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IDRC-MR252e February 1990

## OIL CROPS: PROCEEDINGS OF THE THREE MEETINGS HELD AT PANTNAGAR AND HYDERABAD, INDIA, 4-17 JANUARY 1989

1. The Brassica Subnetwork-II

2. The Other Oil Crops Subnetwork-I

3. The Oil Crops Network Steering Committee-I

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# CONTENTS

| Foreword             | v  |
|----------------------|----|
| List of Participants | vi |
| Introduction         | xi |

# Part 1. Brassica Subnetwork-II

| Opening Remarks. MAHATIM SINGH  | 2        |
|---|----------|
| Recent Development in Oilseed Brassicas. R.K.DOWNEY                         | 4        |
| The Interinstitutional Collaborative Research Program on White Rust         |          |
| (Albugo candida) Between India (ICAR) and Canada (IDRC) for                 |          |
| Rapeseed-Mustard Improvement. P.R.VERMA                                     | 9        |
| Stability Parameters for Seed Characters In Different Species of            |          |
| Oleiferous Brassica. H.SINGH, D.SINGH, and V.S. LATHER                      | 14       |
| Oilseed Brassica Research in India. P.R.KUMAR                               | 17       |
| Transfer of Technology and On-farm Trials of Rapeseed and Mustard.          |          |
| BASUDEO SINGH   | 24       |
| Status of Breeding Research on brassica Oil Crops at Pantnagar. India.      |          |
| G.N. SACHAN   | 30       |
| Agronomic Investigations on Rapeseed and Mustard at Pantnagar, ARVIND       |          |
| KUMAR and R.P. SINGH  | 35       |
| Disease Problems in Brassicas and Research Activities at Pantnagar.         |          |
| S.J.KOLTE. R.P.AWASTHI and VISHWANATH                                       | 43       |
| Effect of Some Epidemiological Factors on Occurrence and Severity of        | • =      |
| Alternaria Blight of Rapeseed and Mustard, R.P. AWASTHI and                 |          |
| S.J.KOLTE   | 49       |
| Problems of Insect Pests in Brassicas and Research Work at Pantnagar        | -17      |
| G.C.SACHAN  | 54       |
| Economic Performance. Potential and Constraints in Toria Production         |          |
| L.R.SINGH   | 44       |
| Represent in Fount BODR & FL-AHMAR  | 70       |
| The Role of High-Vielding Variaties and Production Techniques               | 70       |
| On Dileged Brassica Performance in the Control South-Eastern                |          |
| and North-Western Zonos of Ethionia, HIGHV PELAVNEL CETINET                 |          |
| ALEMAN and NIGUSSIE ALEMAYER  | 70       |
| The Achievements and Eutune of Practice in Kenve M I MAUACI                 | 7⊈<br>70 |
| Represent Adaptation Trials in Commun. A MADIICUBISTOROUT OU                | 7 / 7    |
| The Represed (Reaction Franks / ) Quality Recording Recorded in Characteria | 00       |
| Academy of Amicultural Sciences (SAAS) for Depart Veryn                     |          |
| PLACENTY OF HERICUITURAL SCIENCES (SHH5/ TOP RECENT TEARS,                  | -        |
| Statement on the Everytics of the Size Creative Decement Ducedian           | 92       |
| Statement on the Execution of the Sino-Lanadian Rapeseed Breeding           | <b>.</b> |
| A Publicianu Chudu an the Cartinian Atility a the iterian of the            | 94       |
| A Freilminary Study on the Lombining Ability and Heritability of Main       |          |
| HYPOHOMIC CHARACTERS IN <i>B. JUNCEA.</i> WANG ZAU MU and<br>WANG YAN FEI   |          |
| WHIND THIN FEI Cian Carl C  | 48       |
| LIL CHENG OUTHOR and HONO HAT STHO  | 107      |
| сто смемо фотмо and MONG MAI PING   | 103      |

| A Review of Orobanche Problem in Nepal. M.L.JAYASWAL                | 106 |
|---|-----|
| Oil Crops in Bhutan. TAYAN RAJ GURUNG                               | 119 |
| Brassica Production and Research in Pakistan. REHMAT ULLAH KHAN and |     |
| MASOOD A.RANA   | 127 |
| Summary and Wrap-up for Brassica Sub-Network Meeting. HUGH DOGGETT  | 130 |
| Report on a Tour to Dilseed Brassica Growing Areas of India.        |     |
| GETINET ALEMAW  | 136 |
| Discussions and Recommendations                                     | 138 |

# Part 2. Other Dilcrops Subnetwork-I

| Safflower Research and Coordination in India. V.RANGA RAD             | 144          |
|---|--------------|
| India from January 9-13, 1989. V.RANGA RAO                            | 147          |
| Jappovement in India MANGALA RAI                                      | 149          |
| Safflower Research in Fighties in Madhva Pradesh (India). A.R.SAWANT  | 154          |
| Nigerseed in India: Present Status of Cultivation, Research           |              |
| Achievements and Strategies. S.M.SHARMA                               | 159          |
| Constraints and Opportunities for Increasing the Production and       |              |
| Productivity of Niger in India. S.M.SHARMA                            | 166          |
| New Potential Areas of Niger in India. S.M.SHARMA                     | 169          |
| Present Production, Research and Future Strategy for Niger in         |              |
| Maharashtra. A.V.JOSHI  | 171          |
| Niger in Tribal Bihar. H.B.P.TRIVEDI                                  | 176          |
| Cultivation and Varietal Improvement of Linseed in India. R.N.DUBEY . | 180          |
| Agronomic Management/Agro-Techniques for Improving Production of      |              |
| Niger and Linseed. G.L.MISHRA   | 186          |
| The Present Status of Niger and Linseed Pathology Work in India.      | 100          |
| G.S.SAHARAN   | 207          |
| Country Paper on Other Oilcrops in Bangladesh. M.A.KHALEQUE and       | 203          |
| DILRUBA BEGUM   | 208          |
| Country Report on Linseed and Safflower in Pakistan. MASOOD A.RANA,   |              |
| MOHAMMAD SHARI, and ALTAF H.CHAUDHRY                                  | 213          |
| Present Status of Safflower in Egypt. BADR A. EL-AHMAR                | 218          |
| Progress in Linseed On-station and On-farm Research in Ethiopia.      |              |
| HIRUY BELAYNEH, NIGUSSIE ALEMAYEHU and GELINET ALEMAW                 | 220          |
| Investigations on Some Biochemical Unaracteristics of Nigerseeds      | 220          |
| (GUIZOTIA ADYSSINICA CASS), GENNEN ALEMAW AND MIROT BELATNER          | 227<br>977   |
| The Status of Lingood, Safflower and Nigon Research and Production in | ،<br>مەربىيە |
| Kenva T C BIUNGU  | 238          |
| Summary and Wrap-up for Other Dilcrops Sub-Network Meeting.           |              |
| HUGH DOGGETT  | 241          |
| Discussions and Recommendations                                       | 248          |
|   |              |

.

# Part 3. Dilcrops Network Steering Committee-1

| The Oilcrops Network for East Africa and South Asia, Achievements and  |     |
|--|-----|
| Future. ABBAS OMRAN  | 256 |
| Recent Developments in The Oil Crops Network and the ORU. HUGH DOGGETT | 265 |
| IBMOR S New Concept for the Conservation and Utilization of Germplasm; |     |
| GIODAI LTOP NETWORKS. J.M.M.ENGELS                                     | 212 |
| Technology Mission on Uilcrops for Self-Reliance in Vegetable Oils in  |     |
| India. MANGALA RAI   | 274 |
| Dilseeds Research in India: Network, Its Set Up, Organization, Past    |     |
| Achievements and Current Research Thrusts. V.RANGA RAD                 | 283 |
| Groundnut and the Oilcrops Network. S.N.NIGAM                          | 286 |
| Dilcrops Production in Ethiopia Current Status and Future Prospects.   |     |
| SEME DEBELA  | 288 |
| The Vegetable Oil/Protein System in Kenya Summary Report-Phase 1.      |     |
| C.ZULBERTI and J.LUGOGO  | 293 |
| Brassica Sub-Network Achievements and Activites, 1987-88.              |     |
| HIRLY BELAYNEH   | 320 |
| The Present Situation and Main Achievements of Sesame Production in    |     |
| East Africa MOHAMMED EL-HASSAN AHMED                                   | 324 |
| Constituion of the Dil Change Network (Second Duaft) MAGDOD A BANA and | ·   |
| ADDAC OMDAN  | 770 |
|  | 000 |

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### EFFECT OF SOME EPIDEMIOLOGICAL FACTORS ON OCCURRENCE AND SEVERITY OF ALTERNARIA BLIGHT OF RAPESEED AND MUSTARD

R.P. Awasthi and S.J. Kolte

#### <u>Abstract</u>

Correlations between weather factors and severity of Alternaria blight (AB) on rapeseed yellow sarson cv T-151 and mustard cv Varuna (T-59) were established based on the data obtained over a seven-year crop period (1980-1987). Relative humidity (>67%), total rainy days (>6), rainfall (>70mm) and minimum temperature  $(7-10^{\circ} \text{C})$  concomitant with maximum temperature  $(20-23^{\circ} \text{C})$  were found to be positively correlated (r = 0.511-0.805) with AB severity on leaves, whereas the former two factors only showed significant positive correlation (r = 0.758 and 0.962) for the spread of pod infection. Relative humidity below 67% was less conducive for a severe development of the disease. The prediction equations for AB severity were derived by regression analysis. The severity of AB was found to be favoured by the above weather factors beyond 30 days of age and the increase in age was positively correlated (r = 0.777-0.980) with the increase in the susceptibility of the crop; the maximum leaf disease severity being at rosette to flowering stage of the crop.

Alternaria blight of rapeseedmustard is a disease of economic importance in India (2). It occurs quite regularly every year during the crop season (October to March) resulting in 35-46% yield loss (3). In certain cultivars of yellow sarson, the loss in yield may go to the extent of 70%. Though effects fungicidal sprays, planting of dates, etc. have been studied on control of the disease, basic with respect to information epidemiological factors оп severity of occurrence and the well not been disease have present documented. The investigation deals with the study of some weather factors and the of plant the effect age on development of the disease. The results obtained over seven-year (1980-1987) crop season are presented herein.

#### Materials and Methods

#### 1. <u>Growing of the Brassicaspecies</u> and the field layout

Two susceptible Brassica species viz., B. juncea cv T-59 (Varuna) and B. campestris var yellow sarson cv T-151 along with four other exotic Brassica species (B. alba, B. carinata, B. juncea and B.

napus) were grown at the Crop Research Centre, Pantnagar, in seven consecutive crop seasons 1986-87). (from 1980-81 to Randomized block design using 3 x 4 m plot size with four replications was followed each year. The sowing was done in rows spaced at 40 cm distance keeping plant-to-plant spacing at 15 cm. A distance of 1.5 m was maintained between plots and replications. Nitrogen @ 100 kg/ha was applied along with phosphorus (40 kg/ha) and potash (40 kg/ha). The sowing was done in the middle of October in 1982 and 1986 and in the last week of October in the other five crop seasons. Other agronomic practices including irrigation, etc. were weeding, followed whenever needed to proper growth. The maintain the crop was protected against aphid infestation by a spray of Metasystox @ 0.1%

#### 2. <u>Recording the AB severity</u>

Average disease severity on leaf and pod was taken separately at weekly interval using 0-5 rating scale which is given in Table 1.

Twenty five leaves/pods were collected randomly from each plot and rated. The disease index was then calculated using the formula: Disease index (%) = Sum of all numerical ratings x 100

25 x 5

Table 1. Rating scale used to measure AB disease severity.

|              | Area covered by spots (%) |             |  |  |  |
|--------------|---------------------------|-------------|--|--|--|
| Rating Scale | Leaf                      | Pod         |  |  |  |
| 0            | No symptoms               | No symptoms |  |  |  |
| 1            | 1-10                      | 1-10        |  |  |  |
| 2            | 11-25                     | 11-20       |  |  |  |
| 3            | 26-50                     | 21-30       |  |  |  |
| 4            | 51-75                     | 31-50       |  |  |  |
| 5            | > 75                      | > 50        |  |  |  |

3. <u>Studying the relationship of</u> weather factors associated with the development of AB

Final severity of AB on middle leaf (on the main stem) referred to as Y, and on pod (on the main raceme) referred to as  $\boldsymbol{Y}_2$  in different crop seasons were pooled together cultivar-wise and correlated with the meteorological factors viz., mean maximum (x<sub>1</sub>) and mean minimum (x,) temperatures, per cent relative humidity  $(x_3)$ , total rainfall  $(x_3)$ , total number of rainy days  $(x_5)$  and sunshine hours/day  $(x_k)$  recorded for the period between the 5th and the 15th week after sowing for leaf infection and for the period between the 10th and the 18th week after sowing for pod infection. The correlation coefficient (r) between the average disease index and weather factors was computed as per the method given by (5). Similarly the predicted mean disease severity index "y" equation  $(Y = a + b_1 x_1 + b_2)$  $b_2 \times 2 + \dots + b_6 \times b$  was derived by multiple regression analysis, where "y" denotes the predicted AB severity on leaf  $(Y_1)$  and on pod (Y<sub>2</sub>); "a" denotes the intercept and "b<sub>1</sub>" to "b<sub>0</sub>" denote partial "b1 regression coefficients for x, to x, weather factors. Significance of correlation coefficient (r) and coefficient of determination  $(R^2)$ was followed at 5% level of probability.

#### 4. <u>Computation of apparent</u> <u>infection Rate</u>

Apparent infection rates (ir) were calculated from the AB severity index at different week times of the plant growth using the formula given by:

$$ir = \frac{2.3}{t_2 - t_1} \frac{x_2(1 - x_1)}{x_1(1 - x_2)}$$

where ir = apparent infection rate in non-logarithmic phase;  $x_1$  disease index at initial week time  $t_i$  and  $x_2$  = disease index at subsequent week times  $t_2$ . The apparent infection rates were further used to assess the maximum and minimum infection periods with respect to each crop species in relation to age.

### Results and Discussion

In order to understand the effect of weather factors on the most commonly grown susceptible cultivars of mustard (Varuna) and yellow sarson (T-151), the results obtained with respect to these two only are described below. The results on other *Brassica* species which are not cultivated in India will be described in a separate research article.

#### 1. <u>Leaf infection severity of AB</u> on yellow sarson and mustard

Significant positive correlations (r = 0.764 to 0.804) were observed between AB severity index on the yellow sarson leaf and relative humidity (RH), total rainfall (RF) and minimum temperature (Mi Temp). Similar results were obtained with respect to AB severity on leaf of the mustard (r = 0.725 to 0.805), but the "r" values in respect of the RH and RF factors were nonsignificant, Table 1. The values of the R values revealed that a combined effect of RH, RF and Mi temp accounted for more than 98%. variation in AB severity on leaves of both yellow sarson and mustard, (Table 2). The AB severity prediction equations as derived in the present studies for leaf infection phase in respect of yellow sarson and mustard are given below:

- i. AB leaf infection severity on yellow sarson:
  - $(Y_1) = -49.95 + (B.28 X_2) + (0.12 X_{3)} + (0.85 X_4) + (-0.95 X_5) + (1.13 X_6).$
- ii. AB leaf infection severity on mustard:

 $(Y_1) = 63.78 + (10.80 X_2) +$ 

 $(-2.38 X_3) + (1.19 X_4) + (-2.58 X_5) + (3.64 X_6).$ 

The crops were found to be susceptible to leaf infection phase during rosette to flowering stage when the maximum temperature (Max Temp) ranged between 20 and 23°C and the Mi Temp was in the range of 7-10<sup>°</sup>C with average RH of 67-73% concomitant with total RF of 70mm and sunshine period (SP) of 5-7 h/day, (Fig. 1). Less than 67% RH and less than 7C Mi Temp, irrespective of other favourable factors, did not result in severe the occurrence of leaf infection phase.

Table 1. Relationship of weather factors associated with AB severity on leaves of yellow sarson and mustard, as measured by correlation coefficient (r).

| Brassica  | species         | Max. Temp.<br>( <sup>O</sup> C) | Min. Temp.<br>( <sup>0</sup> C) | R.H.<br>(%) | Total rainfall<br>(mm) | Total rainy<br>days | Sunshine<br>(h/day) |
|-----------|-----------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
|           |                 | X1                              | ×                               | X7          | X                      | <u>X 5</u>          | X                   |
| B. campes | tris var.       | 1                               | L                               | 0           | 4                      | 5                   |                     |
| yellow    | sarson cv T-151 | 0.190                           | 0.764*                          | 0.804*      | 0.784*                 | 0.527               | -0.608              |
| B. juncea | cv T-59         | 0.302                           | 0.805*                          | 0.706       | 0.725                  | 0.511               | -0.582              |

\*Significant at 5% level of probability.

Table 2.  $\mathbb{R}^2$  values of different stepwise multiple regression equations for prediction of AB severity on leaves (Y<sub>1</sub>) of yellow sarson and mustard.

| Sta       | epwise predication equations  | R <sup>2</sup>    |
|-----------|---|-------------------|
| <u>B.</u> | campestris var yellow sarson cv T-151:  |                   |
| 1.        | $Y_1 = a + b_{\tau} x_{\tau}$   | 0.65*             |
| 2.        | $Y_1 = a + b + x + b + x_2$   | 0.79*             |
| 3.        | $Y_{1} = a + b_{7} x_{7} + b_{9} x_{9} + b_{8} x_{8}$   | 0 <b>.99</b> *    |
| 4.        | $Y_1 = a + b_{3} x_{3} + b_{5} x_{5} + b_{4} x_{4} + b_{5} x_{5}$   | 0.99*             |
| 5.        | $Y_1 = a + b \frac{3}{3} \frac{x_3}{3} + b \frac{2}{2} \frac{x_2}{2} + b \frac{4}{4} \frac{x_4}{4} + b \frac{5}{5} \frac{x_5}{5} + b \frac{1}{6} \frac{x_6}{6}$ | 0 <b>.99</b> *    |
| <u>B.</u> | juncea cv T-59:   |                   |
| 6.        | $Y_1 = a + b_2 x_2$   | 0.65*             |
| 7.        | $Y_{1} = a + b_{2} x_{2} + b_{4} x_{4}$   | 0.98*             |
| 8.        | $Y_{1}^{T} = a + b_{2}^{T} x_{2}^{T} + b_{A} x_{A}^{T} + b_{z} x_{z}$   | 0.98*             |
| 9.        | $Y_{1} = a + b_{2} x_{2} + b_{4} x_{4} + b_{7} x_{7} + b_{5} x_{5}$   | 0 <b>.99</b> *    |
| 10        | $Y_{1}^{*} = a + b_{2}^{*} x_{2}^{*} + b_{4} x_{4}^{*} + b_{3}^{*} x_{3}^{*} + b_{5}^{*} x_{5}^{*} + b_{6}^{*} x_{6}^{*}$                                       | 0.99 <del>*</del> |

#Significant at 5%.



### 2. <u>Pod infection severity of AB\_on</u> <u>yellow sarson and mustard</u>

Total rainy days (TRD) (r = 0.962)and 0.758, respectively) showed significant positive correlation with AB development on pods of yellow sarson and mustard, (Table 3). When TRD was included in the prediction equation for yellow sarson, the value of R<sup>2</sup> was more than 93%, (Table 4), indicating, there by, that AB severity on yellow sarson pods was mainly influenced by the frequency of TRD

during the time from flowering to yellow pod stage of the crop. But in the case of mustard, R<sub>2</sub>values for RH showed maximum<sup>-</sup> (57%) variation suggesting, thereby, the importance of RH factor in pod infection of mustard. Thus it is concluded that high frequency of TRD and RH appear to be more important factors for the spread of AB infection on pods, (Fig. 2). Similar results have been reported under the Punjab (1) and West Bengal (4) conditions.

Table 3. Relationship of weather factors associated with AB severity on pods of yellow sarson and mustard as measured by correlation coefficient (r).

| Brassica species       | Max. Temp.        | Min. Temp.        | R.H.       | Total rainfall | Total rainy    | Sunshine   |
|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------|----------------|----------------|------------|
|                        | ( <sup>0</sup> C) | ( <sup>0</sup> C) | (%)        | (mm)           | days           | (h/day)    |
| B. campestris var.     | <u></u> 1         | <u></u> 2         | <u>×</u> 3 | X              | <u> </u>       | <u>×</u> 6 |
| yellow sarson cv T-151 | -0.635            | -0.001            | 0.645      | 0.590          | 0 <b>.962*</b> | -0.324     |
| B. juncea cv T-59      | -0.387            | 0.334             | 0.758*     | 0.144          | 0.670          | -0.511     |

\*Significant at 5%.

Table 4.  $R^2$  values of different stepwise multiple regression equations for prediction of AB severity on pods ( $Y_2$ ) of yellow sarson and mustard.

| Stepwise predication equations   | R <sup>2</sup>    |  |
|--|-------------------|--|
| B. campestris var yellow sarson cv T-151:  |                   |  |
| 1. $Y_2 = a + b_5 x_5$   | 0.93*             |  |
| 2. $Y_2 = a + b_5 x_5 + b_1 x_1$   | 0.94#             |  |
| 3. $Y_2^2 = a + b_5 x_5 + b_1 x_1 + b_4 x_4$   | 0.98*             |  |
| B. juñcea cv T-59  |                   |  |
| 4. $Y_{2} = a + b_{x} x_{z}$   | 0.57 <del>*</del> |  |
| 5. $Y_{2}^{-} = a + b_{x} x_{x} + b_{y} x_{1}$                                       | 0.66*             |  |
| 6. $Y_2 = a + b_x x_x + b_1 x_1 + b_5 x_5$   | 0.91*             |  |
| 7. $Y_2 = a + b_3 x_3 + b_1 x_1 + b_5 x_5 + b_3 x_3$                                 | 0 <b>.99</b> #    |  |
| 8. $Y_2^2 = a + b_3^2 x_3^2 + b_1^1 x_1^1 + b_5^2 x_5^2 + b_2^2 x_2^2 + b_6^2 x_6^2$ | 0 <b>.99</b> *    |  |

\*Significant at 5%.

Keeping other factors constant, sunshine period (h/day) showed negative correlation with AB severity in the present study. The prediction equation for pod infection in respect of yellow sarson and mustard are given below.

i. AB infection severity on

yellow sarson pod:  $(Y_2) = 16.18 + (3.75 X_1) + (3.52 X_5) + (-4.23 X_2).$ ii. AB infection severity on mustard pod:  $(Y_1) = -316.24 + (10.84 Y_1).$ 

$$(Y_2) = -316.24 + (10.84 X_1) + -4,29 X_2) + (2,76 X_3) + (2.38 X_5) + (-2.62 X_5).$$



## 3. <u>Relationship between age of the</u> plant and susceptiblity to AB

Plant age showed high degree of singificant positive correlation with AB severity on leaf (r = 0.777to 0.850) as well as on pod (r = 0.980 to 0.938). Maximum apparent infection rate (ir = 0.763) on leaf was observed between 10 and 12 weeks after sowing in the case of yellow sarson and mustard, indicating thereby the maximum susceptibility of the plants, beyond 60-90 days after sowing. Young plants, less than 30 days of age, did not show development of symptoms on the leaf under field conditions.

This suggests that with increase in the age beyond 30 days, the susceptiblity of the crop increases and becomes at its peak at 60-90 days. This information, thus, becomes a useful guide for time of application of the fungicides for maximum efficacy of the fungicidal
control.

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