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Sustainable management of flea beetle infesting ladysfinger (Abelmoschus esculentus (L.) Moench) using biopesticides

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Ladysfinger or okra (*Abelmoschus esculentus* L. Moench) is an annual vegetable crop grown in tropical and sub-tropical areas of the globe. In the sub-Himalayan region of north east India the crop is cultivated throughout the year from the 9th to 45th Standard Meteorological Weeks (SMW) which excludes the winter months. The crop is susceptible to various pests of which flea causes heavy damage. The pest was active throughout the growing period with a peak population (5.67 flea beetles/plant) during 26th SMW (last week of June) in the pre-kharif crop. Again population reached higher (3.33/plant) on the 37th SMW (2nd week of September) in the post kharif crop. Sudden fall of population was found during July-August because of heavy rains. Flea beetle population showed significant positive correlation (p=0.05) with average temperature, relative humidity, whereas significant negative correlation with rainfall. This study evaluated the efficacy of azadirachtin, extracts from plants such as *Polygonum hydropiper* L. floral part and *Pongamia pinnata* L. fruit, tobacco leaf and garlic against flea beetle and compared with the ability of profenophos. Profenophos was found the most effective treatment for controlling flea beetle, followed by the azadirachtin and *Polygonum*. It was observed that azadirachtin and extracts of *Polygonum* plant gave moderate to higher flea beetle control, recording more than 50% mortality and produced higher yield. Azadirachtin and plant extracts are biopesticides having less or no hazardous effects on human health and environment. Thus they can be incorporated in IPM programmes and organic farming in vegetable cultivation.

Biography

Sunil Ghosh has completed his Ph.D. from Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya in 2000 and joined as Assistant Professor in Uttar Banga Krishi Viswavidyalaya, Coochbehar, West Bengal in 2002. Now he is engaged in teaching at UG and PG level. He is doing his research work on biopesticides and sustainable pest management in agricultural field. He has published more than 30 research papers in reputed journal.

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Factors affecting sales of dairy products in Armenia

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It is known that the main factors affecting sales of dairy products are the general dynamics of the market, the legislation, the commodity range, the personnel and activity of the company in the market, seasonal dynamics of sales, competitors, pricing, clients and sales channels.

The investigations carried out in Shirak region of Armenia showed that the consumers in different ages prefer to use milk products, generally matsun (Caucasian yogurt) from the local "Igit" and "Ashtarak kat" firms. At the same time, the young people in the age of 18-25 prefer to use raw milk, although they understand the danger coming from it. The main explanation of the use of raw milk as well as milk products from the own domestic production is an "avoiding" of food additives of dairy products.

Keywords: Dairy products, sales, food additives.

Biography

Astghik Zaveni Pepoyan has completed her Ph.D. in 1990 and D.Sc in 2002 at the Institute of Biochemistry at NAS RA. She is the head of the Food Safety and Biotechnology department at Armenian National Agrarian University. She is also President of the International Association for Human and Animals Health Improvement. She has more than 150 publications in reputed journals and serving as an editorial board member of repute.

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