

SURVEY OF SPRING SUNFLOWER DISEASES IN THE IRRIGATED AREAS OF
PUNJAB, PAKISTAN

Khurshid Burney, Iftikhar Ahmad and M. Aslam
Crop Diseases Research Institute, Pakistan Agricultural Research Council,
P.O.Box 1031, Islamabad, Pakistan

During 1986 a survey of spring sunflower crop was conducted to determine the prevalence of various diseases with special emphasis on charcoal rot caused by Macrophomina phaseolina. In total twenty three key locations were visited. The crop was largely free of diseases and doing very well in general. There was a minor attack of head rot (c.o. Rhizopus sp.) at eight sites. Charcoal rot was observed only at five places and the also in patches. Root samples of apparently healthy and diseased plants from randomly selected sites were brought for assessment of M.phaseolina infection. Root planting on CMR Agar (Cloroneb-Mercuric chloride-resebengal agar) revealed the presence of M.phaseolina in roots of both apparently healthy and diseased plants. Interestingly, charcoal rot was observed only at those sites where farmer had not managed the irrigation schedule properly.