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To study the field efficacy of certain chemicals and neem oil against shoot and fruit borer *Earias vittella* (Fabricius) on okra

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Abstract

The field trial was conducted at Central Research Field, Department of Entomology, Naini Agricultural Institute, Sam Higginbottom University of Agriculture, Technology and Sciences, Prayagraj during kharif season 2021 investigation entitled “To study the field efficacy of certain chemicals and neem oil against shoot and fruit borer *Earias vittella* (Fabricius) on okra” Seven treatments were evaluated against, *Earias vittella* i.e., T₁ Spinosad 45% SC, T₂ Lambda-cyhalothrin 2.5 EC, T₃ Flubendiamide 480 SC, T₄ Profenophos 50 EC, T₅ Neem oil 0.03% EC T₆ Emamectin benzoate 5% SG, T₇ Cypermethrin 25% EC and T₈ Control. When the benefit cost ratio was worked out, interesting results were achieved. Among the treatments studied the best and most economical treatment was T₁ Spinosad 45% SC (1:6.05), T₃ Flubendiamide 480 SC (1:4.68), T₇ Cypermethrin 25% EC (1:4.64), T₂ Lambda-cyhalothrin 2.5 EC (1:4.50), T₆ Emamectin benzoate 5% SG (1:4.32), T₄ Profenophos 50 EC (1:3.97) and T₅ Neem oil (1:3.47) as compared to T₀ control (1:3.08).

Keywords: Benefit cost ratio, *Earias vittella*, insecticide, Okra shoot and fruit borer

Introduction

Okra (Lady finger or bhendi), *Abelmoschus esculentus* (L.) Moench is cultivated in India mainly for its immature fruits. Okra fruits have nutritious as well as dietary value. Though, it is mainly used as a fresh vegetable, it is also consumed as canned, dehydrated or frozen forms (Schippers, 2002).

Among vegetables, it occupies an important position and is grown extensively throughout India. In Uttar Pradesh, okra grown in an area of 11.6 thousand hectare with the production of 131.2 thousand tonnes per hectare (Indian Horticultural Database, 2011).

The crop, however, is vulnerable to attack of important insect pests, among which fruit borer *Earias vittella* (Fabricius) is the most important pest causing direct damage to marketable fruits. It alone is reported to cause 57.1 per cent fruit infestation and 54.04 per cent net yield loss in okra (Chaudhary and Dadheech, 1989).

Earias vittella damage to okra crop is done by two ways. First, the terminal portion of growing shoots is bored by caterpillars, which move down by making tunnels inside. As a result, the shoot drops downward or dries up. Second, the larvae enter the fruit by making holes, rendering them unfit for human consumption. According to an estimate this pest can cause 36-90% loss in fruit yield of okra (Misra *et al.*, 2002) [5].

The total area and production under okra in the world is reported to be 1.26 million ha and 22.29 million tonnes, respectively. It is mainly grown in India, Nigeria, Sudan, Pakistan, Ghana, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Mexico and Cameroon. India ranks first in okra production 5784.0 thousand tonnes (72% of total world production) having area of 1148.0 thousand hectares with an annual production of 6346 million tonnes and productivity of 11.9 million tonnes/ha. The crop is grown throughout India, Andhra Pradesh is the leading okra producing state which has production of around 1184.2 thousand tons from an area of 78.90 thousand ha, with a productivity of 15 tons / ha. It is followed by West Bengal (862.1 thousand tonnes from 74.00 thousand ha with 11.70 tonnes/ ha productivity). In Uttar Pradesh area, production and productivity of okra is 12.19 ha, 148.64 tonnes, 12.2 metric tons per hectare (National Horticulture Board 2018-19).

The major okra growing states in India include Andhra Pradesh (20%), West Bengal (15%), Bihar (14%), Orissa (11%), Gujarat (10%), Jharkhand (7%), Maharashtra (4%), Assam (3%) and Haryana (3%) (Anonymous, 2012).

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The sucking pest complex of okra consisting of aphids, leaf hoppers, whiteflies, thrips and mites causes 17.46% yield loss and failure to control them in initial stages was reported to cause 54.04% yield loss (Chaudhary and Daderch, 1989).

Materials and Methods

The present study on, To study the field efficacy of certain chemicals and neem oil against shoot and fruit borer, [*Earias vittella* (Fabricius)] on okra will be conducted under the field condition during Kharif 2021.

Experimental site

The experiment will be conducted during kharif season 2021 at Central Research Field, Department of Entomology, Naini Agricultural Institute, Sam Higginbottom University of Agriculture, Technology and Sciences, Prayagraj, India, in a randomized block design with eight treatments replicated three times using variety GR-51 (green regnum) seeds in a plot size of 2m×2m at a spacing of 45cm × 30cm with a recommended package of practices excluding plant protection. The soil of the experimental site was well drained and medium high.

Climate & Topography

The climate of the experimental site is sub-tropical characterized by normal rainfall. Naini is situated at 25.22°45.1'N North Latitude 81.52°37.44' East Longitude of 95.63 meter above sea level. The climate at Prayagraj is sub-tropical which prevails in the eastern part of U.P. The extremes of both summer and winter are experienced while the minimum temperature in winter may 4 °C and the maximum temperature reaches up to 45 °C in summer.

Method of Recording Observation

Efficacy of treatments

The population of okra shoot and fruit borer was recorded before 1- day spraying and on 3rd day, 7th day and 14th day after insecticidal application. The populations of okra shoot and fruit borer was recorded on 5 randomly selected and tagged plants from each plot and then it was converted into per cent of infestation by following formula.

On Shoot

At each picking the total number of shoots and number of shoots infested of five selected plants from each treatment replication wise was recorded.

$$\% \text{ Shoot infestation} = \frac{\text{No. of shoot infested}}{\text{Total no. of shoot}} \times 100$$

On Fruit

At each picking the total number of fruits and number of fruits infested of five selected plants from each treatment replication wise was recorded.

$$\text{Fruit infestation} = \frac{\text{No. of fruit infested}}{\text{Total no. of fruit}} \times 100$$

Treatments No.	Treatments	Dosages Gm/ml/lit
T ₁	Spinosad 45% SC	0.3-0.4ml/lit
T ₂	Lambda-cyhalothrin 2.5 EC	0.5-1ml/lit
T ₃	Flubendiamide 480 SC	0.3ml/lit
T ₄	Profenophos 50 EC	2ml/lit
T ₅	Neem oil 0.03% EC	2ml/lit
T ₆	Emamectin benzoate 5% SG	0.4g/lit
T ₇	Cypermethrin 25% EC	2ml/lit
T ₀	Control	-

Results and Discussion

The results of the experiment entitled, “To study the field efficacy of certain chemicals and neem oil against shoot and fruit borer, *Earias vittella* (Fabricius) on okra” to study cost benefit ratio during Kharif season of 2021. The data so obtained through observation on various aspects were subjected to statistical analysis wherever necessary and the compiled mean data are tabulated in the following pages. Results obtained are presented aspect wise here under.

Shoot infestation

A mong all the treatments lowest per cent shoot, infestation was recorded T₁ Spinosad 45% SC (5.22), T₃ Flubendiamide 480 SC (11.68), T₇ Cypermethrin 25%EC (13.39), T₂ Lambda-cyhalothrin 2.5 EC (16.81), T₆ Emamectin benzoate5%SG (17.44), T₄ Profenophos 50 EC (19.25) and T₅ Neem oil (20.67) is found to be least effective than all the treatments and is significantly superior over the control (25.61).

Fruit infestation

The data on the percent infestation of shoot and fruit borer on okra 3rd, 7th and 14th day after second spray revealed that all the chemical treatments were significantly superior over control. A mong all the treatments lowest per cent shoot, infestation was recorded T₁ Spinosad 45% SC (5.85), T₃ Flubendiamide 480 SC (12.37), T₇ Cypermethrin 25%EC (14.57), T₂ Lambda-cyhalothrin 2.5 EC (15.51), T₆ Emamectin benzoate5%SG (16.06), T₄ Profenophos 50 EC (17.43) and T₅ Neem oil (18.63) is found to be least effective than all the treatments and is significantly superior over the control (25.40).

Table 1: To study the field efficacy of certain chemicals and neem oil against shoot and fruit borer, [*Earias vittella* (Fabricius)] on okra (First Spray): (Percent shoot infestation).

Treatments	Percent shoots infestation of <i>E. vittella</i>					
	One day before spray	After spray				
		3 DAS	7 DAS	14 DAS	Mean	
T ₁	Spinosad 45% SC	16.51	4.06	3.81	7.79	5.22
T ₂	Lambda-cyhalothrin 2.5 EC	19.48	16.23	16.90	17.3	16.81
T ₃	Flubendiamide 480 SC	15.86	11.45	11.73	11.87	11.68
T ₄	Profenophos 50 EC	20.24	18.63	19.40	19.74	19.25
T ₅	Neem oil 0.03% EC	20.67	21.04	20.53	20.45	20.67
T ₆	Emamectin benzoate5%SG	17.75	16.44	17.76	18.14	17.44
T ₇	Cypermethrin 25%EC	15.72	12.92	12.08	15.19	13.39
T ₀	Control	21.20	23.67	25.79	27.38	25.61

Overall Mean	18.42	15.55	16	17.23	16.80
F- test	NS	S	S	S	S
S. Ed. (\pm)	-	0.59	0.67	0.59	0.68
C. D. (P = 0.05)	-	1.75	2.02	1.71	1.69

Table 2: To study the field efficacy of certain chemical and neem oil against shoot and fruit borer, *Earias vittella* (Fabricius) on okra (Second spray): (Percent Fruit infestation).

Treatments	Percent fruits infestation of <i>E. vittella</i>				
	One day before spray	After spray			
		3 DAS	7 DAS	14 DAS	Mean
T ₁ Spinosad 45% SC	15.52	5.42	4.45	7.70	5.85
T ₂ Lambda-cyhalothrin 2.5 EC	17.26	14.32	15.55	16.67	15.51
T ₃ Flubendiamide 480 SC	20.25	11.47	10.81	14.85	12.37
T ₄ Profenophos 50 EC	19.48	16.40	17.47	18.42	17.43
T ₅ Neem oil 0.03% EC	20.24	18.18	17.72	19.99	18.63
T ₆ Emamectin benzoate 5% SG	19.07	14.95	15.89	17.34	16.06
T ₇ Cypermethrin 25% EC	16.90	14.29	13.43	16.00	14.57
T ₀ Control	20.97	23.03	25.01	28.16	25.40
Overall Mean	18.71	14.75	15.04	17.39	16.47
F- test	NS	S	S	S	S
S. Ed. (\pm)	-	1.01	1.01	0.73	0.64
C. D. (P = 0.05)	-	3.16	3.11	2.14	1.39

Table 3: Table representation of to study the field efficacy of certain chemical and neem oil against shoot and fruit borer, [*Earias vittella* (Fabricius)] on okra on Economics and cost of benefit ratio of okra

Treatment Symbols	Yield (q/ha)	Cost of yield (RS/q)	Gross return (RS)	Total cost of cultivation (RS)	Net return (RS)	B:C Ratio
T ₁	196.5	1850	363525	60061	357464	1:6.05
T ₂	136.3	1850	252155	55941	196214	1:4.50
T ₃	150.4	1850	278240	59361	218879	1:4.68
T ₄	120.2	1850	222370	55901	166469	1:3.97
T ₅	105.3	1850	194805	56033	138772	1:3.47
T ₆	130.18	1850	240833	55701	185132	1:4.32
T ₇	140.2	1850	259370	55801	203569	1:4.64
T ₀	92.2	1850	170570	55301	115269	1:3.08

Conclusion

From the above discussion it was found that, spraying of insecticides significantly reduced the shoot and fruit borer percent infestation in okra. The present findings conclude that the new generation insecticides like T₁ Spinosad 45% SC (0.3-0.4ml/lit) T₂ Lambda-cyhalothrin 2.5 EC (0.5-1ml/lit) T₃ Flubendiamide 480 SC (0.3ml/lit) T₄ Profenophos 50 EC (2ml/lit) T₅ Neem oil 0.03% EC (2ml/lit) T₆ Emamectin benzoate 5% SG (0.4g/lit) T₇ Cypermethrin 25% EC (2ml/lit) and treatment of untreated control plant T₀ were found effective against shoot and fruit borer of okra *Earias vittella*. Further, it was observed that the cost benefit ratio was also high with T₁ Spinosad 45% SC and T₃ Flubendiamide 480 SC. Hence, it is suggested that the effective insecticides may be alternated in harmony with the existing Integrated pest management programmes in order to avoid the problems associated with insecticidal resistance, pest resurgence etc.

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