

Review Article

Current status of web blight of mung bean

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Introduction

Pulses in India have been considered as the poor man's only source of protein. Pulses are grown in 22-23 million hectares of area with an annual production of 13-15 million tonnes (mt). India accounts for 33 per cent of the world area and 22 per cent of the world production of pulses. Among the pulses mungbean [*Vigna radiata* (L.) Wilczek] also known as green gram or golden gram is one of the most important short duration pulse crops of India and Grown in *Kharif*, spring and summer seasons. It is cultivated on 3.77 million hectares produced 1.52 million tonnes of grains (Anonymous, 2000). Mungbean mainly grown in Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.

Even with the best efforts, mungbean production and productivity has been stagnant due to mungbean is attacked by more than one disease and pest at a time. These are responsible for heavy yield reduction and contribute substantially in instability of production of the crop. Mungbean suffers seriously from several viral and fungal diseases. Among these Mungbean Yellow Mosaic Virus (MYMV), *Cercospora* leaf spot (CLS), Web blight and Anthracnose are the important diseases.

Geographical distribution :

Web blight is one of the major constraints in the production of many pulses in warm humid tropic zones of the world. On mungbean *Rhizoctonia* blight was reported for the first time from Philippines (Nacien, 1924) in 1924. Alam *et al.* (1985) reported occurrence of web blight of mungbean in Pakistan.

In India first report of its occurrence on mungbean was given by Dwivedi and Saksena (1974) from Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh subsequently; this disease has also been reported from Assam (Saikia, 1976), Punjab (Bains *et al.*, 1988), Madhya Pradesh (Tiwari and Khare, 1998), Bihar, Rajasthan, Haryana, Himanchal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir (Anonymous, 2004).

The disease has been known to occur in India on other leguminous crops like black gram (Saxena, 1973 and Sharma and Tripathi, 2001); pigeonpea (Dwivedi and Saksena, 1975); Cowpea (Dwivedi, 1977 and Lakshman *et al.*, 1979) Soybean (Verma and Thapliyal, 1976); Groundnut (Dwivedi and Dubey, 1986) and ricebean (Jalali, 1989).

Economic importance :

In 1976 Saikia gave an account of the incidence and etiology of blight of *Phaseolus aureus* (*Vigna radiata*) resulting into about 30 per cent plant mortality. However,