PREDICTION OF TOMATO EARLY BLIGHT DISEASE UNDER CLIMATE CHANGE CONDITIONS IN EGYPT

Hassan* H.A., Abolmaaty S.M., Afaf Z.A. Elmenisy and Abd El-Ghafar N.Y.
1- Central Lab. Agric. Climate, ARC, Giza, Egypt
2- Plant Pathology Dept., Fac. of Agric., Ain Shams Univ., P.O. Box 68, Hadayek Shobra 11241, Cairo, Egypt

*Corresponding author: Hassan_clac@yahoo.com

Received 21 August, 2019 Accepted 4 September, 2019

ABSTRACT

Early blight caused by Alternaria solani (Ell. and Mart.) is one of the most important diseases, which caused considerable loss in tomato yield and quality under Egyptian conditions. The research aimed to study the relationship between climate change and disease severity for prediction in future seasons. Disease severity was recorded for three growing seasons i.e. summer (May.-Aug.), autumn (Jul.-Oct.) and winter (Nov.-Mar.), at three governorates (Behira, Ismailia, and Assuit). Severity of early blight disease on tomato has been predicted by regression estimated accumulative disease severity values during (2007/2008) – (2015/2016) season and average max and min temperature and humidity through these seasons. Prediction of disease has been formed as Y = b0 + b1x1 + b2x2 + ............ bqxq. Three models were created to describe the severity disease by multiple regressions (MINITAB® program). The highest value of early blight disease was recorded through season (2017/2018), while the lowest value was recorded during season (2016/2017). Also, highly disease severity was estimated during summer period compared with autumn and winter growing periods, however, the least severity was estimated through winter growing period and moderate severity estimated in the autumn growing period. Influence of environmental conditions on the severity of early blight disease during seasons (2007/2008) – (2015/2016), in Behira governorate, the high disease severity was showed in season (2010-2011) and low in season (2013-2014), but in Assuit governorate, the highest value of disease was in season (2010-2011), and the lowest value was in season (2013-2014). For forecasting, significantly differences among between disease severity through (2020/2030), (2030/2040) and (2040/2050) seasons compared with (2008/2018) seasons and relation with climate change in tested governorates. Severity of tomato early blight disease may increase from 11.8% to 15.4 during (2008/2018) seasons to (2040/2050) seasons at Behira governorate, from 18.8% during (2008/2018) seasons to 36.3% (2040/2050) seasons at Ismailia governorate and 18.8% during (2008/2018) seasons to 40.4% (2040/2050) seasons at Assuit governorate with slight change in maximum or minimum temperatures and percentage of relative humidity.

Keywords: Tomato Early blight disease, Alternaria solani, Climate change, Forecasting, GIS.

INTRODUCTION

Tomatoes (Solanum lycopersicum L., syn. Lycopersicon esculentum Mill.) is one of the most popular and widely grown vegetables in the world. It occupied the second rank in importance after potato in many countries (Prajapati et al 2014). It considers an important cash and industrial crop in many parts of the world (Ayandiji and Omidiji, 2011). Early blight disease of tomato caused by the fungus Alternaria solani is one of the most common foliar diseases of tomatoes, which damages the leaves, stalks, stems and fruits causing severe destruction of the aerial part and reduction of the size and number of fruits, resulting heavy
losses in yield up to 79% (Sherf and MacNab, 1986; Gwary and Nahunnaro, 1998). The Alternaria fungus can cause the disease on all parts of the plant (leaf blight, stem collar rot, and fruit lesions) and result in severe damage during all stages of plant development (Abada et al. 2008). Climate factors that influence the growth, spread and survival of crop diseases including temperature, precipitation humidity, dew, radiation, wind speed, circulation patterns and the occurrence of extreme events. Higher temperature and humidity and greater precipitation result in the spread of plant diseases, as wet vegetation promotes the germination of spores and the proliferation of fungi and bacteria and influence the life cycle of soil nematodes (Rosenzweig et al 2000). Environmental condition is a complex term that includes many factors, which must be behind a minimum threshold for the disease to occur. A change in one environmental factor may alter the effect of other environmental factors on diseases development (Abdel-Hak et al. 1966). The relationship between weather and plant disease are routinely used for forecasting and managing epidemics and disease severity over the number of years can fluctuate according to climatic variation (Scherm and Yang, 1995). There was a positive relationship between development and severity of wheat rust diseases and location, date or mean temperatures, at eight governorates, on growing seasons 2005s, under Egyptian conditions, where the severity of leaf rust disease, on growing seasons 2050s and 2005s were (Abolmaaty, 2006). The present work aimed to study the influence of climate change on the severity of tomato early blight disease and Prediction of disease severity under future condition.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Survey of tomato early blight disease

This study was conducted at three governorates i.e. Behira, Ismailia in lower Egypt and Assuit middle Egypt, during growing seasons (2016/2017)-(2017/2018), where three locations were selected each governorate at least 25 feddan per location for survey a tomato early blight disease. Plant samples based on visual symptoms of the disease were drawn from each field at random. Sampling for smaller units (25 m2) was done along the diagonals of the fields at regular intervals each month of each growing season. Selected units were drawn following a zigzag pattern and ten plants per unit were selected to estimate the severity of the disease (Syed et al. 2016). Disease severity was recorded after 60 days form sowing date for three consecutive growing seasons i.e. summer (May - Aug), autumn (Jul. - Oct) and winter (Nov. - Mar.). The severity of disease was assessed on 100 randomly selected plants / 10 smaller units /field. Disease severity was estimated according to a disease rating scale from 0-5, where 0 = no visible symptoms apparent, 1 = A few minute lesions to about 10% of the total leaf area is blighted and usually confined to the 2 bottom leaves, 2 = Leaves on about 25% of the total plant area are infected, 3 = Leaves on about 50% of the total plant area are infected, 4 = Leaves on about 75% of the total plant area are infected and 5 = Leaves on the whole plant are blighted and plant is dead (Sethumadhava et al 2016). The formulae in calculating the disease severity follow:

\[
\text{Percentage of disease severity (PDS)} = \frac{\text{Number of Individual Ratings}}{\text{Number of Plants Assessed}} \times 100
\]

Influence of Environmental conditions on Tomato Early Blight disease

Meteorological data were recorded through the growing seasons (2007/2008) – (2015/2016). These data were obtained from the Central Laboratory for Agricultural Climate (CLAC). The data consist of average temperature (daily maximum and minimum temperature) and relative humidity (daily maximum and minimum RH %). The diseases severity was estimated as the percentage of infected fields. The data of disease severity were obtained from the Central Administration of Pest Control, Ministry of Agriculture, Egypt (unpublished data). The effect of each factor separately was obtained by applying simple correlation formula (r) and the regression coefficients (b). The combined effects of these factors were obtained by applying multipliers formula and expressed as percentage of explained variance. (E.V) according to Hassan (2016).

Effect of expected future climate change on incidence of early blight of tomato

The future climate data (2030s to 2050s) has been obtained from the downsampling process on global climate model (ECHAM6) of scenario Representative Concentration Pathways RCP 4.5 by a horizontal resolution 50 km using regional climate model (RegCM 4) (Khalil et al 2016). The severity
of tomato early blight disease during the period 2030s and 2050s in Egypt were estimated using disease severity data during 2008 - 2018 seasons, using the Statistical programs for windows and MINITAB® program, where the climate data in the future 2030 season to 2050 according to Abolmaaty (2006). Using geographical information system (GIS) generated base classification maps of the research area according to programs (ArcGIS®) for windows.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Survey of tomato early blight disease

Several fields of tomato plant, at three different Governorates (Behira, Ismailia, and Assuit) were surveyed for incidence of early blight during seasons (2016/2017)-(2017/2018) three growing seasons i.e. summer (May. - Aug), autumn (Jul. - Oct) and winter (Nov. - Mar.). Data in Fig. (1) show that, in Behira governorate, the mean disease severity value of disease was ranged from 25.7% to 6.3%. The highest disease severity value (25.7%) was recorded in autumn growing period (2016-2017). The minimum disease severity (6.3%) was recorded in autumn growing period (2017-2018). Finally, the highest value of disease was appeared through season (2016/2017), while the lowest value was estimated through growing season (2017/2018).

While, in Ismailia governorate, mean disease severity was ranged from 27.9% to 1.6%. Highest disease value (27.9%) was recorded in autumn growing period (2017-2018), but, minimum disease was (1.6%) recorded in autumn growing period (2016-2017). Generally, the highest severity of disease was recorded during season (2017/2018) and the lowest value was recorded during season (2016/2017).

In Assuit governorate, the mean disease severity was ranged from 13.1% to 5.0%. The highest disease (13.1%) recorded in autumn growing period (2017-2018), but the minimum disease (4.8%) recorded in winter growing period (2016-2017). Also, the highest value of disease was appeared through season (2017/2018), and the lowest value recorded during season (2016/2017). Meanwhile, the high disease severity was recorded summer period, while, the least and moderate severity were recorded in the winter and autumn growing period, respectively.

Influence of environmental conditions on tomato early blight disease

Results in Fig. (2) reveal that mean severity of disease in Behira governorate was 18.8%, but the highest disease severity (25.7%) was recorded in season (2010-2011), where the mean maximum and minimum temperature was 29.4°C and 16.3°C respectively and the mean percentage of relative humidity was 52.6%. While the lowest disease severity (14.0%) was detected in season 2012-2013, where the mean maximum and minimum temperature was 29.4 °c, 16.1 °c, respectively and the mean percentage of relative humidity was 48.6%. The mean severity of disease in Ismailia governorate was 14.6%, but the highest disease severity (24.6%) was estimated in season (2010-2011), where mean maximum and minimum temperature was 29.4 °c and 16.6 °c, respectively and mean percentage of relative humidity was 55.0%. Meanwhile, the lowest disease (10.1%) was recorded in season (2013-2014), where the mean maximum and minimum temperature was 28.7 °c and 16.1 °c, respectively and the mean percentage of relative humidity was 53.7%. Also, the mean prevalence value of disease in Assai governorate were 26.9%, but the highest value of disease (30.7%) was in season (2010-2011), where the mean maximum and minimum temperature was 32.1°C, 16.6°C, respectively and the mean percentage of relative humidity was 52.6%. While, the lowest value (22.7%) was recorded in season (2013-2014), where mean maximum and minimum temperature was 31.0°C and 15.91°C, respectively and mean percentage of relative humidity was 50.4%. Finally, the highest severity of disease was estimated at Assuit governorate (26.9%) compared with Behira and Ismailia governorates, where the mean maximum and minimum temperature was 31.2 °c and 15.9°C, respectively and mean percentage of relative humidity was 50.8%.

Statistical analysis for the effects of mean max and min temperature and relative humidity on early blight disease, during 2007/2008 to 2015/2016 season at Behira, Ismailia, and Assiut governorates are shown in Table (1). The results show that the max temperature, min temperature, and relative humidity had an insignificant negative effect whereas “r” value was -0.011, -0.32 and -0.30, respectively at Behira governate. The results also
Fig. 1. Severity of tomato early blight disease, during (2016/2017-2017/2018) seasons, through growing periods (summer, autumn and winter) at Behira, Ismailia and Assuit governorates

Fig. 2. Relationship between environmental conditions and severity of tomato early blight disease, during (2007/2008) to (2015/2016) seasons at Behira, Ismailia and Assuit governorates, under filed conditions

show that the max temperature and min temperature had an insignificant positive effect whereas “r” value was 0.31 and 0.36, respectively. Relative humidity insignificant negative effect whereas “r” value was -0.41 at Ismailia governate. In Assuit governate, the max temperature and min temperature had a highly significant negative effect whereas “r” value was -0.52 and -0.69, respectively and relative humidity had a highly significant positive effect whereas “r” value was 0.96. The percentages of explained variances (E.V) for the selected ecological factors at seasons were 45 %, 44% and 68% on the severity of disease, during (2007/2008) to (2015/2016) seasons, respectively. “F” values were 1.90, 1.85 and 68.58***, respectively.

Climate change can have positive, negative or neutral impact on individual path systems because of the specific nature of the interaction of host and pathogen. Also, climate change can influence the geographical and growth of plant species around the world (Coakley et al 1999), computable with study data. (Nicholls., 1997) analyzed historical trends in Australian wheat yield and found that recent climate changes are responsible for as much as 30 to 50% of the variation explained by an increase in minimum temperature. In New Zea-
land (Presidge and Pottinger, 1990) concluded that disease problems in the kiwifruit and pome fruit industries would probably amplify by increases in temperature and precipitation. In contrast, the impact on the vegetable industry should be minimal because this industry is annual and intensive in nature and management changes required to mitigate climate change impacts may be more easily. A climate change has the potential to modify host physiology and resistance and to modify host and resistance to alter stages and rates of development of the pathogen. The most likely impact could be shift in the geographical of the host and the pathogen, which may be could changes in the physiology of host-pathogen interactions and changes in crop loss. Change may occurs in the type, amount and relative importance of pathogens and affect the spectrum of diseases affecting a particular crop. This would be more pronounced for pathogens with alternate hosts (Coakley et al 1999). Increase in temperature can modify host physiological and resistance arise in temperature above 20 °C can inactivate temperature – sensitive resistance to stem rust in oat cultivars with Pg3 and Pg4 genes (Martens et al 1967). In contrast, lignifications of cell walls increased in forage species at higher temperatures (Wilson et al 1991) to enhance resistance to fungal pathogens (Strange 1993). The disease may develop if plants are stressed in a warmer climate. High temperatures may increase the damage caused by the disease such as soleroderris canker lodge pole pine (Karlman et al 1994 and Lonsdale and Gibbs, 1996). Suggest that severe weather events are making an important contribution to the emergence of plant diseases in new locations. There is a greater likelihood that invasive disease can become established as. Climate change can also allow some plants and pathogens to survive outside their historic ranges (Harvell et al 2002).

Table 1. Simple correlation and partial regression values of the climatic changes and severity of early blight disease corresponding percentage of explained variance in Tomato plant fields at Beheira, Ismailia and Assuit governorates, during (2007/2008) – (2015/2016) growing seasons

| Season | Simple Correlation | Partial Regression | Factors | Beheira | Tests | Seasons from 2007/2008 to 2015/2016 | | | | | |
|--------|---------------------|--------------------|--------|---------|-------|------------------------------------------------|---|---|---|
|        | r | P | b | S.E. | P | E.V. | | | | | |
| Temp. MAX °C | -0.011 | 0.99 | 8.71 | 4.17 | 0.075 | 45% | | | | | |
| Temp. MIN °C | -0.3208 | 0.35 | -12.18 | 6.25 | 0.092 | | | | | | |
| Avg RH % | -0.3008 | 0.37 | 0.29 | 0.39 | 0.486 | | | | | | |
| F=1.90 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ismailia | Early blight | Tested | Seasons from 2007/2008 to 2015/2016 | | | | | | | | |
|        | r | P | b | S.E. | P | E.V. | | | | | |
| Temp. MAX °C | 0.31 | 0.36 | 8.66 | 6.19 | 0.2 | 44% | | | | | |
| Temp. MIN °C | 0.36 | 0.63 | -5.42 | 5.77 | 0.37 | | | | | | |
| Avg RH % | -0.41 | 0.21 | -0.30 | 0.2 | 0.182 | | | | | | |
| F= 1.85 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Assuit | Early blight | Tested | Seasons from 2007/2008 to 2015/2016 | | | | | | | | |
|        | r | P | b | S.E. | P | E.V. | | | | | |
| Temp. MAX °C | -0.52 | 0.098 | 8.2 | 3.24 | 0.039 | | | | | | |
| Temp. MIN °C | -0.69 | 0.018 | -9.19 | 3.72 | 0.043 | | | | | | |
| Avg RH % | 0.96 | 0.0001 | -1.72 | 0.16 | 0.0003 | | | | | | |
| F= 68.58*** | | | | | | | | | | | |
Effect of expected future climate change on tomato early blight disease

This study was carried out to figure out the influence of climate change on severity of early blight disease of tomato, during (2020/2030), (2030/2040) and (2040/2050) seasons, under Egyptian condition, at three governorates, using the multiple equation regression analysis (MINITAB®). The severity of disease has been predicted by regression estimated disease severity versus the accumulative disease’s severity values during (2007/2008) to (2015/2016) seasons and average max and min temperature and humidity through the both seasons. Prediction of disease has been formed as \( Y = b_0 + b_1 x_1 + b_2 x_2 + \ldots + b_q x_q \) (Fahim, 2002). Three models were created to describe the severity disease by multiple regressions (MINITAB® program, 1995). Regression between disease severity values at during seasons from 2007/2008 to 2015/2016 and average max and min temperature and humidity during the seasons resulted in the following relationship:

(1) Beheira \( y = -236.1 + 6.03 x_1 - 3.59 x_2 + 2.723 x_3 \quad R^2 = 93.1\% \)

(2) Ismailia \( y = -289.6 + 13.25 x_1 - 2.84 x_2 - 0.389 x_3 \quad R^2 = 82.4\% \)

(3) Assuit \( y = 186.8 - 12.96 x_1 - 14.82 x_2 + 0.896 x_3 \quad R^2 = 82.5\% \)

Where:
- \( Y \) = prediction of disease severity (%)
- \( X_1 \) = average max temperature (°C)
- \( X_2 \) = average min temperature (°C)
- \( X_3 \) = average humidity (%)

Model 1, 2 and 3 could Lower Egypt and Upper Egypt, respectively. Formal tests have been used to evaluate statistical assumption. The coefficient of determination \( R^2 \) were ranged between 82.4 and 93.1 for climate change scenarios for Behira, Ismailia and Assuit Governorates were assessed according to future conditions derived from the downsampling process on global climate model (ECHAM6) of scenario Representative Concentration Pathways RCP 4.5 by a horizontal resolution 50 km using regional climate model (RegCM 4) and these relation with severity of early blight disease of tomato. Generated base classification maps of the research area according to program (ArcGIS®) for windows.

Data presented in Fig. (3) showed that severity of tomato early blight disease, through (2020/2030), (2030/2040) and (2040/2050) in tested governorates maybe highly changed in during (2020/2030) and (2030/2040) seasons compared with seasons (2008/2018), where disease severity was 18.8% during (2008/2018) season and was 24.7% and 27.3% during (2020/2030) and (2030/2040) seasons, respectively. Also, slight changes in severity of disease through seasons (2040/2050) compared with seasons (2008/2018), where disease severity was 20.0% and 13.8%, respectively at Beheira governorate. Highest changes in disease severity was estimated through seasons (2020/2030), (2030/2040) and (2040/2050) compared with seasons (2008/2018) (15.4%), where disease severity was 30.0, 33.5 and 36.3% during (2020/2030), (2030/2040) and (2040/2050) seasons at Ismailia governorate, respectively. Meanwhile, highest changes in severity of disease during seasons (2020/2030), (2030/2040) and (2040/2050) compared with seasons (2008/2018) (18.8%), where expected disease severity are 38.1, 38 and 40.4% during (2020/2030), (2030/2040) and (2040/2050) seasons at Assuit governorate, respectively.

Climate change may have minor impact on diseases compared with the impact of crop management and genetic improvement (Kropff et al 1993). Hulme et al (2002) predicate that temperature will rise by 0.5-1.5 °C by the 2020s and by 2-4°C by the 2080s. Warning will be great in summer than in winter and there will be an increased frequency of very hot summers, partially by the 2080s. Total annual projected to fall by up to 10% and 50% by the 2020s and 2080s, respectively. Abolmaaty, (2006) concluded also that there is a positive relationship between development and severity of wheat rust diseases and location, date or mean temperature, during growing seasons 2005s, under climate conditions at eight governorates in Egypt.
Fig. 3. Distributive maps for forecasting severity of early blight disease of tomato, under climate change in Egypt, during 2020/2030, 2030/2040 and 2040/2050s growing seasons using estimated diseases severity in 2008/2018s seasons, at three different governorates.
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التنبؤ بمرض فتحة الطماطم المبكرة تحت ظروف تغير المناخ في مصر

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حسن أحمد حسن 1 - شاكر محمد أبو المعاطى 1 - عفاف زين العابدين المنسي 2 - ناجى يسين عبد الغفار 2

1 - المعمل المركزى للمناخ الزراعى – مركز البحوث الزراعية – جيزة – مصر
2 - قسم أمراض النبات - كلية الزراعة - جامعة عين شمس - ص.ب 68 – حدائق شبرا 1241 – القاهرة – مصر

*Corresponding author: Hassan_clac@yahoo.com

Received 21 August, 2019 Accepted 4 September, 2019

الخرى

يعتبر مراسمة اللسحررة المب رة ( Alternaria solani) مرن اهرم ارمرراض الترى تصررري محصرروا الطمترام مواسررم النموالمختلسرررة تحرررررر الارررررر م المصرررررراة ممرررررا يسرررررب ا ررررررار كبيررررررة للمحصرروا جودتررم ت ررمنر هررسة الدراسررة دراسررة مرردى أنتشررررار المرررررض فرررررى محافاررررات البحيرررررة ا سرررررماعيلية بالوجرررم البحررررى أسرريوا بالوجرررة القبلرررى ورة الصرررررريلية الخراليررررررة الشررتواة لموسررررررم 9102/9102 ترثيير بعرا العوامرل المنا يرة حررارة عامرى -راوبرررة نسررربية ) علرررى شررردة ار رررابة بمررررض اللسحرررة المب رة كسلك ترم الحصروا علرى نيانرات شردة ار رابة برررررالمرض ل عرررررروا السررررررابقة 9112-9102 مررررررن ارة الررررى الزراعرررررة المصرررررراة ترررررم دراسرررررة العمقررررة نرررررين العوامرررررل المنا يرة شرردة ار ررابة المر ررية مررن معررادرت احصرائية نواسرطة نرنرام MINITAB® program ) إم انيرة ارسرتسادة من را للتنبرل برالمرض تحرر وررر م ت يررر المنرراخ مسررتقبم  فررى مصررر 9101-9101. سررتلر أعلرررررى شررررردة ل رررررابة بررررالمرض بالوجرررة الخراسرررررى ررررررما موسرررررم النمرررررو 9102/9102. سرررررتلر اعلررررررى متوس  شرررررردة ل رررا  كرررررا  متوسررررر  الراوبرررررة النسرررررري 0152 % بالتحليرررررل الاحصائي كان تأثير درجة الحرارة العظمى والصغرى والرطوبة النسبية ذات تأثير غير معنوى سالب بمحافظة البحيرة وبينا ممحافظة الاسماعالية كان تأثير درجة الحرارة العظمى والصغرى غير معنوى موجب وكان تأثير مستوى الروطوبة النسبية غير معنوى موجب بينما في محافظة البحيرة كان تأثير متوسط درجة الحرارة العظمى والصغرى معنوى سالب وتأثير متوسط الروطوبة النسبية معنوى موجب على شدة الاصابة بمرض اللدكة المبكرة خلخل مواسهم النمو. ولكن الاستفادة من دراسة العلاقة بين الولام المناخية و
التنبؤ بمرض لفحة الطماطم المبكرة تحت ظروف تغير المناخ في مصر

شدة الإصابة خلال مواسم النمو من 2007/2008 إلى 2015/2016 باستخدام برنامج Minitab® (لإيجاد العلاقة بين شدة مرض اللفحة المبكرة وبيئة الري وفترات الحرارة) وتحت ظروف مستقبلية تحت الظروف البيئية في المحافظات المصرية الثلاثة.

التغيرات المناخية، التنبؤ، توقع جودة عالية كبير بين شدة الإصابة بمرض اللفحة المبكرة تحت الظروف المستقبلية مقارنة بالظروف الحالية، حيث ترتفع شدة الإصابة بمرض اللفحة المبكرة في الطماطم من 18.8% في مواسم 2008/2018 إلى 20% في مواسم 2050/2018.

الكلمات الدالة: مرض لفحة الطماطم المبكرة، التغيرات المناخية، التنبؤ، توقع جودة عالية، محاور البحيرة، البرية، الثالثة، المحافظات المصرية، البرنامج Minitab®.