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# Management of *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *radicis cucumerinum* causing root and stem rot of cucumber: A review

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#### Abstract

Stem and Root rot is one of the major constraints in production and productivity of Cucumber. The causative organism, *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *radicis cucumerinum* is widespread in cucumber growing areas resulting in considerable economic losses. The importance, symptomatology, and management is hereunder reviewed briefly.

Keywords: Fusarium oxysporum f. Sp. radicis cucumerinum (FORC), fungicide efficacy, plant extract, bio agents etc.

#### Introduction

Cucumber (Cucumis sativus L.) belongs to family cucurbitaceae and most important vegetable, which is a major source of human edible products and useful fibers. Cucumber probably originated in the foothills of the Himalayas and have been cultivated for at least 3,000 years (Kroon et al., 1979) <sup>[18]</sup>. Fusarium root and stem rot of cucumbers caused by Fusarium oxysporum f. sp. radicis-cucumerinum (T. D. Vatchev, 2015, Vakalounakis, 1996) [44, 45]. FORC is a relatively new disease first reported in Greece by Vakalounakis (1996) <sup>[45]</sup> who described it in detail. The disease has also been reported from Canada, China, France, Israel, The Netherlands, Spain and United States (Punja and Parker, 2000; Cercauskas et al., 2001; Moreno et al., 2001; Rose and Punja, 2004; Pavlou and Vakalounakis, 2005) [27, 5, 20, 33, 26]. in China in 1999, and in Spain in 2000, causing significant losses in the yield (Punja & Parker, 2000) [27]. Symptoms of Fusarium root and stem rot include large basal stem lesions on which abundant sporulation is often observed, particularly under very humid conditions, consisting of pale salmon-pink masses of Fusarium oxysporum macro- and microconidia (Vakalounakis, 1996; Rose et al., 2003) [45, 28]. Sporulating conidial layers produced on the stems and spread of spores as airborne inoculum has been reported for several formae specialis of Fusarium oxysporum, such as F. oxysporum Schlechtend. Fr. f. sp. radicis-lycopersici Jarvis & Shoemaker which causes crown and root rot of tomato (Rowe *et al.*, 1977)<sup>[32]</sup>, as well as F. oxysporum Schlechtend. Fr. f. sp. basilici, the causal agent of wilt and crown rot of sweet basil (Gamliel et al., 1996)<sup>[10]</sup> and F. oxysporum Schlechtend. Fr. f. sp. lycopersici (Sacc.) W.C. Snyder & H.N. Hans. 1940 [36], the vascular wilt pathogen of tomato (Katan et al., 1997) [16]. The objective of this study was to evaluate the potential of single and multiple applications of fungicides used alone, plant extracts and bio agents to reduce the impact of F. oxysporum f.sp. radicis-cucumerinum and associated soilborne pathogenic fungi on greenhouse and cage house cucumber.

#### 1. In vitro efficacy of fungicides against Fusarium oxysporum f. sp. radicis cucumerinum

Six fungicides *viz*. hexaconazol ((RS)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-1-(1H-1,2,4-triazol-1-yl)hexan-2-0l), Contaf 5 EC; Mancozeb 75% WP (manganese ethylenebis (dithiocarbamate) (polymeric) complex with zinc salt); Copper oxychloride 50 WP (Dicopper (2+) ion chloride trihydroxide), Axoxystrobin; (Methyl (2*E*)-2-(2-{[6-(2-cyanophenoxy) pyrimidin-4-yl]oxy}phenyl)-3methoxyacrylate), SAAF (Carbendazim 12% + Mancozeb 63% WP), and Carbendazim 50 % WP (Methyl 1-2, benzimidazole carbamate) were evaluated *in vitro* against *Fusarium sp*.by employing poison food technique (Nene and Thapliyal, 1993) <sup>[22]</sup>. The per cent inhibition of the growth over control was calculated by following the Formula given by Vincent (1927) <sup>[46]</sup> as:

$$I = \frac{C - T}{C} \times 100$$

Where, I = Percent inhibition C = colony diameter in control; T = colony diameter in treatment

Bavistin [carbendazim at 100 ppm] and Cercobin [thiophanate methyl at 100 ppm] were the most effective systemic fungicides tested in inhibiting of germination of spore and growth of F. oxysporum in vitro and wilt disease in vivo (Gaikwad and Sen, 1987)<sup>[9]</sup>. Seven fungicides, viz., Thiram, Bavistin (carbendazim), Blitox [copper oxychloride], Captaf [captan], Indofil M-45 [mancozeb], Ridomil MZ [mancozeb+ metalaxyl] and Kitazin evaluated against chickpea wilt (F. oxysporum f. sp. ciceris) in vitro (each at 1% concentration) in Pusa, Bihar. Thiram and Bavistin proved the most effective fungicides in inhibiting the growth of F. oxysporum f. sp. ciceri in vitro (Singh and Jha, 2003, Musmade, N.A., Pillai, Tini and Thakur, K.D., 2009) <sup>[34, 21]</sup>. Harender Raj et al. (2005) [13] evaluated the efficacy of Quintal (carbendazim 25% + iprodione 25%), Bavistin (carbendazim), SAAF (carbendazim 12% + mancozeb 63%), Thiram 75 DS (thiram) and Hilnate 70 WP (thiophanate-methyl) against Fusarium oxysporum f. sp. gladioli under in vitro conditions and observed that Quintal recorded the lowest disease incidence followed by carbendazim and SAAF. Chhata and Jeewa Ram (2006) [7] found that out of 4 fungicides tested, Bavistin (carbendazim; 0.2%) and TopsinM (thiophanate-methyl; 0.2%) were more effective than other seed dresser fungicides and showed least seedling mortality (2-4 and 4-6%, respectively). Sunita and Manica (2007) evaluated the efficacy of fungicides, i.e. carbendazim, thiophanate-methyl, thiram, 25% carbendazim + 25% iprodione (Quintal) and 12% carbendazim + 63% mancozeb. Systemic fungicides viz, carbendazim, propiconazole, difenoconazole and thiophanate methyl reported at 50 ppm completely inhibit the growth of F. moniliforme var. subglutinans and F. oxysporum (Amipara, 2008)<sup>[2]</sup>. Raju et al. (2008)<sup>[30]</sup> evaluated carbendazim, captan, Dithane Z-78, thiophanate-methyl and thiram against F. oxysporum f. sp. udum under in vitro and found that carbendazim completely inhibited the growth of the pathogen at all concentrations (100, 250 and 500 ppm). Singh (2009) <sup>[34]</sup> found that carbendazim (0.1%) and mancozeb (0.25%)was effective against Fusarium oxysporum f. sp. coriandrii causing coriander wilt. In vitro and in vivo, six fungicides tested against tomato fusarium wilt (Fusarium oxysporum f. sp. lycopersici) at seven different concentrations (0.0001, 0.001, 0.01, 0.1, 1, 10,  $100 \ \mu g/ml$ ) for their inhibitory activities. Among them, Prochloraz and bromuconazole were the most effective fungicides, followed by benomyl and carbendazim (Amini and Sidivich, 2010)<sup>[1]</sup>. The efficacy of three fungicides tested either alone or in combinations of 0.1% Topsin M 70WP (thiophanate-methyl 700 g kg<sup>-1</sup>) plus Previcur 607SL (607 g L<sup>-1</sup> propamocarb 0.15% hydrochloride), or 0.1% Benomyl 50WP (benomyl 50 g kg<sup>-1</sup>) plus 0.15% Previcur 607SL though drip irrigation against green house cucumber infested with crown and root disease caused by F. oxysporum f. sp. radicis cucumerinum. Plant mortality was reduced by 11.1% 84.8% and 23.8% 77.7% when plants were drenched with Topsin M 70WP in combination with Previcur 607SL or Benomyl 50WP plus

Previcur 607SL, respectively. In comparison, significantly lower levels of disease control were achieved when these fungicides were applied individually (Vatchev et al. 2012)<sup>[43]</sup>. Dar et al. 2013<sup>[8]</sup>, Singh, R.N., Upadhyay J.P. and Ojha, K.L., 1993) [39] tested five systemic fungicides with different concentrations, among them carbendazim at 50 ppm were found achieve cent per cent inhibition the mycelial growth of the Fusarium oxysporum isolated from Himalaya. In vitro, reported the efficacy of four fungicides (Mancozeb, SAAF, Carbendazim and Cuprozin) in three different concentrations (0.01%, 0.02% and 0.03%) and one biocontrol agent, Trichoderma viride by dual culture technique against the mycelial growth of the Fusarium oxysporum f. sp. cubense caused wilt in banana. Among the fungicides, Carbendazim at its all concentrations was found to be the most effective against the pathogen followed by SAAF. The biocontrol agent (T. viride) completely inhibited mycelial growth of the pathogen (Kumari et al. 2014, Poddar, R.K., Singh, D.V. and Dubey, S.C. 2004) [17, 4].

### 2. In vitro evaluation of plant extracts

Tariq and Magee (1990)<sup>[42]</sup> showed that volatile components of crude aqueous extracts of garlic bulb (500 mg/n concentration) inhibited the germination of micro conidia and hyphal extension of Fusarium oxysporum f. sp. lycopersici in axenic culture. Patil (2003) [23] tested various botanicals in vitro against F.oxysporum causing wilt of patchouli, 76.72 per cent inhibition was achieved with garlic extract (10%) and tulsi leaf extract (10%). Thakare (2003) [41] tested various botanicals in vitro against Fusarium oxysporum, 100 per cent mycelial growth inhibition was obtained with Allium sativum (0.1 per cent) followed by 100 percent with Azadirachta indica (10 per cent), 37.48 percent in Oscimum sanctum (10 per cent) and 47.97 percent was with Gliricidia maculata (10 per cent) respectively. Riaz et al. (2008) [31] in vitro tested of some leaf extracts (Triticum aestivum, Zea mays, Helianthus annus, Capsicum annum, Allium cepa and Tagetes erectus) for antifungal activity at different concentrations (2, 4, 6 and 8% w/v) against Fusarium oxysporum f. sp. gladioli caused corm rot disease of gladiolus in Pakistan. They observed that extract of Tagetes erectus, Helianthus annus and Capsicum annum were found highly effective where all the employed extract concentrations significantly reduced fungal biomass by 54-79%, 33-85% and 45-57%, respectively. Abu-Tahon et al. (2014)<sup>[14]</sup> in vitro studied the efficacy of 5 medicinal plant extract i.e., Eucalyptus globules, Lantana camera, Nerium oleander and Ocimum basilicum against F. oxysporum f. sp. lycopersici race 3 in Egypt and found that cold distilled water extract of O. basilicum and E. globulus were most effective to inhibiting the growth of the pathogen. Ramaiah et al. (2015) <sup>[29]</sup> tested fifteen Phyto extracts by posion food technique for their antifungal activities against Fusarium oxysporum f. sp. lycopersici (FOL), Out of them, three phytoextracts proved to be potential in inhibiting the growth of the FOL viz., Solanum indicum (78.33%), Azadirachta indica (75.00%), Oxalis latifolia (70.33%) Antifungal potency was compared with three chemical fungicides namely viz., Mancozeb (82.66%) Copper oxychloride (79.33%) and Copper sulphate (82.33%) in different concentration.

#### 3. In vitro evaluation of bio-agents / bio control

Sonawane and Pawar (2001) <sup>[40]</sup> reported that *T. harzianum* gave maximum reduction 73.16 per cent of *F. oxysporum* (Chickpea wilt). Gurjar *et al.*, (2004) <sup>[11]</sup> reported that

*Trichoderma harzianum* and *T. viride* gave effective management of *Fusarium* sp. in okra. Pandya *et al.* (2009) studied the efficacy of bioagents, organic extracts and phyto extracts against *Fusarium solani* causing wilt in muskmelon. They observed that *Trichoderma viride*, FYM extract and *Ocimum sanctum* extract were more superior in antagonistic activity (*in vitro* and *in vivo*) over the rest bioagents.

Choudhary and Mohanka (2012) evaluated different isolates of T. harzianum (Th), T. viride (Tv) and T. koningii (Tk) against the Fusarium oxysporum f. sp. lentis causing wilt of lentil and proved that Th-5 gave maximum inhibition (82.8%) followed by Th-7 (82.3%), Tv-2 (79.2%), Tv-18 (74.4%) and Tk-9 (71.0%) under in vitro condition. Pagoch and Raina, (2013) in vitro evaluated seventeen isolates of Trichoderma against F, oxysporum f. sp. cucumerinum by dual culture technique and it was found that all the Trichoderma isolates inhibited mycelial growth of *F.oxysporum* the f.sp.cucumerinum. Hossain et al. (2013) [12] tested 20 different isolates of Trichoderma harzianum against Fusarium oxysporim f.sp. ciceri, causal organism of wilt disease in chickpea and found that T. harzianum isolate T-75 showed the highest (75.89%) inhibition of radial growth of Fusarium oxysporim f. sp. ciceri in dual culture assay on PDA. Yadav and Anadani (2013)<sup>[43]</sup> tested five Trichoderma spp. viz. T. harzianum - I, T. harzianum - II, T. hamatum, T. koningi and T. viride against Fusarium oxysporum f.sp. ciceri causing chickpea wilt and found that maximum growth inhibition (84.76%) through T. harzianum – II. Barhate et al. (2015)<sup>[3]</sup> tested in vitro the efficacy of eight fungicides and six bio agents and ten varieties of tomato in green house against Fusarium wilt of tomato (Fusarium oxysporum f.sp. lycopersici) in Maharastra. Among the fungicides, Mancozeb + Carbendazim (0.125 + 0.05 %) had completely inhibited (100 %) mycelial growth of the pathogen followed by Thiram + Carbendazim (0.15 + 0.05 %), Carbendazim (0.1 %), Thiram (0.3 %), Carboxin (0.2 %), Captan (0.25 %), Propiconazole (0.2 %), Mancozeb (0.25 %) with 93.75, 92.50, 90.00, 87.50, 81.25, 67.50 and 62.50 per cent growth inhibition over control, respectively. Among the four Trichoderma species, Trichoderma viride recorded highest mycelial growth inhibition (85.00 %) of the pathogen followed by T. harzianum, T. hamatum, T. koningii with 72.50, 70.00, 61.12 per cent growth inhibition over control, respectively and among two bacterial bioagents, Bacillus subtillis was found more effective than Pseudomonas fluorescens with 79.2 and 62.5 per cent growth inhibition over control.

Javid et al. (2016) demonstrated the effect of three isolates (T22, T9 and T6) of Trichoderma harzianum against isolate F 42 of Fusarium oxysporum f. sp. radicis-cucumerinum under greenhouse conditions, it was found that isolate T 22 of T. *harzianum* had the greatest effect on controlling the pathogen. Barari (2016)<sup>[4]</sup> observed bioefficacy of the native isolates of Trichoderma species against F. oxysporum f. sp. lycopersici caused Fusarium wilt disease in tomato under in vitro and in vivo condition. Under in vitro condition, isolate N-8 of T. harzianum gave 68.22 percent mycelial growth inhibition of the pathogen and under in vivo condition it exhibited least disease incidence (14.75%). Srivastava, (2017) [38] reported a significant reduction of growth of Fusarium oxysporum f.sp. cucumerinum when tested in dual culture technique with Trichoderma sp. In field condition positive correlation between added and percentage of healthy cucumber seedlings

were detected.

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