

Banana Weevil and Its Management

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INTRODUCTION

In India, bananas are one of the most significant fruit crops, making up 32% of all fruit production. It is widely cultivated using various production techniques in agroclimatic zones with a range of climates.



More than 15 insect pests are present in India's plantains and bananas. Banana weevils (Order: Coleoptera, Family: Curculionidae), specifically the pseudostem weevil (*Odoiporus longicollis*) and the rhizome weevil (*Cosmopolites sordidus*), are the main pests causing significant damage. Ten to ten percent of the yield was lost as a result of their infestation.

Symptoms of attack

Healthy pseudostems and rhizomes are pierced at ground level by female adult weevils, which then inject eggs. Rhizomes become stunted as a result of the emerging grubs' feeding on them inside the rhizome.



The tissue at the tunnel's edge rots and turns brown. If the infection affects a mature rhizome, damage symptoms including leaf

yellowing and withering, a decrease in leaf number, a drop in bunch size, and an increase in the quantity of fruits will show up.

Life cycle

Eggs are laid in 5-8 day egg periods in little burrows dug out by the beetle on the root stock or inside leaf sheaths.



In 25 days, the apodous, yellowish grub with the reddish head reaches maturity. Within a chamber created close to the rhizome's outer surface, grubs pupate for 5–6 days. The adult survives for a year by tunnelling into the stem and eating on its internal tissues.

MANAGEMENT

The most crucial measures are cultural ones, and in many places they will be adequate to maintain population levels low.

It contains:

- ✚ chopped off old stems at ground level
- ✚ Cover chopped rhizome with impacted soil
- ✚ Cut old stems into stripes and use them as mulch
- ✚ Remove weeds from the fields. Use of clean and healthy suckers for planting

- ✚ Deep ploughing of the ground to expose the inner soil layer to the sun.
- ✚ After cutting and removing the rhizome's outer covering, it should be covered with cow dung and ash slurry and allowed to sundry for five to four days.
- ✚ Lay out lengthwise-split, around 0.5-meter-long pseudostems in the field to use as traps. Adults drawn to it at night may be gathered and disposed of.
- ✚ Setting up "Cosmolure" pheromone traps at 4 nodes per hectare in order to gather and eliminate adults.
- ✚ To defend against rhizome weevils, soak the sun-dried suckers in a 0.4% carbaryl (50 WP) solution for 30 minutes prior to planting.