

Management of major insect pests of pearl millet under organic cultivation

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ABSTRACT

A field experiment was conducted at Pearl millet Research Station, Junagadh Agricultural University, Jamnagar during *Kharif* 2016 to 2018 to find out the effective and economical control measures against the major insect pests in pearl millet for organic cultivation. The bio-efficacy of different bio-pesticides viz., HaNPV (6×10^9 POB/ml) @ 250 LE/ha, *Bacillus thuringiensis var kurstaki* @ 5% WP @ 0.01 %, *Beauveria bassiana* 1.15 WP (2×10^6 cfu/g) @ 5g/lit, *Lecanicillium lecanii* 1.15 WP (2×10^6 cfu/g) 5g/lit and NSKE 5 per cent were evaluated against the major insect pests in pearl millet crop. The treatment of *B. bassiana* 1.15 WP (2×10^6 cfu/g) @ 5g/l recorded the least incidence of shoot fly (7.2%) and stem borer (5.36%) at earhead stage of the crop. Whereas, in case of ear head worm *Helicoverpa armigera*, treatment of HaNPV (6×10^9 POB/ml) @ 250 LE/ha recorded the lowest larval population (5.78 larvae /20 ear heads) and it was at par with *B. thuringiensis* @ 1.0 kg/ha (8.36 larvae /20 ear heads) and *B. bassiana* @ 5g/l (9.87 larvae /20 ear heads). The treatment of *B. bassiana* @ 5g/l also recorded the highest grain yield (1727 kg/ha) followed by HaNPV @ 250 LE/ha (1490 kg/ha).

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