MAURITIUS SUGAR INDUSTRY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Recommendation Sheet No. 79

(March 1994)

MAJOR INSECT PESTS OF SWEET CORN AND THEIR CONTROL

Three major insect pests affect sweet corn, namely **Webworms**, *Angustalius malacellus*, **Cutworms**, *Agrotis ipsilon* and **Earworms**, *Helicoverpa (=Heliothis) armigera* and *Cryptophlebia leucotreta*. The damages caused by them and recommendations for their control are summarized below :

Insect Pests	Damage caused	Control (Recommended rates are for pure stand)
Webworms	Roots of young plants are attacked	Apply carbofuran granules in furrows at planting : e.g. Furadan 10G } @ or } 14 kg/ha Curaterr 10G }
Cutworms	Very young plants are cut off near soil level	Apply baits* in small heaps along the rows, soon after germination. If such baits are not available, granules of Basudin 10G @ 15 kg/ha may be applied near the base of the shoots slightly below the soil surface
Earworms	Injury to cobs which may be severe	Spray with thiodicarb @ 1.5 g a.i./L (e.g. Larvin 75 WP @ 2 g/L) at first silk emergence, followed by weekly applications of a synthethic pyrethroid @ 0.0125 g a.i/L (e.g. Decis 2.5% EC @ 0.5 g/L) up to 1 week before harvest

* Ready-made baits e.g. Volaton, Combat, agro-cutworm bait may be available commercially. Alternatively baits may be prepared with the following ingredients, (the rates indicated are per ha):

Maize bran	30 kg
Dipterex (80% Sp)	450 g
Raw Sugar	1.5 kg
Water	30-40 L

Dipterex and raw sugar are dissolved in water and then mixed gradually with the maize bran to obtain a damp, but not wet mass, which can be used as the ready-made bait.

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