

Prevalence of banded leaf and sheath blight in certain minor millets cultivated in Vizianagaram district of Andhra Pradesh

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ABSTRACT

Small millets are climate-resilient, nutrient-rich crops traditionally grown under rainfed conditions in marginal soils. Their productivity is threatened by disease such as banded leaf and sheath blight (BLSB) caused by *Rhizoctonia solani* Kuhn. The present investigation was conducted to assess the severity and distribution of BLSB in barnyard, little, foxtail, and proso millets cultivated across different mandals of Vizianagaram district in Andhra Pradesh during Kharif, 2024. A roving survey was carried out in selected villages, and disease severity was recorded using the AICRP Small Millets 1–9 scale and per cent disease index (PDI) was calculated. Results revealed that barnyard millet exhibited the highest mean PDI (13.21%), followed by proso millet (12.49%), little millet (9.98%), and foxtail millet (9.16%). At the village level, the highest PDI (17.27%) was recorded in Relli village of Kottavalasa mandal in barnyard millet, while the lowest PDI (4.44%) was observed in Thonam village of Salur mandal in proso millet. Considerable variation in disease severity was observed across mandals, villages, and crops, indicating the influence of local agro-ecological conditions.

Keywords: *Banded leaf and sheath blight, PDI, Pathogen, Rhizoctonia solani and Survey*