

Influence of Abiotic Factors on Seasonal Incidence of Insect Pests in Cashew Grown under Red and Lateritic Zone of West Bengal

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Abstract—An experiment was undertaken at Regional Research Station (Red and Laterite Zone), Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya, Jhargram, Paschim Medinipur under All India Co-ordinated Research Project on Cashew during 2014-15 and 2015-16 to observe the seasonal incidence of major insect pests of cashew as influenced by prevailing weather conditions under red and laterite zone of West Bengal. The result revealed that cashew was attacked by an array of insect pests, of which, stem and root borer, tea mosquito bug, leaf miner, leaf and blossom webber, thrips and apple and nut borer were most important in the Red and Lateritic zone of West Bengal. There was hardly any variation in the trend of occurrence of insects but their percentage of damage fluctuated based on seasonal variations in weather conditions particularly temperature, relative humidity, rainfall and number of rainy days. The occurrence of stem and root borer infestation was mostly confined to summer and rainy season; while that of tea mosquito bug and leaf and blossom webber was mainly during winter season. The leaf miner and thrips were however, observed as regular pests of cashew and caused year round damage.