

An exploration on Common agricultural pests include insects



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M.Phil, Roll No: 142149

Session: 2014-15

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Abstract

A significant problem for humanity is the danger posed by invasive and developing pests to food security. The likelihood of the introduction of exotic pests has grown due to growing worldwide commerce in agricultural products. One example is the papaya mealybug (*Paracoccus marginatus* Williams and Granara de Willink), which also includes the cotton mealybug (*Phenacoccus solenopsis* Tinsley), the coconut mite (*Aceria guerreronis* Keifer), the serpentine leaf miner (*Liriomyza trifolii* Burgess), and the tomato leaf miner (*Tuta absoluta* (Meyrick)). In general, it is believed that insect pests reduce yields of important key food and cash crops by 15% to 20%. An emerging pest is one whose position has been shifting from minor to major or secondary to main pest. The last ten years have seen an increase in the severity of several pests, including *Bemisia tabaci* (Gennadius) on cotton, *Helicoverpa armigera* (Hubner) on vegetables and pulses, *Spodoptera litura* (F.) on vegetables, cotton, and oilseeds, *Pieris brassicae* L. on crucifers, *L. trifolii* on vegetables, and *Atherigonia* spp. on spring maize. On wheat, barley, and oat, an increase in the occurrence of the aphid complex, which includes *Sitobion avenae* (F.), *Rhopalosiphum maidis* (Fitch, and *Schizaphis graminum* (Rondani), has been noted. In Northern India, mites from the families Eriophyiidae and Tetranychidae have become significant pests of bean, brinjal, cotton, cucurbits, okra, apple, ber, citrus, and mango. In all parts of India where pigeonpea and cowpea are grown, *Maruca vitrata* Geyer has become a major pest in recent years, inflicting up to 42% damage.

Keywords: agricultural pests, Insects, Ecosystem

Introduction

The major causes of biotic stress on crops are insect pests. Chemical pesticides, which are the primary causes of pollution and which are responsible for a variety of health issues in both people and animals, are used to control the hundreds of insects that may seriously harm crops. Scientists are always looking for new strategies to combat pests that undermine sustainable agriculture as a result of these issues. It was revealed that the *Bacillus thuringiensis* had insecticidal action more than a century ago. Several insect-resistant genes were subsequently discovered. The method to

introduce these *Bacillus thuringiensis* genes into agricultural plants was created in 1980. These genes were developed to confer the necessary resistance to crops, enabling them to produce more fruit and have fewer bug infestations while also being resistant to the targeted pests. Since the introduction of the first transgenic plant types in 1996, both farmers in wealthy and developing nations are embracing this technology more and more. Currently, 15 countries are cultivating genetically modified (GM) maize, mostly in wealthy nations.

Pest Insects

Pest insects have the potential to negatively and destructively affect agricultural productivity, market access, the environment, and our way of life. Pest insects may be an issue because they can harm crops and food production, parasitize animals, or bother people and provide a health risk. Some of the most destructive insects in the world are absent from Western Australia. In order to stop the spread of insects on your property, biosecurity precautions are essential.

The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development offers the following services: information on the state's common pest insects, biosecurity/quarantine procedures at the WA border to prevent the introduction of pest insects, post-border biosecurity measures where appropriate, and biosecurity measures..

Insects in Agriculture

Pests have damaged crops for as long as people have engaged in agricultural cultivation, and insects have generally been seen as rivals in the struggle for existence. Approximately 50% of insect species are herbivorous, with most herbivorous species feeding on plants in one or a few related plant families. The insect-plant connection is the primary biotic interaction. 18% of the world's agricultural productivity is damaged by herbivorous insects, which are mostly managed with chemicals. Despite these harms, less than 0.5 percent of the known bug species are classified as pests. Insects are not considered pests in an ecological or evolutionary context, except from anthropocentric perception and social prejudice.

Since crops cannot be grown without the ecosystem services supplied by insects, insects are essential to human life. The pollination of 72% of the world's crops is carried out by insects. Three-

quarters of all crop kinds worldwide—or one-third of the volume of global agricultural production—have improved or stabilised output thanks to pollinating insects. Numerous bug taxa have been connected to rising seed set. Numerous crop species depend more on wild bee species for pollination than the honeybee, *Apis mellifera*, including hundreds of species of solitary bees, bumblebees, flies, beetles, and butterflies. Insect pollination services are estimated to provide 9.5% of the world's agricultural output.

Agriculture will inevitably need pest control. By eradicating pest insects from cultivated crops, predatory insects contribute significantly to ecosystem services. Ground beetles are the dominant generalist predators in arable crops, effectively reducing population sizes of economically significant agricultural pests like aphids, slugs, root feeding flies, and phytophagous beetles. This conclusion was reached after reviewing 75% of field studies that generalist predators significantly reduce pest populations in arable farmland.

Additionally crucial to enhancing agricultural soil are insects. Dung beetles work in the soil to raise its levels of nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, calcium, magnesium, and total proteins, which considerably boosts wheat plants' production in comparison to artificial fertilisers.

Role of Insects in Ecosystem

Ecological services and ecosystem functions are provided by biotic communities. Insects represent several diverse trophic niches and a broad variety of ecological activities in their native habitats, including herbivory, carnivory, and detritus eating. They are the primary form of animal biomass and life on Earth. All terrestrial environments are rich in insects, and they differ greatly across species in practically every area of life. The functional relevance of insects is tremendous, and the ecological services they offer are crucial, due to their abundance and wide intra- and interspecific variation. As important participants in the operation of ecosystem processes, insects are essential elements in a variety of ecosystems. Since most people see insects as pests or potential pests, their ecological significance is often overlooked. Insects' primary ecological roles in ecosystems include pollination, predation/parasitism, decomposition, and ecosystem cycling.

Conclusion

We are running out of choices to assure food security for a rising population since the majority of the world's fertile land is being utilised for agriculture and the extent of arable land cannot be extended further. The only alternative left is to make better use of the current land. In this approach, insects might provide the required fixes. Insects play crucial roles in every ecosystem since they are substantial contributors to ecosystem function on all levels. We must manage agricultural systems such that beneficial insects that provide essential ecosystem services are an integral part of the system. There are numerous ways to describe communities, and species diversity is only one of them. Other factors to consider when thinking about a community include its size and ecological function, the interactions between its many groups, and its structure. The significance of biodiversity for our future food security should not be understated; rather, it should be seen as a crucial component of the agricultural ecosystems that support our food production. Therefore, future studies on sustainable agriculture should concentrate on how insects affect ecosystems. Realizing the utility of insects in agricultural systems requires an awareness of their crucial roles in natural ecosystems. We may accept insects in agricultural systems by altering management techniques to boost the functional diversity in these systems once we are aware of the ecosystem services supplied by insects.

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ISSN: 2321-3914
Volume 3 Issue 3
September 2021
Impact Factor: 11.9
Subject: Zoology

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