

Agri. Res. 7. Kerala, 1973, 11(1)

OCCURRENCE OF 'TUNGRO' VIRUS DISEASE OF RICE IN KERALA

A leaf yellowing disease in dwarf *indica* varieties of rice, namely, IR-8, Jaya etc. and in the *Japonica-indica* hybrid Mashoori was prevalent in Kodakara Block of Trichur district and Angamali Block of Ernakulam district during 1973. The leaves of affected plants showed orange yellow to dull yellow discolouration and they were slightly rolled outward. The degree of discolouration was highest in the outermost leaves and it decreased towards the inner leaves. Also, yellowing was more intense at the apex of the leaves than at the base. The affected hills were stunted and the degree of stunting increased with the degree of discolouration. The number of tillers in the affected plants was reduced and the root development was poor. Irregularly shaped dark brown blotches were often noticed on the yellow leaves. The diseased plants occurred side by side with the healthy ones and there was no regularity in their distribution. In certain cases, both diseased and healthy plants were seen in one and the same hill. Some of the diseased plants which were very much discoloured and stunted were found dying. The difference in growth between the healthy and the affected plants was marked even in National Demonstration Plots where the package of practices in respect of manuring were observed in toto. The symptoms were suggestive of the 'Tungro' virus disease and the same was confirmed by transmission studies conducted by the All India Co-ordinated Rice Improvement Project, Hyderabad.

Acknowledgement

Thanks are due to Dr. I. W. Buddenhagen and to Dr. V. T. John for the help rendered in conducting transmission studies.

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3-12-1973.

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(U. S. received 26-12-1973)