

# Seasonal incidence of major lepidopteran pests and natural enemies in sweet corn (*Zea mays convar. saccharata* var. *rugosa*. L)

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## ABSTRACT

The field experiment was conducted at Agricultural college, Naira Farm during *rabi* 2024-25, to know the seasonal incidence of lepidopteran pests infesting sweet corn and also the natural enemies occurring on the crop. Among them fall army worm *Spodoptera frugiperda* (J.E. Smith) and pink stem borer *Sesamia inferens* (Walker) appeared to be the major pests infesting the crop. Fall army worm appeared during 52<sup>nd</sup> SMW *i.e.* 3<sup>rd</sup> week of December, pink stem borer was observed during 51<sup>st</sup> SMW *i.e.* 2<sup>nd</sup> week of December and the incidence of natural enemies was observed during 51<sup>st</sup> SMW *i.e.* 2<sup>nd</sup> week of December. The correlation between pink stem borer and abiotic parameters during *rabi*, 2024-2025 indicated that a significant positive correlation was observed with morning relative humidity ( $r= 0.469^*$ ). Whereas correlation between ladybird beetles, spiders and abiotic parameters during *rabi*, 2024-2025 indicated a significant positive correlation with morning relative humidity ( $r= 0.059^*$ ) and ( $r=0.558^*$ ) respectively.

**Key Words** : *Correlation, Fall armyworm, Seasonal incidence, Sweet corn and Weather parameters*