

AGRI 124 Fundamentals of Plant Pathology**Credit hours (1+1=2)****Theory**

Introduction: Importance of plant diseases, scope and objectives of Plant Pathology. History of Plant Pathology with special reference to Indian work. Terms and concepts in Plant Pathology. Causes and factors affecting disease development: Disease triangle and tetrahedron and classification of plant diseases. Important plant pathogenic organisms (different groups): fungi, bacteria, phytoplasma, spiroplasma, viruses, viroids, algae, protozoa and phanerogamic plant parasites with example of diseases caused by them. Diseases and symptoms due to abiotic causes. Pathogenesis, Role of enzymes, toxins and growth regulators in disease development. Defence mechanism in plants. Epidemiology: Factors affecting disease development. Fungi: General characters, definition of fungus, somatic structures, types of fungal thalli, fungal tissues, modifications of thallus, reproduction (asexual and sexual). Nomenclature, Binomial system of nomenclature, rules of nomenclature, classification of fungi. Key to divisions, sub-divisions, orders and classes. Bacteria and mollicutes: General morphological characters. Basic methods of classification and reproduction. Viruses: Nature, architecture, multiplication and transmission. Growth and reproduction of plant pathogens. Liberation, dispersal and survival of plant pathogens. Types of parasitism and variability in plant pathogens.

Practical

Acquaintance with various laboratory equipments and microscopy. Preparation of media, isolation and Koch's postulates. General study of different structures of fungi. Study of symptoms of various plant diseases. Study of representative fungal genera. Staining and identification of plant pathogenic bacteria. Transmission of plant viruses. Study of phanerogamic plant parasites. Study of fungicides and their formulations. Methods of pesticide application and their safe use. Calculation of fungicide sprays concentrations.