RESEARCH ARTICLE

EFFECT OF BOTANICALS AND BIO-AGENTS ON *FUSARIUM OXYSPORUM* F. SP. *CICERI* CAUSES FUSARIUM WILTS OF CHICKPEA (*CICER ARIETINUM* L.)

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Abstract: Chickpea (*Cicer arietinum* L.) an important pulse crop in the world, is a good source of protein and fixes the atmospheric nitrogen in the fields. It is one of the best crops for arid conditions. Fuasrium wilt, a most severe disease and causes huge losses. The potential of anti-fungal activity of different botanicals and bio-agents were tested in laboratory conditions. Among seven botanicals tested, Palmarosa (*Cymbopogon martinii* var. *motia)* with minimum growth of pathogen and 56.36 per cent of inhibition was found most effective against *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *ciceri* followed by others to inhibit the fungal growth in comparison to control. Among the bio-agents, *Trichoderma viride* inhibits the 62.57 per cent and proved to be best in suppressing the growth of the pathogen followed by others.

Keywords: Chickpea, Palmarosa, Bio-agent, *Trichoderma viride*

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