%). The damping-off ranged from 10-32, 15-35 and 9-25% in Kangan, Soura and Ganderbal blocks, respectively. In district Baramulla the wilt/root rot incidence range was 9-20, 14-26, 11-23 and 16-27% in Sopore, Dangerpora, Pattan and Tangmarg blocks, respectively, with maximum incidence in Dangerpora block. Damping-off was in the range of 7-28, 11-22, 15-24 and 12-21% in Sopore, Dangerpora, Pattan and Tangmarg blocks, respectively. In district Kupwara, the wilt/root rot and damping-off incidence range was 17-31, 14-35, 14-38 and 8-30, 11-36, 8-29, respectively, in Langate, Rajawara and Ramhal blocks. The lack of availability of treated seeds, excessive irrigation, and improper crop management practices assumed as the reasons for high wilt/root rot incidence in Ganderba. The practice of monocropping in vegetables may also be one of the factors for high wilt/root rot and damping-off in Kashmir valley. These

assumptions are substantiated by the findings of Najar and Ahmad (2012) who attributed higher wilt/root rot incidence in vegetables to monocropping while McGee (1992) attributed it to the use of untreated seeds in North West Pacific. Frequent irrigation and excessive use of fertilizers are reported to be amongst the important predisposing factors for the perpetuation of pathogens in Utrakhand and Jammu and Kashmir States (Mamta *et al.*, 2012, Najar and Ahmad 2012).

Effect of different methods of fungicide/BCA application on wilt/root rot disease of chilli under field conditions

All the treatments applied either individually or in combination, were found significantly effective in minimizing wilt/root rot disease as compared to check (Table 2). Minimum wilt/root rot incidence (7.0%) was observed in treatment combination of carbendazim (as seed treatment, ST) + hexaconazole (as seedling dip, SD) + metalaxyl (as foliar spray, FP); followed by 7.5% disease incidence in treatment combination of carbendazim (ST) + metalaxyl (SD) + hexaconazole (FP), 9.25% disease incidence in *T. harzianum* (ST) + metalaxyl (SD) + hexaconazole (FP) and 9.75% disease incidence in captan (ST) + metalaxyl (SD) + hexaconazole (FP) combination.

The untreated control showed disease incidence of 48.3%. Maximum dry fruit yield of 74.73 q/ha was observed in treatment combination of carbendazim (ST) + hexaconazole (SD) + metalaxyl (FP) followed by 73.93 q/ha in treatment combination of carbendazim (ST) + metalaxyl (SD) + hexaconazole (FP); 70.0 q/ha in *T. harzianum* (ST) + metalaxyl (SD) + hexaconazole (FP) and 68.9 q/ha in captan (ST) + metalaxyl (SD) + hexaconazole (FP) combination as compared to 32.6 q/ha in case of check. Our

findings are in agreement with (Madhuri and Gayathri, 2014) who reported that integration of different treatments drenching with mancozeb, seedling dip with carbendazim, addition of vermicompost and *T. harzianum* were found effective in managing the chilli root rot in comparison with individual treatments. Present findings are in conformity with Zagade *et al.*, (2013) who reported that seed dressing with metalaxyl and seedling dip with *T. hamatum* significantly reduced chilli wilt incidence (8.3%) as compared to their individual treatments 11% and 15%, respectively.

These results are in conformity with the report of (Madhavi and Bhattiprolu, 2011) who recorded 7.0% root rot incidence of chilli by incorporating seedling dip with carbendazim, soil drenching with dithane M-45 + vermicompost and Foliar spray of *Trichoderma viride*. Our findings are in agreement with Nel *et al.*, (2007), Tarekegen *et al.*, (2007) who reported that seed treatment and soil drenching with benzimidazoles have been shown to reduce infection by *Fusarium oxysporum* on various host plants. Gopinath *et al.*, (2006) recorded that application of propiconazole (0.05%), difenoconazole (0.05%) and carbendazim (0.1%) increased the yield of chilli fruits by 86%, 63% and 60% respectively.

While working on tomato Saini *et al.*, (2005) reported 19.0 % root rot incidence by incorporating combination of carboxin+ FYM+ *T. harzianum*. The present findings are in agreement with the earlier reports, integration of disease management practices are most effective in controlling Fusarial wilt in gladiolus (Suneel Anand and Harender Raj Gautum, 2006), collar and root rot in strawberry (Bhardwaj and Gautum, 2004) and soil borne diseases in vegetable nurseries (Steven *et al.*, 2003).

Table.1 Wilt/root rot and damping-off disease status and pathogens observed in chilli/ capsicum crops in surveyed districts of Kashmir valley (during 2014-16)

Districts	Blocks	No. of villages surveyed	Pathogens observed	Wilt/Root rot incidence (%)		Damping-off incidence (%)	
				Range	Mean	Range	Mean
Ganderbal	Kangan	19	<i>Fusarium pallidoroseum</i> , <i>F. oxysporum</i> , <i>F. solani</i> , <i>Pythium</i> sp., <i>Phytophthora capsici</i> , <i>Sclerotium rolfsii</i> ,	15-52	42	10-32	25
	Soura	22	<i>Fusarium pallidoroseum</i> , <i>Rhizoctonia solani</i> , <i>F. oxysporum</i> , <i>F. solani</i> , <i>Pythium</i> sp., <i>Phytophthora capsici</i>	17-35	28	15-35	22
	Ganderbal	15	<i>Fusarium pallidoroseum</i> , <i>F. oxysporum</i> , <i>Rhizoctonia solani</i> , <i>Pythium</i> sp.	31-42	36	9-25	18
Baramulla	Sopore	6	<i>F. oxysporum</i> , <i>F. solani</i> , <i>Pythium</i> sp., <i>Phytophthora capsici</i> , <i>Sclerotium rolfsii</i>	9-26	19	7-28	21
	Dangerpora	9	<i>Fusarium pallidoroseum</i> , <i>F. oxysporum</i> , <i>F. solani</i> , <i>Rhizoctonia solani</i> , <i>Pythium</i> sp.	14-26	21	11-22	15
	Pattan	7	<i>Fusarium pallidoroseum</i> , <i>F. oxysporum</i> , <i>Rhizoctonia solani</i> , <i>Pythium</i> sp.	11-23	18	15-24	18
	Tangmarg	5	<i>Fusarium pallidoroseum</i> , <i>F. oxysporum</i> , <i>Rhizoctonia solani</i> , <i>Pythium</i> sp., <i>F. solani</i> , <i>Pythium</i> sp., <i>Phytophthora capsici</i> ,	16-27	23	12-21	16
Kupwara	Langate	13	<i>Fusarium pallidoroseum</i> , <i>F. oxysporum</i> , <i>F. solani</i> , <i>Pythium</i> sp., <i>Phytophthora capsici</i> , <i>Sclerotium rolfsii</i>	17-31	23	8-30	16
	Rajwara	8	<i>F. oxysporum</i> , <i>F. solani</i> , <i>Pythium</i> sp., <i>Phytophthora capsici</i> , <i>Sclerotium rolfsii</i>	14-35	21	11-34	22
	Ramhal	12	<i>F. oxysporum</i> , <i>F. solani</i> , <i>Pythium</i> sp., <i>Sclerotium rolfsii</i> , <i>Fusarium pallidoroseum</i> , <i>F. oxysporum</i> , <i>F. solani</i> , <i>Pythium</i> sp., <i>Phytophthora capsici</i>	14-38	24	8-29	15

Table.2 Effect of different methods of fungicide and BCA application on wilt/root rot complex and dry fruit yield of chilli under field condition

Treatments	Wilt/root rot incidence (%)	Yield (q/ha)
Seed treatment + Soil drench		
Captan @ 2 g/ kg seed	28.00 (31.94) ^{gh}	49.00
Carbendazim @ 2 g/ kg seed	20.92 (27.21) ^{de}	56.08
Hexaconazole @ 2 ml/ kg seed	22.83 (28.54) ^{ef}	50.20
<i>Trichoderma harzianum</i> soil drench @ 0.16 t/ha	27.78 (31.80) ^{gh}	48.78
Seed treatment + Seedling dip		
Captan @ 2 g/ kg seed and root dip for 1 h @ 0.1%	30.77 (33.68) ^h	46.09
Carbendazim @ 2 g/ kg seed and root dip for 1 h @ 0.1%	10.50 (18.90) ^a	68.47
Hexaconazole @ 2 ml/ kg seed and root dip for 1h @ 0.1%	11.75 (20.04) ^{ab}	67.08
Metalaxyl @ 2ml/kg seed and root for 1h @ 0.1%	15.01 (22.79) ^g	63.28
<i>T. harzianum</i> soil drench @ 0.16t/ha	25.69 (30.45) ^{fg}	61.01
Seed treatment (ST) + Seedling dip (SD) + Foliar spray (FP)		
Captan (ST) + hexaconazole (SD) + metalaxyl (FP)	10.00 (18.34) ^a	68.90
Captan (ST) + metalaxyl (SD) + hexaconazole (FP)	9.75 (80.90) ^h	69.39
Captan (ST) + hexaconazole (SD) + <i>T. harzianum</i> (FP)	13.25 (22.46) ^{bc}	65.88
Carbendazim (ST) + hexaconazole (SD) + metalaxyl (FP)	7.00 (56.78) ^j	74.73
Carbendazim (ST) + metalaxyl (SD) + hexaconazole (FP)	7.50 (60.0) ^k	73.93
Carbendazim (ST) + metalaxyl (SD) + <i>T. harzainum</i> (FP)	10.33 (19.66) ^a	68.98
<i>T. harzianum</i> (ST) +captan (SD) + metalaxyl (FP)	11.75 (20.04) ^{ab}	66.89
<i>T. harzianum</i> (ST) + metalaxyl (SD) + hexaconazole (FP)	9.25 (74.10) ^l	70.00
<i>T. harzianum</i> (ST) + <i>T. harzinum</i> (SD) + carbendazim (FP)	16.67 (24.09) ^{cd}	62.01
Control	48.33 (44.04) ⁱ	32.67
C.D at 5% level	2.00	2.67

Table.3 Effect of recommended doses of fertilizer different levels of FYM, vermicompost and split doses of nitrogen on wilt complex disease of chilli under field conditions

Treatments	Wilt/root rot incidence (%)	Yield (q/ha)
FYM @ 20 q/ha + RFD	28.00 (31.46) ^{de}	49.01 (44.43) ^c
FYM @30 q/ha + RFD	22.92 (28.59) ^{abc}	52.70 (46.54) ^{abc}
FYM @40 q/ha + RFD	20.83 (27.24) ^{ab}	56.00 (48.44) ^a
Vermicompost 10 q/ha + RFD	28.70 (32.75) ^{def}	48.11 (43.91) ^{cde}
Vermicompost 15 q/ha + RFD	25.00 (29.99) ^{bcd}	53.89 (47.23) ^{ab}
Vermicompost 20 q/ha + RFD	21.00 (26.22) ^a	55.10 (47.52) ^{ab}
Vermicompost 5 q/ha + FYM 10 q/ha + RFD	29.17 (32.68) ^{def}	48.69 (44.24) ^{cd}
Vermicompost 7.5 q/ha + FYM 15 q/ha + RFD	28.25 (32.10) ^{de}	48.61 (44.20) ^{cd}
Vermicompost 10 q/ha + FYM 20 q/ha + RFD	27.78 (31.80) ^{de}	49.81 (44.89) ^{bc}
Split N application 60: 60 + FYM 20 q/ha	31.21 (33.97) ^{ef}	40.00 (39.23) ^{fg}
Split N 60:30:30 + FYM 20 q/ha	30.10 (33.25) ^{ef}	43.79 (41.43) ^{ef}
Split N 40:40:40 + FYM 20q/ha	30.79 (33.69) ^{ef}	44.14 (41.63) ^{def}
Split N 80: 40 + FYM 20 q/ha	33.33 (35.26) ^f	39.88 (39.16) ^{fg}
Control	48.33 (54.53) ^g	30.67 (33.62) ^g
C.D at 5% level	3.12	2.71

*RFD = 100% Recommended NPK dose; 100% recommended P and K applied in all treatments including control.

* Mean of three replications: Figures in Parenthesis are angular transformed values.

Effect of recommended fertilizer doses (RFD), FYM and vermicompost application on wilt/root rot complex of chilli

The application of FYM or vermicompost to soil significantly reduced wilt/root rot incidence as well as improved chilli fruit production as compared to untreated check (Table 3). The minimum wilt/root rot incidence (20.83%) was observed in the treatment wherein FYM @ 40 q/ha + RFD was applied which was at par with vermicompost 20 q/ha + RFD (21.0%). The split doses of nitrogen also reduced the wilt/root rot incidence (30.1 - 33.3%) in comparison to control (48.3%). Maximum yield (56.0 q/ha) was observed in treatment wherein FYM 40 q/ha was applied which was followed by treatment combination of vermicompost 20 q/ha + RFD (55.1 q/ha), vermicompost @ 15 q/ha (53.9 q/ha) and FYM @ 30 q/ha (52.7 q/ha) in comparison to 30.7 q/ha in untreated control. The split dose of nitrogen application (40:40:40) + FYM @ 20 q/ha also showed enhanced fruit yield (44.1 q/ha) in comparison to check (30.7 q/ha). While working on *Capsicum annum* cv. Pusa Jawala (Saba Iqbal *et al.*, 2013) observed that highest growth rates and plant yields are obtained by combined application of ammonium and nitrate fertilizers in comparison to their individual application. Aujla *et al.*, 2007 reported that with increase in levels of N from 90-150 kg ha⁻¹ fresh fruit yield increases from 48.7- 85.4 t ha⁻¹. Previous studies (Arancon *et al.*, 2006; Bachman and Metzger, 2008) also revealed that vermicompost increases the number of fruits/ plant, fruit weight and total fruit yield of tomato. The above results are in agreement with Hussain *et al.*, (2006) who reported that optimum increased application of nitrogen increased the asparagus root number and weight. Our findings are in agreement with Pal *et al.*, (2003) reported that eggplant fruit

yield increases with increase in N up to 187.5 kg N ha⁻¹. The beneficial effects of fertilizer on wilt incidence and yield parameter was also reported on chilli by Naeem *et al.*, (2002), Chauhan *et al.*, (2005), Khurana *et al.*, (2006).

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How to cite this article:

Waseem Ali Dar, Mir Gh. Hassan, Pervaiz Ahmad Sheikh, Baby Summuna and Shabir Ahmad Ganaie. 2018. Integrated Disease Management Capsule for Wilt/Root Rot Complex of Chili. *Int.J.Curr.Microbiol.App.Sci.* 7(01): 1253-1261. doi: <https://doi.org/10.20546/ijcmas.2018.701.152>