MANAGEMENT OF *GERBERA* WILT BY USING *TRICHODERMA* SPP. CAUSED BY *FUSARIUM OXYSPORUM* F. SP. *GERBERAE*

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Abstract— *Gerbera jamesonii* H. Bolus ex J. D. Hook is an important cut flower crop having great export potential in India. Wilt of *Gerbera* was commonly observed soil borne disease under polyhouses caused by *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *gerberae* (FOG). FOG (Accn. No. **KJ570974**) was consistently isolated from infected root portion of host *Gerbera* and characterized through morphological and molecular study. Eight isolates of *Trichoderma* spp. were evaluated for their antagonistic activity against the pathogen FOG. Under *in* vitro conditions, growth of FOG was cross checked to an extent of 77.77 per cent by *T. harzianum* isolate NVTH1, *T. harzianum* isolate NVTH2 and *T. viride* isolate TV1 and followed by *T. citrinoviridae* isolate NVTC1, *T. erinaceum* isolate NVTE1 and *T. asperellum* isolate NVTA2 with per cent inhibition of 65.16, 63.33 and 62.22 percent respectively over the control. Similarly, when applied under glasshouse conditions, the pathogen was controlled to an extent of 62.67% over the untreated control and growth promotion of *Gerbera* plants was noticed along with increased flower yield of 17 flowers per treatment.

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