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Lantana camara – boon for farmers for save storage of pea seeds under Manipur condition

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Abstract

Lantana camara, also known as Spanish Flag or West Indian Lantana, in Manipur: Samballei or Nongballei, is found abundantly in Manipur. An experiment was conducted in the experimental laboratory of Agronomy Department, College of Agriculture, Iroisemba, Central Agricultural University, Imphal in 2017-2019, to study the "Effect of Lantana camara on controlling insect pests on storage of pea seeds (Pisum sativum var Makhyatmubi) in Manipur condition". It was found that when we mixed the L. camara with pea seeds in the ratio 1Kg pea seeds:150g L. camara and above, there were no damage of the pea seeds by insect pests but in control where there was no L. camara, all the seeds were damaged by insect pests.

Keywords: Pea seeds, lantana camara, storage

Introduction

Lantana camara, also known as Spanish Flag or West Indian Lantana, in Manipur: Samballei or Nongballei, is a species of flowering plant in the verbena family, verbenaceae, native to the American tropics. Among the category of medicinal plant, Lantana camara is one, but in India this plant is categorised in poisonous plant as this plant is among top ten invasive weeds and toxic plant on the earth (Lonare et al., 2018) [1]. According to credible scientific studies that were conducted in India, the leaves of the Lantana camara plant contain potent insecticidal properties that can be used to repel and even kill harmful insects (www.herbs-forhealth.com/lantana camara, 2017).

In India about 70% of farm produce is stored by farmers for their own consumption using different types of storage structures made from locally available materials (Shukla and Patil, 1988). Farmers have been evolving number of traditional practices to avoid huge losses that are occurring in stored pulse grains due to insect pests infestation (Pushpamma and Rao, 1980) ^[2]. In Manipur, majority of the pea growers are small and marginal. So, they are unable to store their produce seeds and forced to sell their seeds at a lower price. Many of the seeds kept for sowing for the next season are also infested and hence, cannot be used for sowing thereafter. Local cultivars of pea e.g. Makhayatmubi, Ningtekpi, Makuchabi, etc, their seeds cost Rs. 350-400/Kg. So, many of the farmers cannot effort it. The insect pests directly feed on the stored grains, if we do not use any synthetic or organic pesticides. Now-a-days, with the popularization of organic farming in the state of Manipur, the farmers are willing to explore and adopt more organic solutions in their fields which is easy and good for health as well as environment.

Considering the above problem of storage an experiment was conducted at Department of Agronomy, College of Agriculture, Iroisemba, Central Agricultural University, Imphal from the year 2017 to 2019 to bring about a suitable storage method to minimize the storage losses in pea with the help of *Lantana camara* which is available everywhere in Manipur.

Methodology

Pea seeds were collected from the farmer's field and cleaned properly. The seeds were spread thinly on a concrete floor under the sun for 5 days. It was then cooled and stored in polythene bags. Lantana camara leaves were collected from the forest and dried in the shade. After drying, they were chopped into small pieces. The pea seeds were then mixed well with the Lantana camara at different proportions as: $T_1(1\text{Kg pea seeds}, \text{ control without } \text{Lantana camara})$, $T_2(1\text{Kg pea seeds}+150\text{g } \text{Lantana camara})$, $T_3(1\text{Kg pea seeds}+200\text{g } \text{Lantana camara})$, $T_4(1\text{Kg pea seeds}+250\text{g } \text{Lantana camara})$, $T_5(1\text{Kg pea seeds}+300\text{g } \text{Lantana camara})$, $T_6(1\text{Kg pea seeds}+350\text{g } \text{Lantana camara})$ and $T_7(1\text{Kg pea seeds}+400\text{g } \text{Lantana})$

Corresponding Author: Kshetrimayum Manishwari Devi College of Agriculture, Iroisemba, Central Agricultural University, Imphal, Manipur, India *camara*) and then stored in polythene bags with the ends of bags tied. Each treatment consists of four replications.

The upper most layer of each treatments was covered with a layer of *Lantana camara*, and were placed on a desk in the laboratory for a year. The stored seeds were monitored and damage percentage were recorded for each consecutive year i.e., from 2017 to 2019.

Results and Discussion

It was observed that there was no damage of pea seeds by insect pests in all the treatments except the control (Table no. 1). It may be due to the leaves of Lantana camara, which contain potent insecticidal properties as a result repels insect pests. (Lonare et al., 2018) [1] stated that L. camara is a toxic plant. In the same view it was reported that L. camara plant contain potent insecticidal properties that can be used to repel harmful insects (www.herbs-forand even kill health.com/lantana-camara, 2017). Similar result was also obtained by (Sah et al., 2004) that while storing field pea in gunny bags, onions were mixed randomly @ one kilogram per quintal of field pea for preventing damage by storage pest. Farmers perceived that the smell of onions repel the storage pest, thus minimizes the storage losses. In the same way prior to storage of chickpea seeds, Asafoetida was found mixed with water and sprinkled and mixed thoroughly on the grains by farmers. The practice was followed with a rationale that the smell of Asafoetida repels the storage pest and the damage by storage pest is minimized. In the control treatment, where there was no Lantana camara, the seeds were all damaged.

Table 1: Effect of *Lantana camara* on 1 year storage of pea (2017-2019)

Treatments	Damaged percentage (%)		
	2017	2018	2019
T1:1Kg pea seeds (without Lantana camara)	100	100	100
T2:1Kg pea seeds+150g Lantana camara	0	0	0
T3:1Kg pea seeds+200g Lantana camara	0	0	0
T4:1Kg pea seeds+250g Lantana camara	0	0	0
T5:1Kg pea seeds+300g Lantana camara	0	0	0
T6:1Kg pea seeds+350g Lantana camara	0	0	0
T7:1Kg pea seeds+400g Lantana camara	0	0	0

Conclusion

Pea seeds could be stored with *Lantana camara* in order to safe from the insect pests damage. It would support the economy of small and marginal farmers and would be good for environment and human health too.

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