



PREVENTION OF INFESTATION OF STORED GRAIN PEST IN FORAGE PEARL MILLET BY ORGANIC GRAIN PROTECTANTS.

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ABSTRACT:

The khapra beetle is a serious store grain pest of forage pearl millet during storage. In the present investigation, the experiment was conducted to know the effect of different organic grain protectants on infestation percentage of khapra beetle and seed qualities of forage pearl millet. It was observed that seed treated with sweet flag powder (2.5%) and custard apple seed powder 2.5% were showed significantly higher 100 seed weight, germination percentage, seedling vigour, field emergence percentage and adult mortality as compared to other seed treatment and control during storage.

Keywords : organic grain protectants, sweet flag, custard apple, khapra beetle, forage pearl millet infestation, storage.

INTRODUCTION:

The khapra beetle is a serious pest of stored grain causing considerable damage to almost all cereals in storage. It is largely responsible for damage and frequently harboring store, mill and warehouses. Khapra beetle is cosmopolitan in nature attributing about 50% loss in seed weight during storage.

The steady rise in the use of pesticides for control of store grain pests can be dangerous to human being and cattle as well due to their residual toxicity. With view to find out safe and organic seed protectants, present investigation was taken up to evaluate the organic grain protectants in seed storage against khapra beetle in forage pearl millet.

MATERIAL AND METHOD:

Forage pearl millet seed were used in various phages of this study, produced in 2017-2018. The seed were cleaned and dried (moisture content 10.5%). The Bajra seed were treated (May 2017) with six plant product viz., Neem leaf, sweet flag, Tulsi, Custard apple, Turmeric and Pongamia powder is in the proportion of 2.5% by weight of the seeds. The experiment as conducted in glass bottle of 1 lit capacity with

seven treatments including untreated control. Each glass bottle was then filled with 500 gm of forage pearl millet seeds. 10 pairs of 2-3 days old khapra beetle were released in each glass bottle covered with muslin cloth. The set of experiment was kept in well ventilated wire mesh almirah in masonry building having cemented walls, roof and floor under ambient temperature (26.1 – 46.8°C) and relative humidity (22-87%) from May to July, 2017. After three months the seed from each treatment were keenly observed and those found infested were separated out weighted to determine the infestation percentage on weight basis hundred seed weight and germination were tested in quadruplicate with 100 seed in each replication. The germination percentage was evaluated on the value for normal seedling (Anon. 1985). The vigour index were workout following the method of Abdul Baki and Anderson (1973). For field emergence test, sowing of forage pearl millet seed was in randomized block design, with four replication with inter and intra row spacing of one feet and six inches respectively. Observations for field emergence were recorded

daily and finally the established seedlings were counted after one month of sowing. The experimental data was statistically scrutinized as per the Panse and Sukhatme (1967)

RESULT & DISCUSSION

The data regarding the effect of the different organic grain protectants on population behavior (Adult mortality), infestation percentage 100 seed weight, germination percentage, vigour index and field emergence percentage after three months of storage are given in table 1.

The result indicated that variation in number of khapra beetle (adult) in each treatment. The khapra beetle adult mortality was significantly highest in forage pearl millet seed treated with sweet flag (91%) which is closely followed by custard apple (90%) neem leaf (55%), pongamia (54%), tulsi (52%) and turmeric (49%). Where in significantly lower mortality was observed in untreated control (8%). Saxena et. Al (1976), Tikku et al. (1978) and Khan and Borle (1985) found *Acorus calamus* L oil vapour responsible for causing infecundity among the female of a number stored grain pest. Biradar (2000) who reported that sweet flag has got insecticidal and ovicidal effect. The significantly forage pearl millet seed weight loss was observed in untreated control followed by turmeric, tulsi, pongamia, neem leaf, custard apple and sweet flag treatment during entire period of storage. This might be due to sterilizing effect of sweet flag rhizome powder mixed with forage pearl millet seeds. Charjan and Tarar (1994), Deshpande et al. (2010), Ashish et al. (2011), and K. Cherian et al. (2011) reported that the sharp declined in infestation percentage of store grain pest in seed treated with *Acorus calamus* powder.

The seed quality parameters viz., 100 seed weight, germination percentage and seedling vigour index was highest in seed treated with 2.5% concentration of sweet flag powder followed by custard apple, neem leaf, pongamia, tulsi,

turmeric and untreated control. The 100 seed weight, germination percentage and vigour index decreased with increasing infestation fo stored grain pest Howe, (1972), Charjan and Tarar (1994), Deshpande et al. (2010) and Ashish Lambat et al (2011). Since the stored grain pest have been eaten off major portion of the endosperm which leads to reduction in weight of the forage pearl millet seeds and in turn affect the seed germination and vigour index because of lack of stored food and is in conformity with the findings of Narayanswami (1985). Handerson ad Christensen (1961) reported that pulse beetle attack the embryo and germination potential of seed reduced or totally destroyed.

The field emergence percentage of forage pearl millet seeds follow the same trends of seed quality parameters. The field emergence percentage was highest in seed treated with 2.5% concentration of sweet flag powder as compared to other treatments and untreated control. This might be due to the least infestation of khapra beetle and higher 100 seed weight, germinability and seedling vigor index. The results are agreement to those reported by Charjan and Tarar (1994), Deshpande et al. (2010), Ashish Lambat et al (2010) and K. Cherian et at (2011).

Among the plant products sweet flag powder 2.5 % were found to be significantly effective against khapra beetle through out the period of investigation these findings are agreement with Siva Srinivasu (2001), Deshpande et al. (2010), Charjan and Tarar (1994) and Ashish Lambat et al (2011) thus sweet flag and custard apple naturally occurring botanicals which are not toxic can be used as pre storage seed treatment, dispensing with the use of costly and toxic chemicals to control khapra beetle damage without adversely affecting the germination of forage pearl millet seed

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