

Original Research Article

<https://doi.org/10.20546/ijcmas.2019.806.175>

Managing of Early Blight of Tomato Caused by *Alternaria solani* through Fungicides and Bioagents

Raavi Sreenivasulu^{1*}, M. Surya Prakash Reddy², D. S. Tomar¹,
M. Subhash Sri Sanjay² and Bharath Bushan Reddy²

¹Department of Plant Pathology College of Agriculture, JNKVV, Tikamgarh, India

²Department of Plant Pathology, College of Agriculture, JNKVV, Jabalpur, India

*Corresponding author:

ABSTRACT

Alternaria leaf blight of tomato caused by *Alternaria solani* is a soil inhabiting and air-borne pathogen responsible for considerable loss in tomato production. In the absence of resistant cultivars, the use of fungicides and biocontrol agents to control the disease is one exercise training. When there is an epidemic outbreak for some reason, perhaps the use of fungicides are one of the best options available. These fungicides must be used judiciously according to the need, type of body involved and availability of new fungicides. It requires the evaluation of fungicides under *in vivo* and *in vitro* conditions to know its effectiveness, start the spray schedule in field conditions and for developing a cost effective disease management approach. The present investigation based of five fungicides and two bioagents against *Alternaria solani* under *in vivo* and *in vitro* conditions. These fungicides show significant effect inhibitions to the pathogen *in vitro* and *in vivo* conditions. The Tebuconazole 25.9 % EC @ 0.1% was most effective followed by propiconazole 25%EC @ 0.1% and copper oxychloride 50 % WP @ 0.30% less in found fairly economical for the management of early blight disease along with significantly highest fruit yield. The biocontrol agents, foliar spraying of fungal bioagents *i.e.* *Trichoderma viride* @ 0.25% was proved highly effective followed by bacterial bioagent *i.e.* *Pseudomonas fluorescens* @ 0.25%.

Keywords

Tomato, *Alternaria solani*, Fungicides, Bioagents

Article Info

Accepted:

12 May 2019

Available Online:

10 June 2019

Introduction

Tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum* Linnaeus), native to the Andean region of South America, is one of the most common horticultural crops and cultivated throughout the world. It can be grown in a wide range of climates from tropical to temperate. Tomato early blight disease caused by *Alternaria solani* become the most destructive in all over

the world and yield losses up to 80% (Chandravanshi *et al.*, 1994). The disease in severe cases can lead to complete defoliation and is most damaging on tomato in regions with heavy dew, rainfall, high humidity, and fairly high temperatures. All above ground parts of the plant can have symptoms of this disease. Tomato crop is vulnerable to infect by bacterial, viral, nematode and fungal diseases. Among the fungal diseases,

Alternaria leaf blight of tomato caused by *Alternaria solani* (Ellis and Martin) Jones and Groot, is a soil inhabiting air-borne pathogen responsible for leaf blight, collar and fruit rot of tomato disseminated by fungal spores (Datar and Mayee, 1981). *Alternaria solani* contains enzymes such as cellulases which degrade the host cell wall and also contain pectin methyl galacturonase which facilitate host colonization (Shahbazi *et al.*, 2011). Disease affect crop production as they cause premature defoliation and result in heavy losses in production by reducing quality and quantity of fruit (Holm *et al.*, 2003). Crowded plantation, high rainfall and extended period of leaf wetness are responsible factors to induce disease development (Gondal *et al.*, 2012). This disease is very difficult to control (Pasche *et al.*, 2004). Failure to control this disease can cause reduction in yield (Malik *et al.*, 2014). It need to develop new effective fungicide and bioagents with mode of action which will be helpful for increase in quality and quantity of tomato production (Sahu *et al.*, 2013). However, the present work was designed to investigate the efficacy of five Fungicides and two bioagents against the menace of early blight pathogen under laboratory and field conditions.

Materials and Methods

The field experiments were carried out in the research field under department of Plant Pathology, while the lab works were conducted in the laboratories under departments of Plant Pathology JNKVV, College of Agriculture Tikamgarh (MP) during 2018-19.

Seeds

Seeds of tomato variety *KashiAnupam* were procured from Indian Institute of Vegetable Research (IIVR) Varanasi (UP).

Fungicides

Fungicides were used for the experiments and are presented in the table separately.

$$\text{Inhibition} = \frac{\text{Radial growth in control (C)} - \text{Radial growth in the treatment (T)}}{\text{Radial growth in control(C)}}$$

Isolation of pathogen from diseased samples

The leaves, stems and fruits of diseased plant showing typical symptoms were washed thoroughly with tap water; small pieces of infected leaves were cut with the help of sterilized blade. These pieces were surface sterilized with 1:1000 mercuric chloride (HgCl₂) solution for one minute followed by three washings with sterilized distilled water to remove traces of HgCl₂.

The pieces were then transferred aseptically to Petri plates containing Potato dextrose agar medium. Inoculated Petri plates were incubated at 25± 2 °c for three to five days and examined at frequent intervals to see the growth of the fungus developing from different pieces. As and when fungal colony appeared they were transferred to PDA slant.

In vitro evaluation of chemical fungicides and bioagents against *Alternaria solani*

The efficacy of five fungicides *viz.*, Tebuconazole (0.10%), Propiconazole (0.10%), Carbendizim + Mancozeb (0.15%), Mancozeb (0.25%) and Copper oxychloride (0.30%) *Trichoderma viride* and *Pseudomonas fluorescens* were tested against *A. solani* on Potato dextrose agar medium using poisoned food technique (Nene and Thapliyal, 1979) and dual culture technique (Morton 1955) using PDA as basal medium under *in vitro* condition.

In vivo evaluation of fungicides and bio agents against *Alternaria solani*

The experiment was conducted at, JNKVV College of Agriculture, Tikamgarh (MP). During the year 2018-19 in *Rabi* season using cv. KashiAnupam to test the efficacy of fungicides and bioagents. Thirty to thirty five days old seedlings raised in nursery were transplanted in the month of October at a distance of 60 cm X 45 cm spacing with the gross area of 39.5 m X 11 m = 434.5 m². Efficacies of five fungicides and two bio control agents with their prefixed concentrations (as per treatments) were compared with untreated control. Two sprays of each fungicide and biocontrol agents with their prefixed concentration were applied at an interval of 15 days after the initiation of the disease. The per cent disease intensity was recorded for each plot and compared with control plot after two consecutive sprays of fungicides and bio control agents at 15 days intervals. On the basis of symptoms and microscopic studies, the fungus was identified as *Alternaria solani*, causative agent of early blight of tomato (Ellis and Martin, 1882) Jones and Grout, 1897. The observations on the intensity of early blight disease of tomato were recorded from 5 randomly selected plants from each plot using 0-5 scale.

Procedure for recording disease intensity

Five randomly selected plants from each plot and three leaves (Top, Middle and Bottom) from each plant were examined for the *Alternaria solani* symptoms and also examined microscopically for the disease. Based on number of infected plants from each field, per cent disease intensity of early blight was calculated for each plot.

Percent Disease Intensity (PDI) was calculated by using the following formula given by (Pandey *et al.*, 2002).

$$\text{PDI} = \frac{\text{Sum of all disease ratings}}{\text{Total no. of observations (sample) X Maximal disease rating grade}} \times 100$$

Fruit yield data

In the field experiments (*Rabi*, 2018-19) well mature and ripen tomato fruits were harvested regularly in all the replicated treatments. The fruit yield per plot was recorded and extrapolated to give the value of fruit yield in quintal ha⁻¹.

Results and Discussion

The efficacy of five fungicides and two bioagents against *A. solani* at prescribed doses which are earlier described in methods and materials were evaluated (Table 1). The data presented in Table 1 and Figure 1 revealed that all the tested fungicides and bioagents significantly inhibited radial growth of the test pathogen over untreated control (Plate. A). All the fungicides evaluated caused inhibition of mycelial growth of pathogen. Among the chemical fungicides Tebuconazole 25.9 % EC @ 0.1%, Propiconazole 25%EC @ 0.1% and Mancozeb 75 %WP @ 0.25% were significantly superior over Copper Oxy chloride 50 WP @ 0.30%, in inhibiting mycelial growth. The 100 per cent inhibition was observed in treatment Tebuconazole 25.9 % EC @ 0.1% and it was followed by treatment Propiconazole 25%EC @ 0.1% (90.26%), Mancozeb 75 %WP @ 0.25% (87.57%) and Carbendazim 12% + Mancozeb 63 % WP @ 0.15% (80.81%). While minimum inhibition was observed in treatment Copper Oxy chloride 50 WP @ 0.30% (40.54%). Among the biocontrol agents *Trichoderma viride* (47.29%) was superior to *Pseudomonas fluorescens* (18.91%). Herle and Kamanna (2014) evaluated twelve fungicides *viz.*,

Hexaconazole, Tebuconazole, Propiconazole, combination products Zineb 68% + Hexaconazole 4% and Captan 70% + Hexaconazole 5% under *in vitro* conditions against *Alternaria solani*. Similar observation

Vijayalakshmi *et al.*, (2018) reported maximum inhibition of radial growth of *A. helianthi* was observed in *T. viride* (85.33%) which was followed by *T. viride* strain 16 (79.33%), and *T. harzianum* (76.44%).

List of fungicides and bioagents used in experiment

S. No.	Common Name	Trade Name	Dose (%)
1	Tebuconazole 25.9 % EC	Cark	0.1
2	Propiconazole 25%EC	Kontrol	0.1
3	Carbendazim 12% + Mancozeb 63 % WP	Saaf	0.15
4	Mancozeb 75%WP	Dhanuka M-45	0.25
5	Copper Oxychloride 50 % WP	Maincop	0.30
6	<i>Pseudomonas fluorescens</i> (Liquid formulation)	Procured from JNKVV, Microbiology department	0.25
7	<i>Trichoderma viride</i> (Liquid formulation)	Procured from JNKVV, Microbiology department	0.25

Disease description scale

Scale	Description
0	No symptoms on the leaf
1	0-5 percent leaf area infected and covered by spot
2	6-20 percent leaf area infected and covered by spot, some spots on petiole
3	21-40 percent leaf area infected and covered by spot, spots also seen on petiole, branches
4	41-70 percent leaf area infected and covered by spot, spots also seen on petiole, braches, stem
5	>71 percent leaf area infected and covered by spot, spots also seen on petiole, branch, stem, fruits

Treatments

Treatment No.	Treatment details	Dose (%)
T ₁	Tebuconazole 25.9 % EC	0.1
T ₂	Propiconazole 25%EC	0.1
T ₃	Carbendazim 12% + Mancozeb 63 % WP	0.15
T ₄	Mancozeb 75%WP	0.25
T ₅	Copper oxychloride 50 % WP	0.30
T ₆	<i>Pseudomonas fluorescens</i>	0.25
T ₇	<i>Trichoderma viridae</i>	0.25
T ₈	Control	-

Table.1 Evaluation of fungicides and bio agents against *A. solani* by food poison technique and dual culture technique after 7 days of inoculation (*In vitro*)

Fungicides and bioagents	Dose (%)	Radial growth (mm)	Per cent inhibition (%)
Food poison technique (Fungicides)			
Tebuconazole 25.9 % EC	0.1	0	100
Propiconazole 25%EC	0.1	6	90.26
Carbendazim 12% + Mancozeb 63 % WP	0.15	11.83	80.81
Mancozeb 75 %WP	0.25	7.66	87.57
Copper Oxychloride 50 % WP	0.30	36.66	40.54
Dual Culture (bioagents)			
<i>Pseudomonas fluorescens</i>	-	50	18.91
<i>Trichodermaviride</i>	-	32.5	47.29
Control	-	61.66	-
SEm+		1.12	
CD at 5%		3.41	
CV		7.58	

Table.2 Evaluation of fungicides and bio agents against *Alternaria solani* (In vivo)

SI. NO	Treatments	Dose (%)	PDI	PDC	Yield q/ha	% Increase in yield over control
1	Tebuconazole 25.9 % EC	0.1	14.22* (22.15)**	73.50	216.20	100.37
2	Propiconazole 25% EC	0.1	17.55* (24.64)**	67.30	213.97	98.30
3	Carbendazim 12% + Mancozeb 63 % WP	0.15	22.21* (28.10)	58.62	164.63	52.57
4	Mancozeb 75 % WP	0.25	19.99* (26.45)**	62.76	178.20	65.15
5	Copper oxychloride 50 % WP	0.30	26.66* (31.08)**	50.33	162.17	50.29
6	<i>Pseudomonas fluorescens</i>	0.25	34.88* (36.19)**	35.02	128.13	18.74
7	<i>Trichoderma viride</i>	0.25	19.55* (26.11)**	63.58	179.93	66.75
8	Control	-	53.68* (47.17)**	-	107.90	-
9	SEm±		3.06* (1.97)**		13.43	
10	CD at 5%		9.38* (5.73)**		39.09	
11	CV		20.34* (11.28)**		13.78	

* Mean of three replications

** Figure in parenthesis are transformed (angular) values

Fig.1 *In vitro* evaluation of fungicides and bio agents against *A. solani* by food poison technique and dual culture

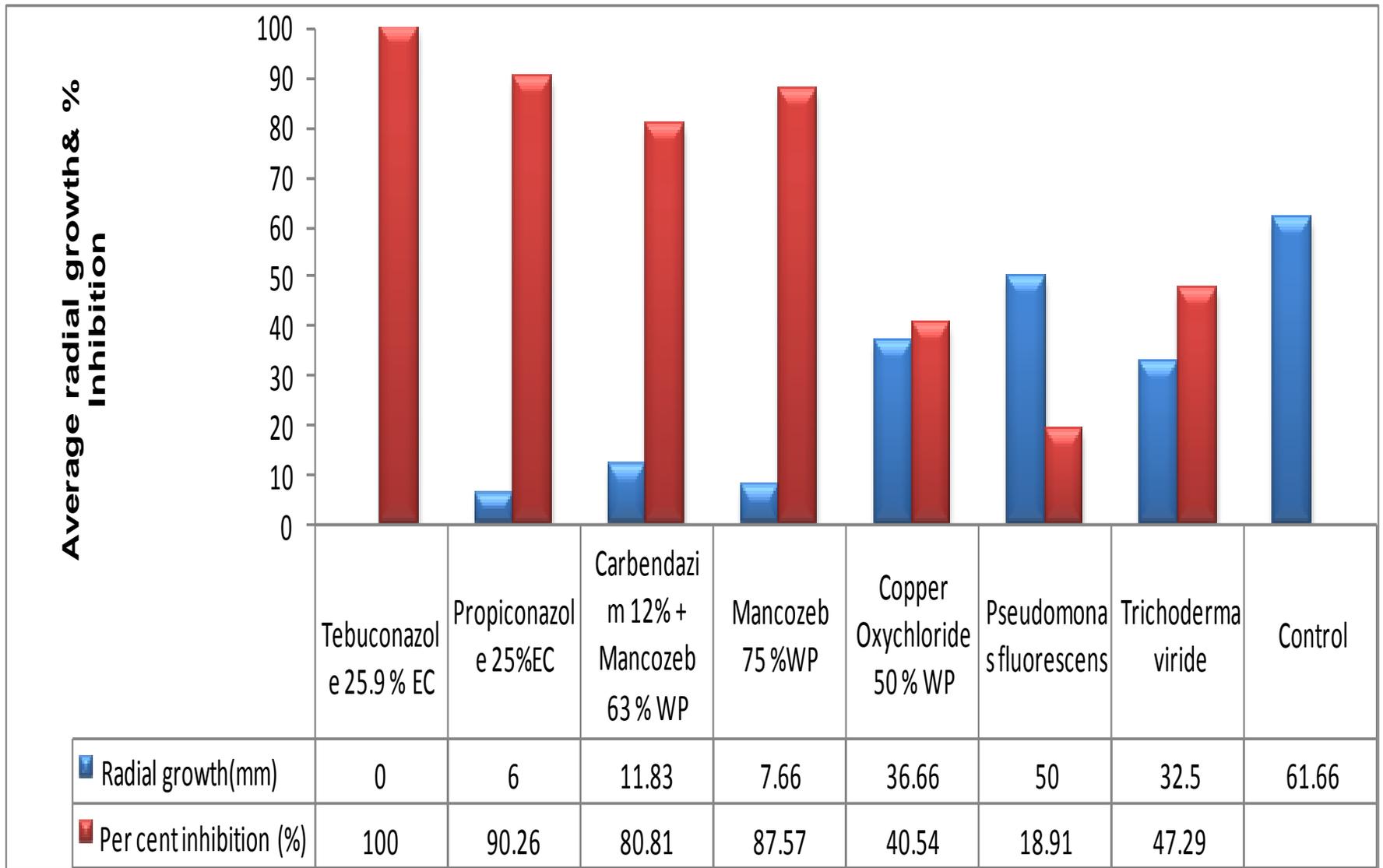
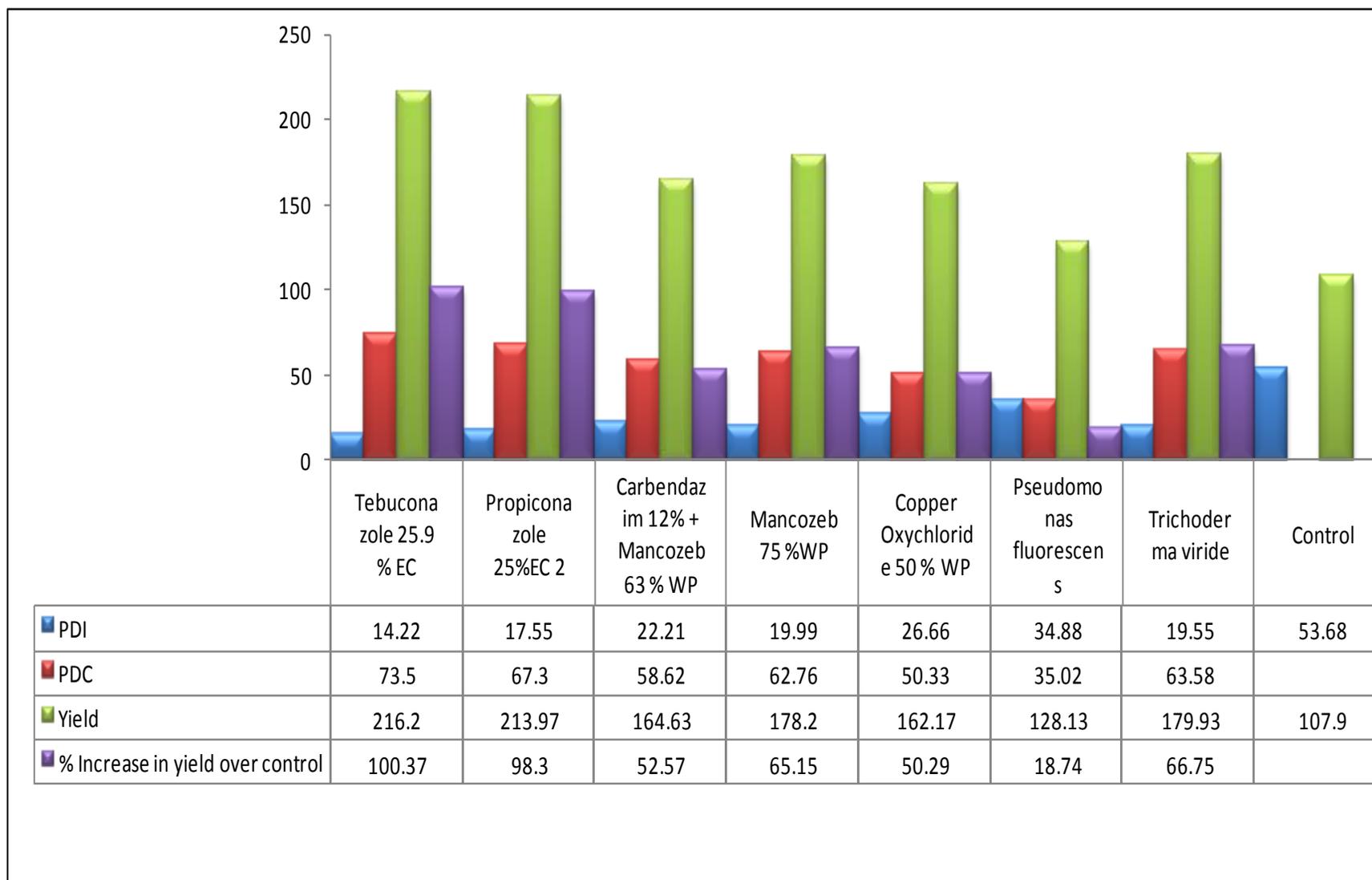
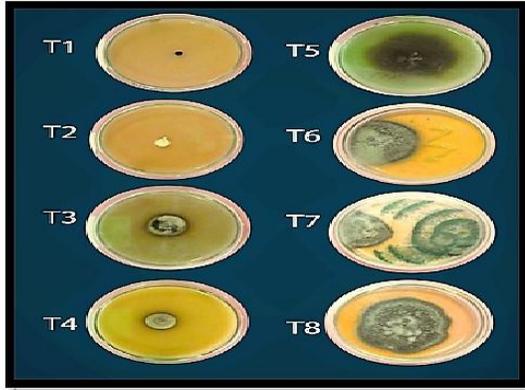


Fig.2 *In vivo* evaluation of fungicides and bio agents against *Alternaria solani*





A. Food poison and Dual culture technique



B. 0-5 description scale

Treatment No.	Treatment details	Treatment No.	Treatment details
T ₁	Tebuconazole	T ₅	Copper oxychloride
T ₂	Propiconazole	T ₆	<i>Pseudomonas fluorescens</i>
T ₃	Carbendazim + Mancozeb	T ₇	<i>Trichoderma viride</i>
T ₄	Mancozeb	T ₈	Control



C. 30 days old nursery



D. Necrotic and concentric spots on stem



E. Necrotic and concentric spots on leaf



F. Necrotic and concentric spots on fruit

The data on PDI of early blight was recorded by the using of 0-5 scale (Plate. B) 15 days after two consecutive sprays of fungicides at 15 days interval (Table 2). The data on disease intensity showed that all the tested fungicides reduce the disease intensity significantly as compared to untreated control. It is revealed from the data presented in (Table 2 and Fig. 2) that there was significant difference in per cent disease intensity during 2018-19. The minimum per cent disease intensity and maximum per cent disease control was observed in plot treated with Tebuconazole 25.9 % EC @ 0.1 % (14.22% and 73.50%) with maximum fruit yield (216.20q ha⁻¹) followed by spraying of Propiconazole 25%EC @ 0.1% (17.55% and 67.30%) with (213.97q ha⁻¹), spraying of Mancozeb 75% WP @ 0.25 % (19.99 and 62.76%) with (178.20q ha⁻¹), spraying of Carbendazim 12% + Mancozeb 63 % WP @ 0.15 % (22.21% and 58.62%) with (164.63q ha⁻¹) and spraying of Copper Oxychloride 50 % WP @ 0.30% (26.66% and 50.33) with (162.17q ha⁻¹), after two consecutive sprays at 15 days interval. In pooled data, all the treatments were significantly produced lower per cent disease intensity as compared to control. Among the bio control agents minimum PDI and maximum PDC was observed in plot treated with *Trichoderma viride* @ 0.25% (19.55% and 63.58%) with fruit yield (179.93q ha⁻¹), followed by *Pseudomonas fluorescens* @ 0.25% (34.88% and 35.02) with fruit yield (128.13q ha⁻¹). Thus, application of Tebuconazole 25.9 % EC @ 0.1 % found better for management of early blight during the course of investigation in tomato followed by Propiconazole 25 EC @ 0.1 %, Mancozeb 75% WP @ 0.25 %, Carbendazim 12% + Mancozeb 63 % WP @ 0.15 % and Copper Oxychloride 50 % WP @ 0.30% and among the bio control agents *Trichoderma viride* @ 0.25% was found better for management of early blight than *Pseudomonas fluorescens* @ 0.25%. These

results are in congruently with the results obtained by earlier research workers, Yadav *et al.*, (2018) against *Alternaria solani* causing early blight of tomato. While Sharma *et al.*, (2018) the lowest percent disease intensity (PDI) was observed in Carbendazim 12 % + Mancozeb 63 % WP @ 0.2 % (18.77%) with highest yield (35257 kg/ha) followed by Difenconazole 25 EC @ 0.025 % (20.59) and Propiconazole.

In conclusion, all the evaluated fungicides and bioagents are showed significant effect against *Alternaria* leaf blight of tomato under *In vitro* and *In vivo*. But Tebuconazole 25.9% EC @ 0.1%, Propiconazole 25% EC @ 0.1% and among tested bioagents *Trichoderma viridae* have shown highly suppression of *Alternaria solani* both in lab and field conditions.

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How to cite this article:

Raavi Sreenivasulu, M. Surya Prakash Reddy, D.S. Tomar, M. Subhash Sri Sanjay and Bharath Bushan Reddy. 2019. Managing of Early Blight of Tomato Caused by *Alternaria solani* through Fungicides and Bioagents. *Int.J.Curr.Microbiol.App.Sci*. 8(06): 1442-1452.
doi: <https://doi.org/10.20546/ijcmas.2019.806.175>