

STUDIES ON SOME IMPORTANT FUNGAL DISEASES ON SUNFLOWER IN IRAN

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- Wovny mildew on sunflower caused by Plasmopara helianthi was observed at April 1971 in North of Iran on the seeds which was brought from Romania. To control the disease and cultivation some resistant varieties many research works were done. The loss in sunflower yield from this disease is estimated to be to the extent of 20%. In 1986 a new form was found in some sunflower field in Northern part of Iran. Macroscopic observation of this form (Form II) on field and under green house condition showed that this new form was distictly different from the previously described one (Form I). Morphological and cultural characteristic of this fungus is under investigation.

- During last two years, a heavy incidence of sunflower rust Puccinia helianthi which was particularly affecting the hybrid sunflower varieties was found in some fields in North of Iran. The intensity of infection in certain instances was more than 50%. This suggests the importance of this disease and the need for obtaining some new resistant varieties in near future.

- In addition, in 1988 a new disease caused by Phomopsis helianthi was found also in Northern of Iran, due to which, more than 20% of hybrid sunflower plants were affected by this fungal attack. To identify the other colluteral host plants, crop rotation and new research in obtaining some resistant varieties was required to reduce the loss in yields of sunflower production.