

RESEARCH NOTE

Efficacy of new fungitoxicant molecules in management of anthracnose (*Colletotrichum gloeosporioides* Penz.) of arecanut (*Areca catechu* L.)

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ABSTRACT

Dropping of immature arecanut due to anthracnose was reduced (15.55 %) by application of difenconazole @ 0.1 per cent twice during April and May, 2009. Hexaconazole @ 0.1% application twice was also effective in reduction (18.88 %) of anthracnose of arecanut during summer. This was followed by Carbendazim + Mancozeb (Saff) @0.2 % application twice wherein there was reduction of disease 23.32 %. Carbendazim @ 0.1% spraying twice also minimized (26.66%) button dropping of arecanut. However, Copper oxychloride @ 0.3% twice (35.55 %) and Potassium phosphonate @ 0.3% (38.88 %) twice were less effective in control of the disease. Maximum disease incidence was recorded in untreated bunches (55.55 per cent).

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Arecanut is extensively chewed as masticatory nut and used in also several religious, social ceremonies and medicinal purpose. It is widely used in South, South East Asia and Pacific Ocean islands. Arecanut is an important plantation crop in Western Ghats of Uttara Kannda district of Karnataka. It is cultivated naturally in valley condition as multistoried cropping system along with black pepper, cardamom, nutmeg, banana, colocasia, ginger, turmeric etc.

The crop is affected by a number of diseases wherein

anthracnose of arecanut causing huge loss by way of nut dropping during summer months *i.e.*, February to May and resulted in low fruit set in areca palms (Anonymous, 1971). Saraswathy *et al.* (1977) reported that about 60 per cent of the palms were affected by *Colletotrichum gloeosporioides* Penz. Present investigation was taken up to know the response of systemic and non-systemic fungicide and their combinations to combat the disease as there is meagre literature available.

The experiment was conducted in farmers' plantation of