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Efficacy and economics of selected biopesticides against pod borer [*Helicoverpa armigera* (Hubner)] on cowpea

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Abstract

A field experiment was conducted during *kharif* 2021 at Central Research Farm, SHUATS (Sam Higginbottom University of Agriculture, Technology and Sciences), Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh (India). Field efficacy of Spinosad with six biopesticides were evaluated against pod borer, (*Helicoverpa armigera*) of Cowpea and two foliar applications were given. The efficacy results showed that the reduction per cent of larval population in Spinosad 45 SC (65.48% and 80.40%) found most effective followed by HaNPV 450LE (61.05% and 86.79%), Neem oil 5% (58.34% and 85.74%), Karanj oil 2% (55.89% and 83.98%), NSKE (52.69% and 80.90%) and Dhatura leaf extract (49.46% and 79.07%) was next effective treatment. Among all the treatments Tobacco leaf extract (46.66% and 76.76%) was found least effective but comparatively superior over the control Water spray (0.00%). The best and most economical treatment was Spinosad (1:214), followed by HaNPV (1:1.96), Neem oil (1:1.74), Karanj oil (1:1.54), NSKE (1:1.63), Dhatura leaf extract (1:1.27), Tobacco leaf extract (1:1.17) as compared to control (1:1.12). The highest yield was recorded in Spinosad (16.18 q/ha) followed by HaNPV (14.91 q/ha).

Keywords: Biopesticides, cowpea, cost benefit ratio, *Helicoverpa armigera*, percent population reduction, spinosad

Introduction

Cowpea (*Vigna unguiculata* L.) is an important legume crop that belongs to family leguminosae. It is having diploid number of chromosomes $2n= 22$. It is named as black-eye bean or Southern pea, chola, lobia, barbati in various languages of in India. It is an annual herbaceous legume from the genus *Vigna*. Due to its tolerance for sandy soil and low rainfall it is an important crop in the semi-arid regions across Africa and other countries. It is known as vegetable meat due to high amount of protein in the grain with better biological value on dry weight basis. The protein of cowpea contains relatively high amount of the essential amino acids, lysine and tryptophan, and thus usefully compliments the protein supply by cereals, in which the contents of lysine and tryptophan are relatively high (Soliman, 2012) [13]. The grain contains 26.61% protein, 3.99% lipid, 56.24% carbohydrates, 8.60% moisture, 3.84% ash, 1.38% crude fibre, 1.51% gross energy, and 54.85% nitrogen free extract (Oyewale and Bamaiyi, 2014) [11].

The incidence of insect pests and diseases cause lower production and productivity of cowpea due to direct or indirect damage. There are about 21 insect pests of different groups have been recorded damaging the cowpea crop from germination to maturity. The avoidable losses in yield due to insect pests have been recorded in the range of 66 to 100 per cent in cowpea. *Helicoverpa armigera* Hubner is a major pest that attacks wide range of different vegetable crops and causes serious economic damage and yield loss. The neonate larvae feed on the surfaces of leaves or floral buds. However, the grown-up larvae prefer to feed on the contents of reproductive parts such as floral buds, flowers and developing pods. The major constraint in the cultivation of cowpea is insect pest attack which has been observed to have caused up to 70 per cent grain yield loss, out of this about 17.37 per cent pod damage was estimated due to cow pea pod borer. Pod borer also cause green vegetable loss of the crop. These losses together cause greater damage to the overall pulses production of the country.

Materials and Methods

The trial was conducted in *kharif* season 2021 at the Central Research Farm, SHUATS, Prayagraj (U.P.). Trial was laid out in a Randomized Block Design consisting of eight different treatments including control (water spray).

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Each treatment was replicated thrice and cowpea variety, Ankur Gomoti V-8 was used for study. After observing a sufficient level of insect population, application of treatments for the management of pod borer was undertaken. The data was subjected to statistical analysis. The yield per plot was also recorded.

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

$$\text{Percent reduction} = \frac{\text{Population in control} - \text{Population in treatment}}{\text{Population in control}} \times 100$$

(Jagtap *et al.*, 2020) [6].

Gross returns

$$\text{Cost benefit ratio} = \frac{\text{Gross returns}}{\text{Total cost of cultivation}}$$

Results and Discussion

The data on per cent reduction of larval population of *Helicoverpa armigera* over control at 3rd, 7th and 14th day after first spraying revealed that all the treatments were significantly superior over control. Among all the treatments used, the maximum population reduction of *Helicoverpa armigera* was recorded in T₄-Spinosad 45SC (65.48%) as compared to the untreated control (T₀ – Water spray (0.00%) which was at par with T₁- HaNPV with (61.05%) percent reduction and T₃ -Neem oil (58.34%) while T₇- Karanj oil was recorded 55.89 per cent reduction of larval population over control. T₅- NSKE (52.69%) was at par with T₂- Dhatura leaf extract (49.46%) and T₆- Tobacco leaf extract was found to be least effective with 46.66 per cent reduction in population over control T₀- Water spray (0.00%).

Table 1: Efficacy of selected biopesticides against pod borer [*Helicoverpa armigera* (Hubner)] on cow pea [*Vigna unguiculata* (L.) Walp.]

Treatments		Per cent reduction of larval population (<i>H. armigera</i>)				
		1 DBS No. of larvae/ 5 plants	After spray			
			3 rd Day	7 th Day	14 th Day	Mean
T ₁	HaNPV 450LE/ha	3.93 (11.43)*	46.85 (41.83)*	66.57 (54.69)*	69.73 (56.63)*	61.05 (51.49)*
T ₂	Dhatura leaf extract 5%	4.26 (11.92)*	35.73 (36.68)*	54.04 (47.32)*	58.63 (49.98)*	49.46 (44.66)*
T ₃	Neem oil 5%	3.73 (11.14)*	44.61 (43.19)*	63.44 (52.80)*	66.97 (54.93)*	58.34 (49.87)*
T ₄	Spinosad 45% SC	4.13 (11.71)*	54.27 (47.45)*	69.70 (56.61)*	72.49 (58.38)*	65.48 (54.13)*
T ₅	NSKE 5%	4.06 (11.63)*	39.44 (38.88)*	57.17 (49.13)*	61.46 (51.63)*	52.69 (46.55)*
T ₆	Tobacco leaf extract	4.13 (11.71)*	32.04 (34.42)*	52.02 (46.15)*	55.95 (48.42)*	46.66 (43.01)*
T ₇	Karanj oil 2%	3.93 (11.43)*	43.15 (41.05)*	60.30 (50.95)*	64.22 (53.26)*	55.89 (48.42)*
T ₀	Control	4.13 (11.72)*	0.00 (1.65)*	0.00 (0.28)*	0.00 (1.65)*	0.00 (0.28)*
F- test		NS	S	S	S	S
CV		7.68	11.16	2.21	2.35	8.72
C.D.(P=0.05)		-	7.23	2.05	2.31	7.44

DBS*= Days before spraying, *Figures in parenthesis are Arc sin transformed values.

The data on per cent reduction of larval population of *Helicoverpa armigera* over control at 3rd, 7th and 14th day after second spraying revealed that all the treatments were significantly superior over control. Among all the treatments used, the maximum population reduction of *Helicoverpa armigera* was recorded in T₄-Spinosad 45SC (89.40%) as compared to the untreated control (T₀ – Water spray (0.00%) which was at par with T₁- HNPV with (86.79%) reduction and

T₃ -Neem oil (85.74%) which was also at par with T₇- Karanj oil with 83.98 per cent reduction of larval population over control. T₅- NSKE was recorded with 80.90 per cent reduction of larval population over control. T₂- Dhatura leaf extract (79.07%) was significantly at par with T₆- Tobacco leaf extract with 76.76 per cent reduction in population over control T₀- Water spray (0.00%).

Table 2: Efficacy of selected biopesticides against pod borer [*Helicoverpa armigera* (Hubner)] on cow pea [*Vigna unguiculata* (L.) Walp.]

Treatments		Per cent reduction of larval population (<i>H. armigera</i>)				
		1 DBS No. of larvae/ 5 plants	After spray			
			3 rd Day	7 th Day	14 th Day	Mean
T ₁	HaNPV 450LE/ha	2.20 (8.52)*	82.74 (65.50)*	88.54 (70.21)*	89.09 (70.78)*	86.79 (67.56)*
T ₂	Dhatura leaf extract 5%	3.00 (9.97)*	74.52 (59.70)*	80.13 (63.54)*	82.56 (65.35)*	79.07 (60.96)*
T ₃	Neem oil 5%	2.40 (8.90)*	81.91 (64.85)*	87.68 (69.47)*	87.65 (69.45)*	85.74 (66.37)*
T ₄	Spinosad 45% SC	2.00 (8.12)*	86.83 (68.75)*	90.83 (72.37)*	90.55 (72.13)*	89.40 (69.93)*

T ₅	NSKE 5%	2.80 (9.62)*	76.98 (61.35)*	82.43 (65.23)*	83.30 (65.90)*	80.90 (62.84)*
T ₆	Tobacco leaf extract	3.20 (10.30)*	72.06 (58.10)*	77.85 (61.93)*	80.39 (63.74)*	76.76 (59.96)*
T ₇	Karanj oil 2%	2.60 (9.7)*	81.07 (64.30)*	85.39 (67.57)*	85.48 (67.62)*	83.98 (65.34)*
T ₀	Control	7.26 (15.63)*	0.00 (1.65)*	0.00 (1.65)*	0.00 (1.65)*	0.00 (1.65)*
F-test		S	S	S	S	S
CV		3.59	2.46	1.33	1.30	1.97
C.D.(P=0.05)		0.20	3.00	1.72	1.71	2.51

DBS*= Days before spraying, *Figures in parenthesis are Arc sin transformed values.

The data on the per cent reduction of larval population of cow pea pod borer (*Helicoverpa armigera*) on 3rd, 7th 14th day after first spray revealed that all the treatments were significantly superior over control. Among all the treatments the maximum percent reduction of larval population was recorded in Spinosad 45SC (65.48%) Lakshmikanth and Kumar (2018) [9] followed by next effective treatment HaNPV (61.05%) Cherry *et al.*, (2000) [3], Kambreakar *et al.*, (2009) [7], Byrappa *et al.*, (2012) [2] and Neem oil 5% (58.34%) Ahmad *et al.*, (2009) [1], Guatam *et al.*, (2018) [4], Karanj oil 2% with (55.89%) Bajpai *et al.*, (1999), Gautam *et al.* (2018) [4] which was followed by NSKE 5% (52.69%) Meena *et al.*, (2018), Yerrabala *et al.*, (2021) [16], Dhatura leaf extract 5% (49.46%) Gautam *et al.*, (2018) [4]. Treatment Tobacco leaf extract with (46.66%) Ahmad *et al.*, (2009) [1], Rahman *et al.* (2014) [12] found be least effective but significantly superior over the control (0.00%).

The data on the per cent reduction of larval population of cow pea pod borer (*Helicoverpa armigera*) on 3rd, 7th 14th day after second spray revealed that all the treatments were significantly superior over control. Among all the treatments maximum per cent reduction of larval population was recorded in Spinosad 45SC (89.40%) Lakshmikanth and Kumar (2018) [9], Gayatri and Kumar (2021) [5] followed by

next effective treatment HaNPV (86.79%) Byrappa *et al.*, (2012) [2], Mahmudunnabi *et al.*, (2013) [10] and Neem oil 5% (85.74%) Gautam *et al.*, (2018) [4], Karanj oil 2% (83.98%) Gautam *et al.*, (2018) [4] which was followed by NSKE 5% (80.90%) Yerrabala *et al.*, (2021) [16] and Dhatura leaf extract 5% (79.07%) Tanwar *et al.*, (2018) [15]. Treatment Tobacco leaf extract (76.76%) Rahman *et al.*, (2014) [12] which was found be least effective but significantly superior over the control (0.00%).

Cost benefit ratio

The yields among the treatment were significant. The highest yield was recorded in Spinosad 45SC (16.18 q/ha) followed by HNPV (14.91 q/ha), Neem oil 5% (12.81 q/ha), Karanj oil 2% (11.45 q/ha), NSKE 5% (10.35q/ha), Dhatura leaf extract (9.21 q/ha) and Tobacco leaf extract (8.98 q/ha) as compared to control (7.75 q/ha). When cost benefit ratio was worked out, interesting result was achieved. Among the treatment studied, the best and most economical treatment was Spinosad 45SC (1:2.14), followed by HaNPV (1:1.96), Neem oil 5% (1:1.74), Karanj oil 2% (1:1.54), NSKE 5% (1:1.39), Dhatura leaf extract (1:1.27) and Tobacco leaf extract (1:1.17) as compared to control (1:1.12).

Table 3: Economics of cowpea pod borer, [*Helicoverpa armigera* (Hub.)] management using certain chemical insecticides:

S. No.	Tr. No.	Treatment	Yield q/ha	Cost of yield Rs/q	Total cost of yield Rs.	Common cost Rs.	Treatment cost Rs.	Total cost Rs.	C:B ratio
1.	T ₁	HaNPV 450LE/ha	14.91	4200	62622	28888	2900	31788	1:1.96
2.	T ₂	Dhatura leaf extract 5%	9.21	4200	38682	28888	1440	30328	1:1.27
3.	T ₃	Neem oil 5%	12.81	4200	53802	28888	2000	30888	1:1.74
4.	T ₄	Spinosad 45% SC	16.18	4200	67956	28888	2800	31688	1:2.14
5.	T ₅	NSKE 5%	10.35	4200	43470	28888	2360	31248	1:1.39
6.	T ₆	Tobacco leaf extract	8.98	4200	37716	28888	3200	32088	1:1.17
7.	T ₇	Karanj oil 2%	11.45	4200	48090	28888	2175	31063	1:1.54
8.	T ₀	Control	7.75	4200	32550	28888	-	28888	1:1.12

Conclusion

It could be concluded that for the management of *Helicoverpa armigera* on Cowpea crop with Spinosad and six biopesticides. Spinosad 45SC@ 220ml/lit. proved to be most effective and economical. Similarly, the use of HaNPV 250 LE/ha, Neem oil 5% @2lt/ha, Karanj oil 2% @2lt/ha, NSKE 5% @10lt/ha, Dhatura leaf extract 5% @7.5lt/ha can also be thought for the management of cowpea pod borer. However, the application of Tobacco leaf extract @ 5lt/ha. could not exert encouraging role for Cowpea pod borer management. This plant products also helps in reducing pollution in the environments. Hence it can be suitably incorporated as treatments in IPM programme.

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