

Monitoring for Fusarium Wilt in Chillies

Recognize the problem

Fusarium wilt is caused by a fungus that lives in the soil. It damages the crop from the roots up and travels around the plant in its food supplying vessels. It blocks the vessels, causing the stem to turn yellow and afterwards the younger leaves and fruit also become yellow and wilted.

Fusarium wilt of Chillies. (Photo by A.A. Seif & B. Nyambo, icipe, CC BY-NC-SA)



Background

- Monitoring for Fusarium wilt of chillies is very important in order to control the spread of the problem in the field. This is important for this disease as it spreads very quickly.
- Monitoring not only helps to find the presence of the disease in field but also indicates when to take action
- The fungus pathogen can spread over long distances and can be carried from year to year by sowing infected seed
- It remains active through out the year and moves from field to field
- Infected soil is transported on shoes, farm equipment and vehicles
- Flood irrigation should be avoided as the disease flourishes more in hot and wet conditions

Management

- Visit the field twice a week and look for the symptoms described above, such as yellowing of leaves
- When you see these symptoms, visit the field on a daily basis to control the disease at the earliest possible opportunity
- Control the disease using direct control measures. Make sure you have preventive measures in place for the next season.

Scientific name(s) > *Fusarium oxysporum*

The recommendations in this factsheet are relevant to: Pakistan



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