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Yield loss estimation and efficacy of biopesticides on the management of *Helicoverpa armigera* (Hubner) in vegetable soybean [*Glycine max* (L.) Merrill]

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Abstract

The demand for vegetable soybean as a fresh or frozen vegetable is increasing worldwide. Successful production of vegetable soybean is hampered due to the incidence of several insect pests, particularly pod borer *Helicoverpa armigera* (Hubner). The pest represents a significant challenge to soybean production around the world. Through the chemical control measures are effective in combating the pest but not able to produce residue free grains. Hence, a study was taken up to estimate the loss caused by the pod borer and to evaluate the bio pesticides against it. The loss due to *H.armigera* in vegetable soybean varied from 38.49 to 45.04 per cent with an additional yield of 25.68 q to 37.56 q over untreated check. Among the biopesticides it was NSKE (4%) performed better followed by HaNPV. However, other bio pesticides *viz. Azadiractitin* (1.0%, 0.03%), *Bacillus thuringiensis*. Berliner and *Beauveria bassiana* (Bals-Criv.) Vuill. also performed better than control.

Keywords: Yield loss, Helicoverpa armigera, vegetable soybean, bio pesticides

1. Introduction

Soybean [Glycine max (L.) Merrill] is a unique crop with high nutritional value, providing 40 per cent of protein, 20 per cent edible oil, minerals, and vitamins^[2, 8]. Vegetable soybean is similar to grain soybean, but harvested earlier, when pods are bright green, yielding higher and sweeter seeds. It has been cultivated thousands of years in East Asia and is a popular snack in Japan, China, Thailand, and Taiwan^[24]. With short growth duration and high yield values, the demand for fresh or frozen vegetable soybean is increasing worldwide [16, 19]. Successful production of soybean is hampered by abiotic and biotic stresses such as drought, weeds, insect pests, and diseases. Among these, insect pests often pose a severe threat to sovbean production by increasing the cost of cultivation and by impairing the quality of the produce ^[7]. Soybean crop attracts about 380 insect species in many parts of the world ^[11, 15]. Among these insect pest's pod borer, Helicoverpa armigera. Hubner represents a significant challenge to soybean production, preferably during the vegetative and pod development stage ^[5]. To minimize the losses caused by *H. armigera* the chemical control measures are recommended. However, due to indiscriminate use of insecticide led to the development of, resistant pest strains, mounting up of the cost of cultivation menace to natural enemies and other non-target organisms, the resurgence of pesticide-resistant insect populations and elevation of secondary pests to a status of primary importance, bio magnification of pesticide residues in food and upsetting the natural ecosystem ^[9, 21]. Because of the growing need for the production of residue free vegetable soybean by combating H. armigera, and to find out actual loss caused by this pest, an investigation was carried out.

2. Material and Methods

The present studies on the incidence, crop loss estimation and management of *Helicoverpa armigera* on vegetable soybean (*Glycine max*) were carried out during *Kharif* 2018 at the Zonal Agricultural Research Station, University of Agricultural Sciences, Gandhi Krishi Vignana Kendra, Bengaluru. Bengaluru is situated in hot semi-arid eco-region of Karnataka (agro-climatic zone 5) at 12058 North latitude and 77035 East longitude at an altitude of 930 MSL. The mean annual rainfall is about 950 mm, distributed over seven to eight months.

2.1 Yield loss estimation due to H. armigera

Assessment of loss in yield due to pod borer infestation on vegetable soybean (Var: Karune) was studied by protecting the crop at different stages of growth. The plot size of 2.7 x 1.5 m

was maintained. The experiment was conducted as per the randomized block design consisting of six treatments and four replications with the recommended package of practices ^[3]. The treatments viz. covering with nylon net immediately after sowing till harvesting of the crop (T_1) , spraying of Chlorpyriphos 20EC @ 2ml/ ltr (T₂), spraying of Quinalphos 25EC @ 2ml / ltr (T₃), Three sprays with Chlorpyriphos 20EC@ 2ml / 1 of water, Quinalphos 25 EC @ 2ml / 1 of water and Chlorpyriphos 20EC@ 2ml /l of water at 45, 55 and 65 days after germination, respectively (T₄) was taken up. In the supervisory control (T_5) , the crop was sprayed with Chlorpyriphos @ 0.05% and Quinalphos based on Economic Threshold Level (ETL). However, the ETL is 1.54 larvae per plant ^[25]. In untreated check (T6), the crop was grown by following all the agronomic practices without any plant protection measures. Number of larvae per plant and pod damage per plant was recorded.

Green mature pods were harvested for estimating the yield. The per cent pod damage was noted based on the number of damaged pods out of total number of pods per plant. The probable loss due to *H. armigera* were computed by comparing the yield obtained from different plots that were exposed to various treatments.

2.2 Efficacy of the bio pesticides against H. armigera

The vegetable soybean (variety: Karune) was raised during *Kharif* 2018 following all the recommended package of practices except plant protection measures with eleven treatments and three replications in a randomized complete block design (RCBD). However, common foliar application of Chlorpyriphos @ 0.05 per cent was made on 10 and 25 days after germination as prophylactic spray for controlling sucking pests.

The treatments were imposed in respective plots (2.7 m x 5 m) at pod initiation stage (45 days after germination) and the second application were imposed at pod development stage (55 days after germination). The treatment details are indicated below.

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T_1\mbox{-}Azadirachtin1% (Bioneem) @2 ml/l of water
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T_2 -Azadirachtin 0.03% (Azagro) @4 ml/1 of water
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T₃-Bacillus thuringiensis (Dipel) @2 ml/1 of water

T₄-HaNPV (Flash) @500 LE/ha

T₅-NSKE (Freshly prepared) @ 4 per cent

T₆-Beauveria bassiana (Mycozaal) @ 2 ml/1 of water

T₇-Malathion dust 5% (Malathion) @ 10 kg / ha

T_8-Chlorpyriphos 20EC (Classic 20) @ 2 ml/ l of water

T_9-Chlorantroniliprole 18.5 SC (Ranaxypyr) @ 0.2 ml/ l of water

 T_{10} -Quinalphos 25EC (Flash) @ 2 ml/l of water T_{11} -Untreated (Control)

Observations on the population of insects were recorded by standard method one day before treatment, and three and seven days after treatment each fifth plant in alternate row in each sub plot was selected for observation. The total numbers of larvae were recorded during pod formation stage and pod damage was also recorded. The per cent pod damage was noted based on the number of damaged pods out of total number pods per plant. The probable loss due to pod borer were computed by comparing the yield obtained from different plots which were exposed to different treatment. The cost of cultivation was calculated for different treatment which include both fixed and variable cost. Gross returns and net returns were calculated, and cost-benefit ratio was estimated.

2.3 Statistical analysis and interpretation

The data collected on different parameters during the investigation were subjected to Fisher's method of analysis variance for interpretation of the data as given by Panse and Sukhatme^[17].

3. Results and discussion

3.1. Yield loss estimation by *Helicoverpa armigera* in vegetable soybean.

3.1.1 First spray

The larval population was significantly low $(1.41\pm 0.02 \text{ larvae} / \text{plant})$ over other treatments at one day before treatment in T₁ (cover with nylon net) as the net was covered immediately after sowing. The incidence was only by moths emerged from pupae of that area and was significantly superior $(1.41 \pm 0.02 \text{ larvae} / \text{plant})$. Whereas, in other treatments larval population was uniform and there was no significant difference (Table 1). After a day and third day after the first spray the larval population $(1.70 \pm 0.02 \text{ and } 1.87 \pm 0.08 \text{ larvae per plant})$ was significantly less with other treatments. In chemical treatments (T₂, T₃, T4 and T₅) the larval population recorded was least compared to control. In control the larval population was 3.39 ± 0.12 and 3.21 ± 0.06 larvae per plant, after one and three days after the treatments, respectively.

3.1.2 Second spray

The larval population at one day before second treatment was least in T₂ (2.15 \pm 0.02 larvae/plant) which was on par with T₁ (2.23 \pm 0.04), T₃ (2.17 \pm 0.02), and T₄ (2.18 \pm 0.03). The highest population was recorded in untreated control (3.41 \pm 0.15 larvae/plant) (Table 1). At one day and third day after second spray the larval population was least in T₄ (1.91 \pm and 1.51 \pm larvae per plant). In supervisory control 1.93 \pm 0.1 and 1.87 \pm 0.03 larvae per plant was recorded, a day after and three days after treatment which is on par with T₃ and T₄ (Table 1).

3.1.3 Third spray

There was a significant difference between the larval population one day before treatment. The crop that was covered with nylon net recorded population of 2.37 ± 0.02 larvae per plant (T_1) which was significantly lower than the untreated check, but the lowest population was recorded in T₃, T_4 and T_5 which were on par with each other (Table 1). One day after third spraying, the least larval population $(1.07 \pm$ 0.01 larvae/plant) was noticed in T₅ and which was followed by T_4 (1.34 \pm 0.08 larvae/plant) and T_3 (1.53 \pm 0.01 larvae/plant). The highest larval population was recorded in T_1 (2.33 ± 0.04 larvae/plant) and T_2 (2.29 ± 0.06 larvae/plant). Whereas after the three days after the third spray the larval population was least in T_5 (0.76 \pm 0.04 larvae/plant) followed by T₄ (1.24 \pm 0.03larvae/plant). However, the highest larval population was recorded in untreated check $(3.73 \pm 0.07 \text{ and}$ 3.58 ± 0.12 larvae/plant) (Table 1).

3.1.4 Pod damage and yield

There was significant difference between the treatments with respect to pod damage and yield. Highest number of pod damage was recorded in control (18.46 ± 1.26%) and lowest pod damage was recorded in T₃ (7.82 ± 0.31%). However, the pod damage was on par in treatments T₁ (8.46 ± 0.72%), T2 (8.78 ± 0.65%) T₄ (8.25 ± 0.57%) and T₅ (8.32 ± 0.23%) which were superior to the untreated check (Table 2). Among the treatments (T₁, T₂, T₃, T4 and T₅) recorded highest yield

(61.07 to 68.34 q / ha) when compared to untreated check (37.56 q/ha). The additional yield obtained over control was highest in T_4 (30.78 q/ha) fallowed by T_3 (26.71 q/ha). Additional yield over control obtained by other treatments were T_1 (25.68 q/ha), T_2 (23.51 q/ha) and T_5 (24.81 q/ha).

The table 2 indicates that there is a significant loss in yield of vegetable soybean due to *H. armigera*. In control the yield per ha was 37.56 q per ha which is significantly less when compared to any other treatment (T_1 to T_5) with per cent increase in yield of 66.05 to 81.94. An additional yield of 23.51 q per ha (T_2) to 30.78 q per ha (T_4) indicates that there is a significant increase in yield due to the treatments. The data also shows (Table 2) the loss would have been varied from (T_2) 38.49 and (T_4) 45.04 per cent due to *H. armigera* incidence in soybean in the absence of control measures.

The above results as in confirm that the loss in yield caused by *H. armigera* was 42 to 56 per cent ^[10], 40 to 100 per cent ^[12], 36.4 per cent ^[13] and 24.6 per cent ^[14] and these reports emphasize that there is wide range of losses due to *H. armigera* in soybean. However, the variation in the present study may be due to change in the location and variety.

3.2 Evaluation of bio pesticides against *Helicoverpa* armigera

3.2.1 Effect of first spray

There was no significant difference between the treatments with respect to number of *H. armigera* larvae per plant before the imposition of the treatments. (Table 3). After three days after treatment there was a significant difference between the treatments. The chemical treatments Chlorantraniliprole 18.5 SC (1.53 ± 0.11) and Chlorpyriphos 20 EC (1.58 ± 0.21) per formed significantly better than other treatments. Among the bio rationales NSKE 4% and *Azadirachtin* 1% exhibited significant reduction in *H. armigera* population with 1.90 \pm 0.23 and 1.91 \pm 0.23 larvae per plant respectively when compared to other treatments.

However, after seven days after the first spray significant differences were recorded between the treatments with respect to the larval population which ranged from 1.15 ± 0.09 (Chlorpyriphos 20 EC) to 2.48 ± 0.06 (control) per plant. Among bio rationales NSKE 4 per cent recorded the lowest larval population of 1.25 ± 0.02 larvae per plant and all other bio rationales (HaNPV, *Beauveria bassiana, Bacillus thuringiensis* and *Azadirachtin*) were on par with each other. However, significantly lowest larval population was recorded

in the recommended chemical control Chlorpyriphos (1.15 \pm 0.09 larvae/plant) and Chlorantraniliprole (1.39 \pm 0.01 larvae/plant).

3.2.2 Effect of second spray.

The treatment effects were significant at one day before the treatment, three and seven days after the treatment (Table 3). A day after second spray the larval population per plant between the treatments were significant. The larval population ranged from 0.81 ± 0.14 (NSKE 4) to 1.17 ± 0.03 (*Beauveria bassiana*) per plant, among the bio pesticides tested. Lowest larval populations were recorded in Azadirachtin 1% (0.82 ± 0.06 larvae / plant) followed by and *Ha*NPV (0.87 ± 0.03 larvae/plant) after 3DAS. At seven days after the treatment all the bio pesticides (0.45 to 0.71 larvae per plant) were on par with the chemicals (0.37 to 0.61 larvae / plant) which significantly differed with Chlorpyriphos (0.43 ± 0.09 larvae / plant).

3.2.3 Pod damage and yield

Among all bio pesticide treatments lowest pod damage was recorded in NSKE (5.73%) followed by HaNPV (6.2 per cent) with a yield of 50.75 ± 1.39 , 49.96 ± 0.18 q per ha and cost benefit ratio of 1:1.19 and 1:1.15 and other bio rationales were non-significant with these treatments. The chemicals Chlorantraniliprole (18.5 SC) and Chlorpyriphos (20 EC) resulted with yield of 71.57 ± 2.73 q per ha and 71.19 ± 0.02 q per ha with C: B ratio of 1:2.84 and 1:2.80 respectively. In control the damage was 26.83 per cent with a yield of 50.75 per ha and 49.96 q per ha and C: B ratio of 1:1.19 and 1:1.15. Thus, it revealed that all the bio pesticides significantly enhanced the pod yield of vegetable soybean compared to control.

As per the study chemicals were more effective than biopesticides. Similar results and opinion were presented by Sarode *et al.*, ^[23], Byrappa *et al.*, ^[6], sultani ^[25] and Rambihari *et al.*, ^[18]. However, performance of Bt, NSKE and cow urine + NSKE in the present study is similar to the reports of Abedi *et al.*, ^[11], Bhat *et al.* ^[4] and Sachan and Lal ^[22], respectively. Thus, it was observed that most of the biopesticide treatments significantly enhanced the pod yield of vegetable soybean when compared with the chemicals. These findings are in agreement with Ravikumar ^[20], Sarode *et al.*, ^[23], Byrappa *et al.*, ^[6].

Table 1: Efficacy of different treatments	against Helic	overpa armigera	in field on	vegetable soybean
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	Larval population per plant								
Treatments	First spray			1	Second spray	y	Third spray		
	1 DBT	1 DAT	3 DAT	1 DBT	1 DAT	3 DAT	1 DBT	1 DAT	3 DAT
T ₁ - Covered with nylon net	1.41±0.02a	1.70±0.02a	1.87±0.08a	2.23±0.04ab	2.32±0.04bc	2.34±0.04cd	2.37±0.02b	2.33±0.04c	2.12±0.01c
T ₂ - Spray with Chlorpyriphos (one spray)	3.51±0.09b	2.59±0.33b	2.15±0.02c	2.15±0.02a	2.17±0.06b	2.21±0.01c	2.29±0.02b	2.29±0.06c	2.30±0.06c
T ₃ - Spray with Chlorpyriphos and Quinalphos (two spray)	3.47±0.07b	2.37±0.02b	2.22±0.03bc	2.17±0.02a	1.92±0.03a	1.53±0.04ab	1.46±0.01a	1.53±0.01b	1.51±0.02b
T ₄ - Spray with Chlorpyriphos and Quinalphos and Chlorpyriphos (Three spray)	3.53±0.06b	2.45±0.04b	2.29±0.02bc	2.18±0.03a	1.91±0.03a	1.51±0.03a	1.48±0.04a	1.34±0.08b	1.24±0.03b
T5- Supervisory (ETL based two sprays)	3.62±0.06b	2.30±0.05b	2.11 ±0.02b	2.51±0.02b	1.93±0.10a	1.87±0.03bc	1.54±0.07a	1.07±0.01a	0.76±0.04a
T ₆ - Untreated check	3.35±0.05b	3.39±0.12c	$3.21 \pm 0.06d$	3.41±0.15c	3.48±0.04c	$3.51 \pm 0.02d$	3.67±0.05c	3.73±0.07d	3.58±0.12d
F test	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
SEm (±)	0.06	0.10	0.07	0.0454	0.045	0.033	0.038	0.025	0.044
CD (P≤0.05)	0.19	0.43	0.25	0.616	0.167	0.115	0.126	0.111	0.178
CV (%)	4.11	11.60	6.96	19.06	4.84	3.52	3.92	3.58	5.96

(Mean ± standard error), * Significant at (P≤0.05), DBT- Day before treatment, DAT- Day after treatment

Table 2:	Efficacy	of spray	schedule	on pod	damage	and y	ield in	vegetable	soybean
					<i>u</i>				2

Treatment	Healthy pods per plant	Pod damage (%)	Yield (q/ha)	Additional yield over control (q/ha)	Per cent increase over control	Per cent loss in yield
T_1 - Covered with nylon net	34.15±4.43a	8.46±0.72a	63.24±0.81b	25.68	68.37	40.41
T ₂ - Spray with Chlorpyriphos (one spray)	38.59±1.50a	8.78±0.65a	61.07±1.32b	23.51	62.59	38.49
T ₃ - Spray with Chlorpyriphos and Quinalphos (two spray)	36.17±1.79a	7.82±0.31a	$64.27{\pm}0.80~ab$	26.71	71.11	41.56
T ₄ - Spray with Chlorpyriphos and Quinalphos and Chlorpyriphos (Three spray)		8.25±0.57a	68.34±2.38a	30.78	81.94	45.04
T ₅ - Supervisory (ETL based two sprays)	33.77±3.80a	8.32±0.23a	62.37±1.44b	24.81	66.05	39.77
T6-Untrreated check	27.32±1.50b	$18.46 \pm 1.26b$	37.56±1.60c	-	-	-
F test	*	*	*	-	-	-
SEm (±)	1.93	0.62	1.39	-	-	-
CD (<i>P</i> ≤0.05)	6.42	3.65	4.38	-	-	-
CV (%)	12.53	19.38	4.89	-	-	-

(Mean \pm standard error), * Significant at ($P \le 0.05$),

Table 3: Efficacy of bio-rationales and insecticides against Helicoverpa armigera on vegetable soybean under field condition.

		No.	of H. armige	Bod Domogo	Average vield	C.P.			
Treatments	First spray			5	Second spray	y	rou Damage	(a/ba)	C.D rotio
	1 DBS	3 DAS	7 DAS	1 DBS	3 DAS	7 DAS	(70)	(ц/па)	1 au
T1 - Azadirachtin 1%	2.06±0.13	1.91±0.23°	1.34±0.06bc	1.23±0.15c	0.82±0.06cd	0.57±0.04bc	8.92	45.15±0.22 d	1: 0.66
T2 - Azadirachtin 0.03%	2.39±0.30	2.28±0.04 ^b	1.59±0.19bc	1.51±0.12bc	0.99±0.06bc	0.66±0.16bc	8.46	45.77±0.34 d	1:0.81
T3 - Bacillus thurnigiensis	2.25±0.10	2.34±0.22 ^b	1.48±0.04 bc	1.33±0.06bc	0.96±0.01bc	0.60±0.05bc	11.40	39.22±0.05 d	1:0.07
T4 - HaNPV	2.37±0.07	2.30±0.16b	1.42±0.03 bc	1.35±0.01bc	0.87±0.03c	0.48±0.03bc	6.20	49.96±0.18 cd	1:1.15
T5 - NSKE 4%	2.03±0.10	1.90±0.23°	1.25±0.02 c	1.29±0.10bc	0.81±0.14cd	0.45±0.02bc	5.73	50.75±1.39bc	1:1.19
T6 - Beauveria bassiana	2.31±0.28	2.35±0.18b	1.40±0.15 bc	1.57±0.10bc	$1.17 \pm 0.03b$	0.71±0.13b	11.50	40.78±0.03 e	1:0.04
T7 - Malathion 5% dust	2.10 ± 0.11	1.83±0.21°	1.23±0.02 bc	1.56±0.11bc	1.05±0.07bc	0.61±0.18bc	5.21	49.42±0.88 cd	1:1.21
T8 - Chlorpyriphos 20 EC	2.12±0.09	1.58±0.21 ^d	1.15±0.09a	1.30±0.21a	$0.61 \pm 0.04 d$	0.43±0.09c	3.73	71.19±0.02 a	1:2.80
T9 - Chlorantroniliprole 18.5 SC	2.56±0.14	1.53±0.11 ^d	1.39±0.01a	1.66±0.24b	0.74±0.09cd	0.37±0.09bc	3.71	71.57±2.73 a	1:2.59
T10 - Quinalphos 25 EC	2.29±0.13	1.84±0.09°	1.35±0.24 bc	1.38±0.22bc	0.88±0.02c	0.53±0.10bc	5.10	62.16±0.39 b	1:2.26
T11 - Untreated control	2.18±0.30	2.47 ± 0.07^{a}	2.48±0.06d	2.50±0.02a	2.67±0.15a	2.89±0.06a	26.80	29.17±1.89 f	1: 0.66
F test	NS	*	*	*	*	*	-	*	-
SEm (±)	0.24	0.03	0.15	0.21	0.18	0.16	-	0.74	-
CD (P≤0.05)	NS	0.09	0.03	0.41	0.24	0.22	-	2.98	-
CV (%)	10.15	2.65	13.65	15.99	13.48	12.32	-	3.48	-

(Mean \pm standard error), * Significant at ($P \le 0.05$), DBS- Day before spray, DAS- Day after spray

4. Conclusion

The study indicated that there is a significant loss of yield in vegetable soybean due to pod borer *H. armigera*. The study suggested that that the chemical treatments were superior in yield-related parameters, which also reflected in the larval load of *H. armigera*. However, among the various biopesticides, it was NSKE 4% that stood out as the best followed by HaNPV against pod borer.

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