Sustainable Management of Fieldpea Rust through Induced Resistance

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ABSTRACT

Field pea rust caused by Uromyces viciae-fabae (Pers.) de Bary is one of the most important disease adversely affecting its yield in India. The present investigation was conducted to find out some common, inexpensive, non-toxic and simple chemical compounds as abiotic elicitors of Pisum sativum L. cv. 'Aparana' in relation to active defense response as possible alternative in the management of fieldpea rust. Forty-three chemicals alone and their combinations were tested as spray/ basal treatment in Randomized Block Design with 03 replications during the year 2000-2003 to find out their role in induction of resistance. Out of 15 micronutrients tested only $CuSO_4$ and $Na_2B_4O_7$ were found most effective with 72-78 per cent reduction in rust severity, 38-57 per cent reduction in size of pustules and 83-92 per cent reduction in number of pustules per leaf of pea. Among micronutrients combinations $A + KAl(SO_4)_2 + CuSO_4$ followed by $A+CuSO_4 + Ca(NO_3)_2 + KAl (SO_4)_2$ were best in reducing disease severity in comparison to control. Among tested chloride form of micronutrient, organic acid and chemical the KCl, CuCl₂, sodium azide and sucrose were found most efficient in respect to seed yield and reduction in rust severity. The results of the present study showed a strong possibility to protect fieldpea through their natural defense system by using inducer chemicals as integration in sustainable plant disease management strategy.