



MAURITIUS SUGAR INDUSTRY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Recommendation Sheet No.11
(July 1981)

CONTROL OF GROUNDNUT FOLIAR DISEASES

Three leaf spot diseases infect groundnut in Mauritius: rust, *Cercospora* leaf spot and mud spot. The incidence of these diseases varies at different periods of the year and in different localities. *Cercospora* leaf spot appears after the onset of summer rains and is not troublesome in the dry season. Rust usually appears early in the hot season but can also affect plantations in the dry and cool months. Mud spot is the least important but infection can sometimes be severe in the cool season. These diseases can cause severe defoliation which results in significant losses for growers.

Efficient control of the diseases can be achieved with the use of fungicides as follows:

1. Fungicide dosage and timing

Dithane M 45 : 1 kg per arpent

Spraying should start 1 month after planting and be repeated every 15 days or even at longer intervals if conditions are very dry. If rust appears, spraying should become weekly. If *Cercospora* infection appears without rust, the following treatment, applied every 15 days, is preferable:

Dithane M 45: 500 g + Benlate: 125 g

2. Volume of sprays

The volume will depend on type of sprayers used:

For motor sprayers : 50 gallons of water per arpent
For ordinary knapsack sprayers: 100 gallons of water per arpent.