

Assessment of Avoidable Yield Losses due to spotted stem borer, *Chilo partellus* (Swinhoe) in Maize (*Zea mays* L.)

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ABSTRACT

Field experiment was carried out at Agricultural Research Station, Darsi to evaluate the avoidable yield loss caused by spotted stem borer in maize during *rabi* season of 2015-16. The treatment with release of 8 first instar larvae per plant recorded significantly higher mean stem borer larval population per plant (9.08) and dead heart incidence (39.74%). The per cent grain yield loss increased with increase in larval density. The maximum loss in grain yield (45.68%) and 100-grain weight (19.25%) was occurred in the treatment with 8 larvae per plant. The correlation coefficients between *C. partellus* larval incidence and grain yield ($r = - 0.946$) and 100-grain weight ($r = - 0.863$) were negative and highly significant. In the present investigation, the economic injury level was worked out to be 2.74 larvae per plant.

Key words: Avoidable yield loss, Chilo partellus, Graded level of infestation, Maize.