Pyricularia Spp Infection

Why in News?

Recently, researchers from the ICAR-Indian Institute of Spices Research (IISR) have identified a new fungal disease, Pyricularia Spp, that severely affected ginger crops.

- **Pyricularia Spp** – It is a fungal pathogen cause a ***blast disease,*** which is a new threat to ginger cultivation.

  Pyricularia *is well known for causing blast diseases in monocot plants like rice, wheat, and barley.*

- Pyricularia has been ***1st time reported*** in ***ginger crop*** in 2024 in parts of Kodagu district in Karnataka.
- **Early-stage Infection** – It appears as *yellowing of the ginger plant leaves*, accompanied by black or dark olive-green spots.
- Once the infection takes hold, it spreads rapidly and can cover the entire field within hours.
- **Spread** – Over large areas in *10 hours* with some affected fields located up to 20 km apart.
- **Reason for spread** – It is largely driven by the specific ***climatic conditions*** that prevailed in Kodagu.
- The dew fall during August and September created favorable environment.
- **Causes** – It leading to severe crop loss and plant death.
- The rhizomes of the affected plants remain unaffected in the premature yellowing and drying of the leaves.
- The farmers of Kodagu have experienced losses up to 30% in rhizome weight.
- **Preventive measures** – Immediate fungicide application is advised to curb the rapid spread of the disease.
- Use of fungicides such as Propiconazole at 1 ml/L or a combination of Carbendazim and Mancozeb at a ratio of 2g/L.
- Propiconazoleor Tebuconazole 1ml/L can be sprayed 4 months after planting.

Reference

The Hindu| Pyricularia Spp Affecting Ginger Crop in Kodagu



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