INFLUENCE OF POST-FLOWERING OCCURRENCE OF YELLOW VEIN MOSAIC VIRUS DISEASE ON POD YIELD IN OKRA (*ABELMOSCHUS ESCULENTUS*)

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Okra (Bandakka in Sinhala and Vendikkai in Tamil) is a popular vegetable in our country and comparatively an easy crop to grow under our conditions. However, yellow vein mosaic virus disease (YVMV) is a major limitation for okra production. Incidently, the effect of this disease depends on the growth and development stage of the plant at which it appears.

A study on yield and yield components of okra plant in relation to YVMV was conducted with ten okra varieties in the field at the Regional Agricultural Research Centre in Mahailluppallama during 1988/89 Maha season (wet season). The symptoms of YVMV was observed after flowering in all the varieties under test. Pod yields, pod numbers and pod sizes were measured on twenty-five disease free and disease affected plants selected at random in each variety.

On the average, YVMV appeared after flowering did not show any reduction in yield and number of pods but a reduction in pod size was apparent. However, varietal variation was clearly evident in these characteristics. Diseased plants in two varieties showed a remarkable reduction in pod yield while diseased plants in some three varieties had increase in pod yield attributed to pod number and pod size. There was a strong correlation of yield with number and size of pod, indicated by high positive values of correlation coefficient (r).

References: Samaratunga, H. 1987. Okra seed production. *Krushi*, 10 (1&2).