

Evaluation of Botanicals *In Vitro* against *Rhizoctonia solani* F. sp. *sasakii* Causing Banded Leaf and Sheath Blight of Maize

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ABSTRACT

Maize (*Zea mays* L.) is one of the most important cereal crops cultivated in the world which is most prone to several biotic and abiotic stresses. Incidence of banded leaf and sheath blight disease was more severe causing up to 100% gain yield loss, particularly in rice fallow maize crop. *In vitro* screenings using five aqueous leaf extracts was tested against *Rhizoctonia solani* f. sp. *sasakii*. Propiconazole @ 0.1% was used as standard fungicides for comparison. Significant, mycelial growth inhibition was observed with Karanj leaf extract @ 15% and 10%, which can be used further in strengthening the plant protection in maize against banded leaf and sheath blight.

Key words: *Banded leaf and sheath blight, Botanicals, Efficacy, Maize*