

***Sclerotinia* wilt of sunflower recorded in Nagaland**

Nagaland grows a number of oil seed crops and rape seed and mustard is the major crop having an area of about 27.0 thousand hectares. Sunflower is another oil seed crop in the state, cultivated in an area of 2060 hectares with a production of 1130MT. *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum* is considered the most serious pathogen of sunflower because it is capable of infecting multiple organs (roots, stems, buds, and heads); persists for many years in soils; and has a large host range.

The disease, *Sclerotinia* wilt in sunflower, was observed for the first time in Nagaland, in the experimental farm of ICAR Research Complex for NEHR, Nagaland Centre. The disease was initiated at 50-60 days after sowing with the development of collar rot; leaf blight and head rot symptoms. The pathogen was isolated and cultured on PDA media. Symptoms and mycological studies confirm the identity of the pathogen as *S. sclerotiorum*. Pathogenicity test conducted produced the similar symptoms on sunflower seedlings.

The role of plant pathogens in the state agricultural production and productivity scenario cannot be out done. Record of incidence and systematic study of the major diseases of the important agricultural crops of Nagaland can prevent the loss incurred to certain extent.



Leaf Blight



Head Rot



Wilting