

Effect of Date of Planting on Pest and Disease Incidence on Bell Pepper (*Capsicum annum* var *Grossum* Sendt.) in Bengal Basin

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Abstract—The effect of three dates of planting viz 1st November, 15th November and 30th November on pest and disease incidence of bell pepper var *Indra* was started at farmers' field at North 24 Pargonas district in West Bengal for two consecutive seasons (2015-16 & 2016-17) following randomised block design with seven replications. Pest incidence of thrips (*Scirtothrips dorsalis* Hood), aphids (*Aphis gossypii* Glover. and *Myzus persicae* Sulzer), whitefly (*Bemisia tabaci* Gennadius), yellow mite (*Polyphagotarsonemus latus* Banks) and fruit borers (*Helicoverpa armigera* Hubner) were recorded at ten days intervals from fifteen days after transplanting.

Crop planted on 30th November showed at highest population of thrips (1.37/5 leaves), aphids (2.00/5 no of shoot), whitefly (2.81/5 leaves), fruit borers (1.35/plant) and chilli leaf curl virus incidence but lowest population of yellow mite (1.15/plant). Crop planted on 1st November exhibited lowest population of all the crop pests thrips (1.22/5 leaves), aphids (1.47/5 no of shoot), whitefly (2.32/5 leaves) and fruit borers (1.15/plant) and chilli leaf curl virus except yellow mite (1.27/5 leaves).

Pest and disease incidence were apparently in moderate on 15th November planted crops. Crop planted on 1st November provided the highest yield of marketable fruits (18.3t/ha) followed by 15th November (15.2 t/ha) and 30th November (13.3t/ha) planted crop.

Therefore, it supposed to be recommended that planting of bell pepper should completed within 1st week of November in Southern district of Bengal basin with proper protective measure against yellow mite during seedling and early vegetative growth stage.

Keywords: Bell pepper, planting dates, pest incidence, leaf curl virus.