

## Weather based forewarning model for powdery mildew disease of mustard

**ABSTRACT-**To develop the weather based forewarning model for powdery mildew disease of mustard crop at Sardarkrushinagar, weekly powdery mildew data of 12 years (2010-11 to 2021-22) collected from Centre for Oilseed Research, S.D. Agricultural University, Sardarkrushinagar. The data were pooled over the years and correlated with corresponding weather parameters recorded in Agromet Observatory, S.D. Agricultural University, Sardarkrushinagar. The forewarning regression equation developed with the help of weather variables to predict the incidence of disease in an advance. The results revealed that the maximum temperature and minimum temperature significantly positively correlated with powdery mildew disease of mustard. While morning relative humidity and evening relative humidity correlated significantly negative with disease severity. Regression equation developed with maximum temperature and morning relative humidity caused variability up to 96 % in the powdery mildew disease of mustard.

**Key word:** *Weather, Powdery mildew and Forewarning equation*

### Introduction

Mustard (*Brassica Juncea*) is one of the most important oilseed crop grown under wide range of agro-climatic conditions in India. This crop is affected by various biotic and abiotic factors of the environment. The weather conditions particularly temperature and relative humidity are the most congenial parameters for outbreak of powdery mildew, which has been a limiting factor for successful cultivation of mustard. Dange *et al.*, (2002) reported 17 per cent yield loss due to this disease in mustard in Gujarat state. Weather parameters such as temperature and relative humidity play an important role in disease development (Gadre *et al.*, 2002; Desai *et al.*, 2004 and Kohire *et al.*, 2008). However, scanty information is available on the epidemiological aspects in relation to weather of this disease under north Gujarat agro-climatic conditions where the crop is cultivated during rabi season mainly in Banaskantha district as major crop. The crop is mainly affected by powdery mildew disease causing considerable losses in

terms of both quality and quantity of the grain. Hence, the present investigation was carried out at Sardarkrushinagarto determine the influence of meteorological parameters on diseasedevelopment.

## **Materials and Methods**

Weekly powdery mildew disease data of 12 years (2010-11 to 2021-22) from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> standard meteorological week (SMW) was collected from Centre for Oilseed Research, S.D. Agricultural University, Sardarkrushinagar. The data on disease intensity were pooled over the year and used for analysis and results interpretation. Weekly disease intensity was correlated with corresponding weekly weather parameters which were recorded in nearby agro-meteorological observatory, S.D. Agricultural University, Sardarkrushinagar. The weather variables like maximum temperature (Tmax), minimum temperature (Tmin), morning relative humidity (RHI, afternoon relative humidity (RH II), rainfall (RF), sunshine hours (SSH) and wind speed (WS) were used for correlation study. The weather parameters those have significant relationship with powdery mildew disease, were used to develop step wise regression for disease forecasting. In present study, SPSS v. 20, a computer window was used to correlation and regression analysis. Since the diseases are not influenced by a single weather parameter but by interaction of more than one variables, hence multiple regression equations were developed for powdery mildew disease of mustard.

$$Y = a_1X_1 + a_2X_2 + a_3X_3 + C$$

Where, Y = disease intensity

X<sub>1</sub>, X<sub>2</sub> and X<sub>3</sub> = weather variables

a<sub>1</sub>, a<sub>2</sub> and a<sub>3</sub> are partial regression coefficients

C = constant

## **Results and Discussions**

### **1. Weather factors and disease development**

The average maximum and minimum temperature during the period of disease incidence varied from 26.2 to 38.1 °C and 8.7 to 18.5 °C respectively. Similarly, relative humidity during morning and afternoon varied from 67 to 73 per cent and 27 to 35 per cent respectively. The disease intensity during the period ranged from 0.2 to 98.0 per cent on pooled basis. The incidence of disease increased with advancement of maximum and minimum temperature. Correlation study revealed that, the maximum and minimum temperature showed significant positive correlation with disease incidence. The relationship between disease intensity and morning and afternoon relative humidity was found significant negative. The correlation of rainfall, sunshine hours and wind speed with PDI was found non significant. Highest correlation coefficient ( $r = 0.973^{**}$ ) obtained with maximum temperature followed by  $r = 0.964^{**}$  with minimum temperature (Table 1). Thus, it is clearly indicated that the temperature and relative humidity play an important role in powdery mildew disease development in mustard crop. The same results were reported by Saharan and Kaushik (1981); Dang *et al.*, (1998) and Gadre *et al.*,(2002). They reported that temperature had significant positive relationship with the powdery mildew disease of mustard. The present findings also in close conformity with the results reported by Desai *et al.*, (2004); Kohire *et al.*, (2008). Similar results also reported by Kanzaria *et al.*, (2013). They reported that maximum and minimum temperature showed significantly positive correlation with PDI while morning and afternoon relative humidity had significantly negative correlation with disease.

## 2. Forecasting model for powdery mildew disease

Forecasting of disease, regression equation was developed with those weather variables which had significant correlation with disease intensity. Stepwise regression procedure were followed for disease prediction in an advance. The equation  $PDI = 62.837 + 8.072 T_{max} - 3.919 RH$  with  $R^2$  value 0.96 and error of estimate 7.43 developed with maximum temperature and morning relative humidity could explained 96 per cent variability in powdery mildew disease (Table 2). Thus, maximum temperature and morning relative humidity found most influencing weather parameters (predictors) for disease forecasting. Such model could be used successfully for disease forecasting in an advance in mustard crop in the region. It could also be used in agro-advisory services bulletins to timely spraying in the crop for controlling the disease incidence.

**Table 1:** Correlation coefficient between weather variables and powdery mildew disease

Sr. No.	Weather variables	Correlation coefficient (r)
1.	Tmax	0.973**
2.	Tmin	0.964**
3.	RH I	-0.754**
4.	RH II	-0.899**
5.	RF	0.494
6.	SSH	0.048
7.	WS	0.408

**Table 2:**Regression equation for prediction of powdery mildew disease

Sr. No.	Regression equation	R <sup>2</sup>	Error of estimate
1.	$PDI = 62.837 + 8.072T_{max} - 3.919 RH I$	0.96	7.43

## Conclusion

The incidence of powdery mildew disease of mustard under north Gujarat agro-climatic condition increased rapidly with an increase in temperature. The maximum temperature and morning relative humidity found most influencing weather variables for disease development.

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