



Scenario of Wilt Incidence of Chickpea in Major Chickpea Growing Regions of Northern Karnataka, India

**Ashwini S. ^{a++*}, M. S. L. Rao ^{b#}, B. S. Patil ^{c†},
S. A. Ashtaputre ^{d‡} and Spurthi N. Nayak ^{e^}**

^a Department of Plant Pathology, College of Agriculture, University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad-580 005, Karnataka, India.

^b AICRP on Groundnut MARS, University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad-580 005, Karnataka, India.

^c IARI's Regional Research Centre, Dharwad-580 005, Karnataka, India.

^d Directorate of Research, University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad-580 005, Karnataka, India.

^e Department of Biotechnology, IABT, University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad-580 005, Karnataka, India.

Authors' contributions

This work was carried out in collaboration among all authors. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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ABSTRACT

The chickpea (*Cicer arietinum* L.) is one of the important pulse crops grown in India. Chickpea wilt complex is one of the most devastating crop diseases in northern Karnataka. Because of abundant inoculum in the soil and suitable environment circumstances, infected plants die, resulting in full

⁺⁺ Ph. D. Scholar;

[#] Principal Scientist and Head;

[†] Principal Scientist;

[‡] Director of Research, & Professor of Plant Pathology;

[^] Asst. Professor;

*Corresponding author: E-mail: ashwinishettys619@gmail.com;

loss of yield. A random roaming study was done in important chickpea farming districts of northern Karnataka, namely Dharwad, Belagavi, Haveri, Gadag, Bagalkot, Kalaburgi, and Vijayapur, during Rabi 2021-22 and 2022-22, to establish disease incidence and its in severity in different places. The survey results demonstrated a link between three pathogens: *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *ciceri*, *Rhizoctonia bataticola*, and *Sclerotia rolfsii*. Dharwad district has the highest illness incidence (30.20%), followed by Kalburgi district with 29.85 per cent.

Keywords: Chickpea, wilt complex; *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *Cicero*; *Rhizoctonia bataticola*; *Sclerotia rolfsii*.

1. INTRODUCTION

Chickpea (*Cicer arietinum* L.) is an important pulse crop grown in tropical, subtropical and temperate regions of the world. After common bean and pea, it is the third most significant grain legume in the world [1]. India, which leads in both output and area, contributes 70% of the world's total chickpea production. The primary chickpea-growing states in India are Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Uttarkhand, and Karnataka, which account for 89% of the nation's total acreage and chickpea output. Given that it accounts for between 35 and 40 percent of the nation's total gram output and area, Madhya Pradesh is the state with the highest levels of both [2]. In semi-arid agricultural systems, chickpea is planted as a post-monsoon (*rabi*) crop and is crucial for both human nutrition and re-establishing soil fertility [3]. It is a supplement to all cereal-based diets that is high in protein, especially for vegetarians. Because of the high lysine content and low sulphur content of its amino acids, it is usually regarded as a healthy diet. Biologic and abiotic variables are among the main causes of the low productivity of chickpeas. According to estimates by Van Emden et al. [4], the yield loss caused by insects and illnesses ranges from 5 to 10% in temperate regions to 50 to 100% in tropical ones. Few pathogens, fewer than 172, have been identified to infect chickpea crops. Few are economically important diseases. The primary factor limiting yield is a wilt complex brought on by pathogens that are found in the soil. *Fusarium* wilt (*Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *ciceri* (Pad Wick) Snyd. & Hans), black root rot (*Fusarium solani* (Mart.) Sacc.), dry root rot (*Rhizoctonia bataticola*), and root rot (*Sclerotia rolfsii*) are among them, and they are all of significant relevance Nene et al. According to Jalali and Chand [5] and Trapero-Casas and Jimenez-Diaz [6], chickpea losses from *Fusarium* wilt range from 10 to 15%, whereas Grewal and Pal [7] reported losses of up to 70% in some years in northern India and Pakistan.

In the present study, a random roaming survey was carried out in important chickpea growing districts of northern Karnataka, viz., Bagalkot, Belagavi, Dharwad, Gadag, Haveri, Vijayapura and Kalburgi in *rabi* 2021-22 and 2022-23 to know the disease prevalence and its severity in various locations.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

An intensive roaming survey was conducted in major chickpea growing districts viz., Dharwad, Belagavi, Haveri, Gadag, Bagalkot, Kalaburgi and Vijayapur districts of northern Karnataka, during Rabi 2021-22 and 2022-22. The details of locations and number of villages visited are tabulated hereunder. The disease incidence in the fields was assessed with the following formula.

$$\text{Per cent Disease Incidence} = \frac{\text{Number of plants infected}}{\text{Total number of plants observed}} \times 100$$

Roots and stem of infected samples were collected from surveyed field. These samples were brought to laboratory for isolation of pathogens.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

To know the prevalence of chickpea wilt complex disease, a survey was conducted during *rabi* season of 2021-22 and 2022-23 in major chickpea growing areas of Northern Karnataka. The survey revealed that, the wilt incidence was noticed in all the locations surveyed with a range from 6.80 to 54.85% during 2021-22 and it was 5.28- 55.23 per cent during 2022-23 (Table 1). Among the districts surveyed, the mean maximum incidence (31.69%) was noticed in Kalburgi district during 2021-22 and minimum disease incidence was observed in Vijayapur district with 20.45%.

Table 1. Incidence of wilt complex of chickpea in northern districts of Karnataka during *rabi* 2021-22 and 2022-23

District	Taluk	Village (2021-22)	Stage of crop	Disease incidence % (2021-22)	Village (2022-23)	Stage of crop 2022	Disease incidence % (2022-23)	
Bagalkot	Badami	Hoolgeri	Vegetative	20.69	Yankanchi	Flowering	9.28	
		Kerur	Vegetative	30.41	Allur	vegetative	16.50	
		Adagal	Flowering	20.72	Halkurki	vegetative	48.25	
	Bagalkot	Allur	Flowering	48.36	Kerur	vegetative	26.36	
		Bhagavathi	Pod filling	30.36	Bhagavathi	Pod filling	35.26	
		Hallur	Vegetative	18.71	Hallur	Flowering	15.55	
		Bilkerur	Vegetative	30.39	Bilkerur	Flowering	36.12	
	Jamkhandi	Timmerpur	Vegetative	17.31	Timmerpur	Flowering	19.23	
			Mygur	Vegetative	6.18	Mygur	Pod filling	22.35
			Aalabal	Flowering	25.27	Aalabal	Pod filling	30.36
Bailhongal	Naganur	Flowering	16.75	Naganur	Flowering	30.39		
		Nesargi	Flowering	18.63	Nesargi	Flowering	20.26	
		Hogarathi	Flowering	17.25	Kenganur	Flowering	55.73	
Belagavi	Belawadi	Pod filling	27.21	Belawadi	Pod filling	36.85		
		Hire bagewadi	Flowering	36.12	Lingadahalli	Pod filling	35.20	
		Saundatti	Flowering	35.26	Inamhongala	Flowering	13.60	
	Belagavi	Aralakati	Pod filling	29.21	Herenandi	Flowering	28.47	
		Rainapur	Vegetative	14.20	Hirehulageri	Pod filling	37.33	
	Dharwad	Belagavi	Belagavi	Pod Filling	28.36	Belagavi	Floweing	20.36
			Mutnal	Pod Filling	18.36	Mutnal	Pod filling	25.85
Dharwad		Navluru	Vegetative	30.25	Navluru	Flowering	42.34	
		Narendra	Flowering	50.23	RRC	Vegetative	30.36	
Dharwad	Marewad	Vegetative	54.85	Amminbhavi	Vegetative	30.41		
		Govinkoppa	Flowering	24.36	Somapur	Vegetative	20.84	
	RRC	Flowering	32.36	Narendra	Flowering	55.23		
	Somapur	Vegetative	14.85	Somapur	Flowering	25.65		
	Yettinaudda	Flowering	33.85	Yadwad	Flowering	22.73		
		Shivalli	Flowering	22.81	Shivalli	Pod Filling	26.41	
Navalgund	Aratti	Flowering	21.23	Annigeri	Vegetative	43.22		

District	Taluk	Village (2021-22)	Stage of crop	Disease incidence % (2021-22)	Village (2022-23)	Stage of crop 2022	Disease incidence % (2022-23)
		Thirlapur	Pod filling	25.36	Betageri	Flowering	40.38
		Karewada	Flowering	30.31	Karewada	Flowering	28.51
		Kadadhahalli	Flowering	27.25	Kadadhahalli	Flowering	35.41
		Aarekuratti	Pod filling	48.21	Aarekuratti	Flowering	30.78
	Hubballi	Chabbi	Vegetative	8.52	Chabbi	Flowering	26.44
		Thadsa	Flowering	18.21	Ingalahalli	Pod filling	32.11
		Byahatti	Vegetative	30.55	Kusugal	Pod filling	35.36
	Gadag	Belehoda	Flowering	25.26	Hulakote	Vegetative	15.38
		Magadi	Pod filling	28.36	Konnur	Vegetative	7.42
		Asundi	Pod filling	23.54	Mulagund	Flowering	25.45
		Belehoda	Pod filling	27.81	Belehoda	Flowering	26.19
		Chik handigalur	Flowering	29.85	Neelagund	Flowering	7.28
	Gadag	Gojanur	Flowering	33.12	Gojanur	Pod filling	33.41
		Hulakote	Flowering	9.12	Hulakote	Pod filling	25.36
	Nargund	Kurligeri	Flowering	19.21	Kurligeri	Pod filling	26.38
		Banahatti	Pod filling	26.77	Banahatti	Pod filling	30.24
	Ron	Ron	Pod filling	20.85	Ron	Flowering	22.36
		Naregal	Flowering	25.87	Naregal	Flowering	27.01
	Ranibennur	Karimalapura	Vegetative	20.36	Honnati	Flowering	18.36
		Guddada anveri	Vegetative	9.39	Karimallapura	Flowering	5.28
	Haveri	Honnati	Vegetative	39.77	Guddada Anveri	Flowering	17.36
	Shiratti	Balehosur	Flowering	28.14	Doddur	Flowering	22.11
		Basapur	Flowering	30.23	Basapur	Vegetative	27.48
	Vijayapur	Rampur	Flowering	11.23	Hadagali	Vegetative	15.36
		Vijayapur	vegetative	23.36	Vijayapur	Flowering	22.68
		Honnutagi	Pod filling	30.62	Kumatagi Tanda	Flowering	25.66
		Bommanjogi	Pod filling	36.36	Uppaladinni	Flowering	15.48
	Vijayapur	Shivanagi	Pod filling	25.36	Shivanagi	Pod filling	7.36
		Kavalgi	Flowering	19.23	Kavalgi	Pod filling	18.41
	Sindagi	Kudagi	Flowering	23.30	Aheri	Pod filling	35.57
		Guthargi	Pod filling	11.54	Bisnal	Pod filling	25.85

District	Taluk	Village (2021-22)	Stage of crop	Disease incidence % (2021-22)	Village (2022-23)	Stage of crop 2022	Disease incidence % (2022-23)
Kalaburgi	Kalaburgi	Padaganur	Flowering	16.74	Guthargi	Vegetative	17.62
		Aheri	Pod filling	14.59	Moratagi	Vegetative	6.85
		Sannur	Flowering	26.55	Aurad	Vegetative	15.61
		Kalaner	Flowering	28.36	Belakot	Vegetative	25.92
	Sedam	Nadisinnur	Flowering	30.88	Farathabad	Vegetative	38.64
		Bategeri	Flowering	24.33	Birannahalli	Floweing	38.36
		Kodla	Pod filling	45.22	Samkhed tanda	Vegetative	20.25

Table 2. Mean per cent disease incidence of wilt complex of chickpea in different district and taluka during *rabi* 2021-22 and 2022-23

District	Taluk	Disease incidence (2021-22)	Disease incidence 2022-23	Mean
Bagalkot	Badami	30.05	25.10	27.58
	Bagalkot	24.19	26.54	25.37
	Jamkhandi	16.07	27.70	21.89
Mean		23.44	26.45	24.94
Belagavi	Bailhongal	24.80	37.01	30.91
	Savdatthi	26.22	26.47	26.35
	Belagavi	23.36	23.11	23.24
Mean		24.79	28.86	26.83
Dharwad	Dharwad	32.95	31.75	32.35
	Navalgund	30.47	35.66	33.07
	Hubballi	19.09	31.30	25.20
Mean		27.50	32.90	30.20
Gadag	Gadag	25.29	20.07	22.68
	Nargund	22.99	28.31	25.65
	Ron	23.36	24.68	24.02
Mean		23.88	24.35	24.12
Haveri	Ranebennur	23.17	13.66	18.42
	Shiratti	29.19	24.80	26.99
Mean		26.18	19.23	22.70
Vijayapura	Vijayapura	24.36	17.49	20.93
	Sindagi	16.54	21.47	19.01
Mean		20.45	19.48	19.97
Kalburgi	Kalburgi	28.60	26.72	27.66
	Sedam	34.78	29.31	32.05
Mean		31.69	28.02	29.85



a. Hirebagevadi (Belagavi)



b. Kerimallapur (Haveri)

Fig. 1. Incidence of chickpea wilt during survey of northern Karnataka

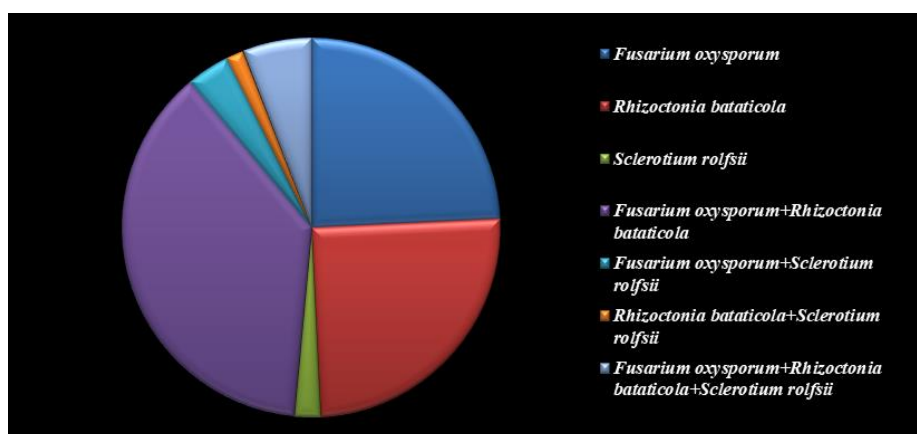


Fig. 2. Percentage of pathogens associated with chickpea wilt complex

During 2022-23 the mean maximum disease incidence (32.90%) was noticed in Dharwad district and minimum disease incidence was observed in Haveri district with 19.23% Table 2). During 2021-22 highest incidence was observed in Marewad (54.85%) village of Dharwad district. During 2022-23 highest incidence (55.23%) was observed in Narendra of Dharwad district (Fig. 1). Hence, these places can be considered as 'hot spots' of chickpea wilt complex disease. Disease incidence varied by location due to cropping patterns, climatic factors, and inoculum buildup. The increased disease incidence might be related to the soil type, environmental conditions, and monocropping strategy, which worsened the disease situation.

Diseased samples were collected from the surveyed areas in both the seasons and subjected to the isolation to observe the major

pathogens associated with disease and the results revealed that in both the seasons *Fusarium oxysporum* f.sp. *ciceri* + *Rhizoctonia bataticola* (37.31%) (Fig. 2) was majorly present in all places followed by *Rhizoctonia bataticola* (25.38%) and *Fusarium oxysporum* f.sp. *ciceri* (24.63%) and prevalence of *Sclerotium rolfsii* was minimum (2.24%).

The disease severity was very high in areas coming under the black cotton soil and the farmers are growing the chickpea extensively in these areas year after year. This monocropping has led to the buildup of inoculum of the pathogen in the soil over the seasons especially the population of *Fusarium* spp. when there is an optimum soil temperature and moisture and caused more damage to the crop. These observations are in agreement with the earlier descriptions given by Booth [8]. The areas where

the disease incidence was higher, we have noticed the association of both *Fusarium* and *Rhizoctonia*. Losses of chickpea from *Fusarium* wilt have been reported to vary from 10 to 15% [9,6].

Additionally, from the present study of wilt incidence in different areas it was identified that, the wilt incidence was most prevalent during the reproductive phase of the plant. Wilt was more observed during the reproductive stage of the plant as nutrients flowed to the reproductive area of the crop and due to an imbalance in nutrient availability in the stem and root region [10]. Disease incidence varies by location due to differences in cropping pattern, agroclimatic conditions, crop stage, and cultural practises used [11].

4. CONCLUSION

To know the prevalence of chickpea wilt complex disease, a survey was conducted during rabi 2021-22 and 2022-23 in major chickpea growing areas of northern Karnataka. The survey revealed that, the wilt incidence was noticed in all the locations surveyed with a range from 5.28-55.23 per cent. Among the districts surveyed, the mean maximum incidence (31.69%) was noticed in Kalburgi district during 2021-22 and during 2022-23 the mean maximum disease incidence (35.66%) was noticed in Dharwad district and minimum disease incidence was observed in Haveri district with 13.67%. During 2021-22 highest incidence was observed in Marewad (54.85%) of Dharwad district. During 2022-23 highest incidence (55.23%) was observed in Narendra of Dharwad district. Therefore, these places can be considered as 'hot spots' of chickpea wilt complex disease.

COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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