B71 FUNGICIDAL CONTROL OF SHEATH BLIGHT OF RICE

Y.J.P.K.Mithrasena, D.L.Wickremasingha W.P.Adikari
Regional Agricultural Research Centre, Bombuwela

Sheath blight of rice, caused by *Rhizoctonia solani* Kuhn *(Thanatephorus cucumeris)* is a serious disease mostly in the wet zone rice growing areas in Sri Lanka. Since a resistant variety to this disease has still to be found, a suitable fungicide for its control has to be evaluated. For this purpose six fungicides namely 50% Benomyl (Benlate), 75% Carbendazin (Delsene 75), Triphenyl tin hydroxide

(Du-ter), Edifenphos (Hinosan), 25% Pencycuron (Monceren) and Bitertanol (Baycor) were tested *in vitro*. Selected fungicides from these tests were evaluated in the field.

Ten concentrations of these fungicides ranging from 10 ppm to 100 ppm were tested using the filter paper disc method against *Rhizoctonia solani* in PDA media. Growth inhibiting zones were observed in 10 ppm of Du-ter and 30 ppm of Monceren discs. None of the others had inhibition even at 100 ppm concentration.

Field trials were conducted using these two fungicides and Benlate as the standard. Variety BW 288-1-3 was used with artificial inoculation at panicle initiation stage to ensure uniform infection. Fungicides were applied 24 hours after inoculation and 2 weeks after inoculation. Disease incidence was assessed at harvest.

Results indicated that Monoceren and Du-ter could effectively control the disease. There was no significant difference between Benlate application which is presently used by the farmers and the non sprayed control.