

BIOLOGICAL AND ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF SUNFLOWER PROTECTION

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A stable and high sunflower production in Vojvodina is based on the biological fertility of domestic hybrids, choice of disease hybrids and chemical crop protection for diseases, pests and weed control. *Phomopsis helianthi*, *Sclerotinia scl.* and *Plasmopara helianthi* are diseases which influence the crop yield every year. Chemical protection is considered a complementary and vital part of the present sunflower hybrids and regular farming measures. Right now the main wish of sunflower producers is a reasonable, efficient and financially positive sunflower production.

The study of biological and economic aspects of disease, pests and weed control was performed from 1980-1987. Special attention was paid to harmful threshold and some critical moments of the protection of susceptible genotypes NS-H-33 RM against *Phomopsis helianthi*, NS-H-62 RM against *Sclerotinia scl.* and Vnimk 8931 against downy mildew.

The correlation between biological agents and financial indicators was established by statistical analysis of representative samples.

Consequently, average sunflower and oil yield were as a basis to relative indicators. Critical periods were based upon evaluation of harmful threshold, yield, and efficiency coefficient of used pesticides.

Reliable *Phomopsis* control is achieved by two or three fungicide applications at button till flowering time. Fungicides based on benomyl, carbendazime, thiophanate methyl, nuarimol and biloxazol combined with mancozeb, folpet and zineb give good control.

Sclerotinia scl., *Phomopsis* spp., *Phoma* spp., and *Botrytis cinerea* on sunflower head are controlled with systemic fungicides benomil and carbendazime tank mixed with vinclozoline, prosimidon and iprodione.

New hybrids NS-H-45 RM must be protected against *Sclerotinia scl.* at generative stage of development with systemic products carbendazime + vinclozoline, prosimidon and iprodione. New premixes of these combinations (Sportak PF, Rovral TS and Konker) are very handy and convenient for use. Significant damages to sunflower can cause soil insects (*Acheta deserta*, *Tanymericus dilaticolis*, *Agrotis segetum*, *Euxoa temera*, *Opatrum sabulosum*) birds and rodents.

Plant aphids (*Aphis* spp., *Brachycaudis* spp.) appear from time to time and their role as disease vector has not been clarified. Crickets, corn weevils and hamsters are most harmful at sunflower emerging time.

Weed control in sunflower production provides sufficient weed decrease and prevents absence of human labor from cultivation. Competition between crops and weeds normally occurs at cotyledon up to 2-3 leaves stage. Combination of herbicides provides good weed control on dominant weed species and avoids phytotoxic effect to the treated crop.

The introduction of trifluralin in to semiarid areas prior to planting and alachlor, metolachlor and pendimethalin following planting in areas with regular rainfalls has provided total weed control of annual grasses and other dicotyledon weeds. When applied as tank mix with linuron, prometryn and cyanazine rest of annual broadleaved species can be controlled. The introduction of fluorochloridone enables *Cirsium arvense* to be controlled. Herbicide Modown 4E (bifenox) have been applied to control dicotyledon weeds and fusilade super (flusiafopbutil) is used for annual and perennial grasses post emergence.

Fifteen fungicides based on 10 active ingredients have been used in sunflower protection at use rates of 5,8 kg/ha. The share of fungicides of total pesticides in Vojvodina amounts to 42,2 % and 309,7 % of area covered with sunflower. Main products used in sunflower protection are based on prosimidion 32,1 %, Benamil 25,0 %, cineb 14,6 %, mancozeb 13,0 %, iprodione 4,7 %, vinclozoline 3,8 %, fosetil AL with folpet 2,7 %, carbendazim+iprodion 2,0 %, tiofanatmetil 1,5 % and carbendazime 0,6 %.

Quantity of insecticides used to control soil insects includes forat 4 %, lindan 1,2 % fenitrotion+malatione 10,1 %, hlormefos 9,9 %, fonofos 6,3 %, karbofurane 5 %, terbofosa 1,3 %, foxima 0,6 % and karbofurane 0,1 %.

If the use of insecticides is shown through the treated area the percentage is quite different. There lindan is 10,4 %, forat 7,1 %, hlormefos 4,3 %, fenitrotion+malation 1,7 %, and fonofos 1,0 % are used in sunflower against soil insects. *Acheta deserta* and *T. dilaticolis* is feasible at cotyledon to 2-3 leaves stage with insecticides. In pesticide use insecticides take up

23,5 % of pesticides with 47,2 % treated area at use rate of 3,2 kg/ha. Twenty seven insecticides are based on 20 active ingredients.

Twenty three herbicides based on 16 active ingredients were used in Vojvodina in 1986. Herbicides share in pesticidal protection of sunflower in total is 34,3 %. Sixty five products based on 44 active ingredients at use rate of 13,7 kg/ha are being used to treat 528,6 % of total area with sunflower.