RESEARCH ARTICLE

THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE VARIABILITY ON DEVELOPMENT OF FOLIAR DISEASES OF *SESAMUM INDICUM* L.

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Abstract: Leaf blight caused by *Alternaria sesami* and powdery mildew caused by *Erysiphe cichoracearum* are the major yield limiting factors in sesame. Environmental factors play an important role in development of foliar diseases of sesame. Three different dates of sowing was taken using the susceptible variety VRI-1 to study the influence of weather factors on the occurrence of foliar diseases of sesame. The weather parameters were recorded and correlated with the disease intensity. The results revealed that foliar disease severity was more in unprotected plots as compared to protected plots. The disease intensity was found to be increased with an increase in age of the plants. Correlation studies revealed that *Alternaria* leaf blight intensity was significantly negatively correlated with maximum and minimum temperature. There was a positive relationship observed between powdery mildew incidence and Relative humidity.

Keywords : Sesame, Foliar diseases, Weather factors, Correlation

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