An integrated approach for managing hot pepper pests in the Caribbean

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[Abstract]
Toward developing a sustainable pest management strategy for hot pepper, (*capsicum chinense)*, four surveys were conducted in Jamaica to determine pest and disease incidence, pest management methods employed by farmers and the relationship of these practices to pest incidence. A total of 106 farms across various agro-ecological zones were surveyed. Viruses (tobacco etch and potato Y) aphids (*Myzus persicae, Aphis gossypii*), the broad mite (*Polyphagotarsonemus latus*) and gall midges (*Contarinia lycopersci* and *Prodiplosis longifila*) were the major pests recorded. Viruses occurred on 97% of farms and the other three pests on more than 30% of farms. Seventy-eight percent of the farmers used pesticides and a total of 21 different types were recorded (14 insecticides and 7 fungicides). A clear direct relationship was observed between pesticide use and broad mite incidence; farmers using pesticides had three times more broad mites and compared to those who used no pesticides or very little. The implications of these results on the development of a biologically- based management strategy for hot peppers are discussed.

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