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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Performance of different okra cultivars and insecticides in suppressing sucking pests in Assam, India

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Abstract

The purpose of this study was to see the effectiveness of certain insecticides and three popular okra cultivars against sucking pests of okra. The experiment was carried out at the Experimental Farm, Dept. of Horticulture, Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat, Assam during the *Kharif*, 2020 and the *spring-summer,* 2021. It was found that the lowest aphid (2.66 and 2.00 nos./3 leaves) and whitefly (0.66 and 0.33 nos./3 leaves) population was observed in treatment V1T1 (chlorantraniliprole 18.5%SC @25 gm *a.i.*/ha + Arka Anamika) at 5 DAT in both the seasons respectively. Similarly, the treatment V3T3 (lambda-cyhalothrin 5%EC @ 15 gm *a.i.*/ha + S-51) recorded the highest aphid and whitefly populations during both *kharif* (9.33 aphids and 4.00 whiteflies/3 leaves respectively) and the *spring-summer* (7.33 aphids and 3.00 whiteflies/3 leaves respectively). Whereas, the jassid population showed a decreasing trend up to 10 DAT in both seasons. The treatment V1T1 showed the highest and V3T3 showed the lowest reduction in the jassid population during *kharif* (1.00 and 6.00/3 leaves respectively) and *spring-summer* (0.66 and 4.00 /3 leaves respectively). Hence, the insecticide chlorantraniliprole 18.5% SC proved to be the most effective insecticide for the management of sucking pests.

Keywords: Arka Anamika, Chlorantraniliprole, Pusa Sawani, Split plot design, and sucking pests.

Introduction

Okra, scientifically known as *Abelmoschus esculentus*, is a versatile and nutrient-rich vegetable celebrated for its unique flavor and numerous health benefits. Believed to have originated in West Africa, okra has since spread its culinary influence worldwide, becoming a staple in various cuisines, particularly in the Southern United States, the Middle East, and South Asia. With its distinct elongated shape and vibrant green color, okra is a popular addition to dishes, lending a mild, slightly earthy taste and a delightful mucilaginous texture (Patil *et al.* 2014 Berwa *et al*., 2017). Beyond its culinary charm, okra is also a valuable source of vitamins, minerals, and dietary fiber, making it a favored choice for those seeking a nutritious diet (Subbireddy *et al.* 2018).

India, Nigeria, Sudan, and Pakistan play significant roles in the global production of okra. In terms of both land area and total output, India holds the top position as the world's leading producer, with Nigeria closely following. Based on the 2nd advance estimation data for 2020-21, India cultivated approximately 532,000 hectares of okra, resulting in a production of 6,513,000 metric tons (Anonymous 2020-21). Darrang and Nagaon are emerging as the principal okra-growing districts of Assam. During 2017-18, okra is grown on a smaller scale, covering around 12.45 thousand hectares, but still yielding a considerable 204.49 thousand metric tons (Anonymous 2018).

From germination until harvest, the okra crop is infested by a variety of insect pests and diseases causing significant yield loss. Sucking pests such as whitefly (*Bemisia tabaci*), leafhopper (*Amrasca bigutulla bigutulla*) and aphids (*Aphis gossypii*) are being found during the vegetative growth stage (Iqbal *et al*. 2015 and Rawat 2020). Farmers often turn to chemical pesticides for quick and effective insect

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pest control, but their overuse has led to widespread insect resistance. Additionally, many conventional pesticides have been restricted due to their adverse effects on the environment and human health. Hence, there's a crucial need for next-generation pesticides to enhance insect pest management.

Chlorantraniliprole, belonging to the diamide group of insecticides, stands out as highly effective for combating various pests mainly, lepidopteran pests. It is widely recommended for a range of crops including rice, sugarcane, cabbage, tomato, okra, and more. What sets chlorantraniliprole apart from conventional insecticides is its unique mode of action, as it activates the calcium channels in the insects' muscles. Emamectin benzoate, on the other hand, is a member of the avermectins group and is derived from fermented soil microorganisms. This insecticide excels in controlling a variety of pests, including sucking pests, leaf miners, lepidopteran pests, and mites, making it a valuable asset in the cultivation of cotton, citrus fruits, grapes, various vegetables, and soybeans. Lambda-cyhalothrin, classified as a synthetic pyrethroid, acts as a sodium channel modulator in the nervous systems of insects. It has proven to be highly effective in combatting pests in crops such as cotton, paddy, soybean, and various vegetables.

The introduction of these innovative pesticides resulted in mitigating pesticide resistance and reducing residue levels. As a result, they offer promising opportunities for more effective pest control strategies (Sarkar *et al.* 2016 and Jain *et al.* 2021). Consequently, it is imperative to continue research and develop new pesticides to address the issues of insect pest management.

Materials and methods

Study area and design
This study aimed to assess the efficacy of specific insecticides in controlling the sucking pests affecting various okra cultivars. A trial was conducted at the Experimental Farm, Department of Horticulture, Assam Agricultural University in Jorhat, Assam. The experiments were conducted in two crop seasons, i.e., *kharif* (August to November) during 2020 and spring-summer (February to May) during 2021. The crop was planted at recommended spacing i.e. 60 x 45 cm during *kharif* and 45 x 20 cm during the spring-summer seasons. The standard recommended agronomic package of practices as applicable for Assam was strictly adhered to (Anonymous 2019). The experiment was laid out in a split-plot design with three replications. The insecticide treatments were assigned to the sub-plots, while the okra varieties were allocated to the main plots resulting in a total of 36 sub-plots in the experiment.

Varieties and insecticides
Three okra varieties viz. Arka Anamika (AA), Pusa Sawani (PS) and a local variety known as S-51 that are recommended

and suitable for the region were selected and used in the experiment. The three insecticides that were tested include Chlorantraniliprole 18.5% SC @ 25 g *a.i.*/ha (C), Emamectin benzoate 5% SG @ 8.5 g *a.i.*/ha (E) and Lambda cyhalothrin 5% EC @15 g *a.i.*/ha (L). These insecticides were sprayed during the early hours of the day using a hydraulic knapsack sprayer with a hollow cone nozzle at a pressure of 3-5 kg/cm^2 by mixing with 500 liters of water per hectare. Different treatment combinations include V1T1- C + AA; V1T2 - E + AA; V1T3 - L + AA; V2T1 - C + PS; V2T2 - E + PS; V2T3 - L + PS; V3T1 - C + S-51; V3T2 - E + S-51; V3T3 - L +S-51 and Control.

Observation
For sucking pests, pest populations on three leaves, one each from the top, middle and bottom were assessed from five selected plants in each plot (Thorat *et al* 2020). The data were collected one day before the treatment (pre-treatment count) and on 1, 3, 5, 10 and 15 Days After Treatment (DAT).

Statistical analysis
The data were subjected to statistical analysis by using SPSS software. Analysis of variance was calculated to compare the results at the $p = 0.05$ level of significance.

Results

Effect of different insecticidal treatments on aphid population during Kharif, 2020 and spring-summer, 2021 (Table 1)
The insecticidal treatments were given at 60 DAS during the fruiting stage. One day before the application of insecticides, the aphid population was recorded in all the plots and it was found that there was no significant difference among the treatments and the population of aphids ranged between 19.33 to 24.00/3 leaves in *Kharif,* 2020 and 15.33 to 18.66/3 leaves in *spring-summer*, 2021. All the treatments were found effective in reducing the aphid population at 1, 3, 5, 10, and 15 DAT compared to control. The population of the aphid was found at least at 5 DAT and later it started increasing slowly over time.

One day after spraying
At 1 DAT all the treatments showed significantly more reduction in aphid population compared to pre-treatment count in both seasons. The population in the control increased from 19.33 to 23.33/3 leaves during *Kharif* and 16.00 to 19.66 during *spring-summer*. In both seasons, the highest reduction in aphid population was observed in V_1T_1 (9.00 and 6.33/3 leaves respectively) which were statistically at par with V_1T_2 and V_2T_2 (10.33 and 9.33/3 leaves) during *Kharif* and only with V_2T_2 (7.66/3 leaves) during *spring-summer* and significantly different from others. The lowest reduction in both seasons was observed in the case of V_3T_3 (16.66 and 13.00/3 leaves respectively).

Table 1: Effect of different treatments on population of aphid, *Aphis gossypii* during *kharif*, 2020 and *spring-summer*, 2021

Treatments	Kharif, 2020						Spring-summer, 2021					
	Pre-count	Post treatment count					Pre-count	Post treatment count				
		1DAT	3DAT	5DAT	10DAT	15DAT		1DAT	3DAT	5DAT	10DAT	15DAT
V_1T_1	22.66	9.00^d	4.66^e	2.66^e	3.33^e	4.33^e	15.33	6.33^d	3.33^d	2.00^e	2.33^e	3.00^e
V_1T_2	20.33	10.33^d	5.00^{de}	4.00^e	5.00^{de}	5.66^{de}	15.66	8.33^{cd}	4.00^d	2.33^{de}	3.33^{de}	3.66^{de}
V_1T_3	21.66	14.00^{bc}	8.66^c	7.33^c	8.33^c	9.00^{cd}	17.66	11.00^{bc}	7.33^{bc}	5.66^c	6.66^c	7.00^c
V_2T_1	19.33	12.66^{cd}	5.66^{de}	3.00^e	4.00^e	4.66^e	16.33	10.33^c	4.66^d	3.33^{de}	4.00^{de}	4.33^{de}
V_2T_2	21.00	9.33^d	7.33^{cd}	5.66^d	7.00^{cd}	7.33^d	17.00	7.66^d	6.00^{cd}	4.66^{cd}	5.33^{cd}	5.66^{cd}
V_2T_3	20.66	14.33^{bc}	9.33^{bc}	7.66^c	8.66^c	9.33^c	18.33	12.66^{bc}	8.33^{bc}	7.00^{bc}	7.66^{bc}	8.00^{bc}
V_3T_1	23.66	13.66^c	6.66^d	5.33^{de}	6.66^d	7.00^d	16.66	10.66^{bc}	5.33^{cd}	3.66^d	4.66^d	5.00^d
V_3T_2	22.33	12.33^{cd}	8.33^{cd}	6.66^{cd}	7.66^{cd}	8.66^{cd}	17.33	8.66^{cd}	6.66^c	5.00^{cd}	6.00^{cd}	6.33^{cd}
V_3T_3	24.00	16.66^b	11.00^b	9.33^b	11.66^b	12.00^b	18.66	13.00^b	8.66^b	7.33^b	9.00^b	9.33^b
Control	19.33	23.33^a	26.66^a	28.33^a	32.33^a	29.66^a	16.00	19.66^a	22.33^a	25.00^a	28.66^a	27.33^a
Var.												
P value	0.721	0.203	0.849	0.888	0.849	0.256	0.372	0.885	0.382	0.665	0.548	0.197
F value	0.355	2.442	0.171	4.739	0.170	1.955	1.281	0.126	1.238	0.453	0.702	2.508
Treatment												
P value	0.681	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.001	0.688	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001
F value	0.509	23.199	99.808	115.391	245.502	8.572	0.498	12.870	54.506	110.785	89.766	117.158
Var. X Treatment												
P value	0.794	0.295	0.010	0.165	0.005	0.981	0.965	0.447	0.069	0.119	0.399	0.192
F value	0.508	1.329	3.987	1.758	4.673	0.173	0.221	1.014	2.407	1.997	1.101	1.645

Data are mean of three replications

Three and five, days after spraying

In both seasons, the population of aphids showed a decreasing trend from 1 DAT to 5 DAT. At 3 and 5 DAT, V_1T_1 recorded the lowest population of 4.66, 2.66/3 leaves in *Kharif* and 3.33, 2.00/3 leaves in *spring-summer* respectively which was significantly different from other treatments at 3 DAT and statistically at par with V_1T_2 (4.00) and V_2T_1 (3.00) at 5 DAT in *kharif*. Also, treatments V_1T_2 (4.00/3 leaves) and V_2T_1 (4.66 /3 leaves) are statistically at par with V_1T_1 at 3 DAT and significantly different from other treatments at 5 DAT in *spring- summer*. Treatment V_3T_3 registered significantly lower aphids at 3 and 5 DAT (11.00, 9.33/3 leaves respectively in *Kharif* and 8.66, 7.33/3 leaves respectively in *spring-summer*) which was significantly higher than control.

Ten and fifteen days after spraying

From 10 to 15 DAT an increasing trend of aphid population was observed. V_1T_1 showed a significantly higher reduction of the aphid population at 10 (3.66 and 2.33/3 leaves) and 15 DAT (4.33 and 3.00 /3 leaves) in comparison to other treatments. The lowest population reduction was observed at V_3T_3 (11.66 and 12.00 /3 leaves respectively in *kharif*) (9.00 and 9.33/3 leaves respectively in *spring-summer*) which was significantly higher than the control (32.33 and 29.66/3 leaves respectively in *kharif*) (28.66 and 27.33 /3 leaves

respectively in *spring-summer*). At 15 DAT natural reduction of aphid population was also observed in control which was coinciding with the maturity stage of okra.

From the interaction study, it was observed that variety had no significant effect on the aphid population. The combined effect of variety and treatment had a significant effect on the population reduction of aphids. The insecticidal treatment has shown a significant effect on the population of aphids in *kharif* (P = 0.001). Individual effect of variety and combination effect of variety x treatments were not significant in reducing aphid population in *spring-summer* but the treatments had significant effect on population reduction of aphid.

Effect of different insecticidal treatments on the jassid population (Table 2)

One day after spraying during Kharif and spring-summer
Among the treatments, V_1T_1 showed the highest reduction in the jassid population (4.66 and 2.33/3 leaves respectively) which was statistically at par with treatment V_1T_2 (6.00/3 leaves) and significantly different from V_2T_1 (6.66/3 leaves), V_3T_1 (7.33/3 leaves), V_2T_2 (8.00/3 leaves) V_3T_2 (8.66/3 leaves), V_1T_3 (9.00/3 leaves) and V_2T_3 (9.66/3 leaves) during *Kharif*. Whereas in spring-summer it was significantly different for

all the other treatments. The treatment V_3T_3 showed the least reduction of the jassid population (10.33 and 6.33/3 leaves) which was significantly different from other insecticidal treatments in both seasons at 1 DAT.

Three, five, ten, and fifteen days after spraying during kharif
All the treatments showed a reduction in the number of jassid up to 10 DAT. At 3, 5 and 10 DAT, V_1T_1 showed a lesser population of jassid (4.00, 2.33 and 1.00/3 leaves respectively) which was statistically at par with V_1T_2 (5.00 /3 leaves), V_2T_1 (5.33/3 leaves) at 3 DAT, followed by V_3T_1 (6.33/3 leaves), V_2T_2 (6.66/3 leaves), V_3T_2 (7.66/3 leaves), V_1T_3 (8.33/3 leaves) and V_2T_3 (8.66 /3 leaves). Among the treatments, the highest jassid population was seen in V_3T_3 (9.66 /3 leaves), which was significantly different from the other treatments.

At 5 DAT significant reduction of the jassid population was observed in V_1T_1 (2.33/3 leaves) which was significantly different from other treatments. The V_1T_2 (3.33/3 leaves) and V_2T_1 (4.00/3 leaves) are not significantly different and statistically at par with V_1T_3 (6.33/3 leaves). The lowest population reduction was observed in V_2T_3 (6.66/3 leaves) followed by V_3T_3 (7.00/3 leaves) which were statistically similar to each other and significantly different from V_3T_1 (4.33/3 leaves) and V_2T_2 (4.66/3 leaves).

A similar trend of population reduction of jassid was also observed at 10 DAT and 15 DAT. The highest reduction of jassid was observed in V_1T_1 (1.00 and 2.00/3 leaves) followed by V_1T_2 (2.00 and 3.00/3 leaves), V_2T_1 (3.00 and 3.66/3 leaves), V3T1 (3.66 and 4.00/3 leaves), V_2T_2 (4.00 and 4.33/3 leaves), V_3T_2 (4.66 and 5.00/3 leaves) and V_1T_3 (5.00 and 6.00/3 leaves) at 10 and 15 DAT respectively. Treatment V_2T_3 (5.66 and 6.33/3 leaves) recorded the lowest jassid population at 10 and 15 DAT which was statistically at par with V_3T_3 (6.00 and 6.66 /3 leaves respectively). Natural reduction of the jassid population was observed at 15 DAT.

Three, five, ten and fifteen days after spraying during spring-summer
At 3, 5, 10, and 15 DAT, V_1T_1 registered the highest reduction in the jassid population (2.00, 1.33, 0.66 and

Table 2: Effect of different treatments on population of jassid, *Amrasca biguttula biguttula* during *kharif*, 2020 and *spring-summer*, 2021

Treatments	Kharif, 2020						Spring-summer, 2021					
	Pre-count	Post treatment count					Pre-count	Post treatment count				
		1DAT	3DAT	5DAT	10DAT	15DAT		1DAT	3DAT	5DAT	10DAT	15DAT
V₁T₁	13.33	4.66[d]	4.00[d]	2.33[d]	1.00[cd]	2.00[e]	8.00	2.33[d]	2.00[d]	1.33[d]	0.66[d]	1.00[d]
V₁T₂	13.66	6.00[d]	5.00[d]	3.33[cd]	2.00[cd]	3.00[de]	8.33	3.33[cd]	2.66[d]	1.66[d]	1.00[d]	1.33[d]
V₁T₃	15.66	9.00[bc]	8.33[bc]	6.33[bc]	5.00[bc]	6.00[bc]	8.66	5.33[bc]	5.00[bc]	4.00[bc]	3.33[bc]	3.66[bc]
V₂T₁	14.00	6.66[cd]	5.33[d]	4.00[cd]	3.00[cd]	3.66[d]	8.00	3.66[cd]	3.00[cd]	2.33[cd]	1.66[cd]	2.00[cd]
V₂T₂	14.66	8.00[c]	6.66[cd]	4.66[c]	4.00[c]	4.33[cd]	8.33	4.66[c]	4.00[c]	3.33[c]	2.66[c]	3.00[c]
V₂T₃	16.33	9.66[bc]	8.66[bc]	6.66[b]	5.66[b]	6.33[b]	8.66	5.66[bc]	5.33[b]	4.33[bc]	3.66[bc]	4.00[bc]
V₃T₁	14.33	7.33[cd]	6.33[cd]	4.33[c]	3.66[cd]	4.00[cd]	8.33	4.33[c]	3.66[cd]	3.00[c]	2.33[c]	2.66[c]
V₃T₂	15.33	8.66[bc]	7.66[c]	5.33[bc]	4.66[bc]	5.00[c]	8.66	5.00[bc]	4.66[bc]	3.66[bc]	3.00[bc]	3.33[bc]
V₃T₃	16.66	10.33[b]	9.66[b]	7.00[b]	6.00[b]	6.66[b]	9.00	6.33[b]	5.66[b]	4.66[b]	4.00[b]	4.33[b]
Control	16.00	17.33[a]	18.66[a]	19.33[a]	20.66[a]	19.66[a]	7.66	8.33[a]	9.66[a]	10.66[a]	11.33[a]	11.00[a]
Var.												
P value	0.592	0.254	0.653	0.693	0.777	0.814	0.103	0.065	0.023	0.183	0.803	0.716
F value	0.599	1.965	0.476	0.402	0.269	0.216	4.235	5.83	11.27	2.66	0.23	0.364
Treatment												
P value	0.442	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.083	0.001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001
F value	0.941	22.830	48.864	71.050	98.195	87.122	2.607	9.05	21.09	32.63	37.99	53.401
Var. X Treatment												
P value	0.839	0.671	0.377	0.056	0.016	0.137	0.144	0.85	0.97	0.97	0.80	0.162
F value	0.446	0.675	1.145	2.579	3.590	1.896	1.857	0.41	0.192	0.191	0.232	1.771

Data are mean of three replications

Table 3: Effect of different treatments on population of whitefly, *Bemisia tabaci* during *kharif*, 2020 and *spring-summer*, 2021

Treatments	Kharif, 2020						Spring-summer, 2021					
	Pre-count	Post treatment count					Pre-count	Post treatment count				
		1DAT	3DAT	5DAT	10DAT	15DAT		1DAT	3DAT	5DAT	10DAT	15DAT
V_1T_1	6.33	2.66^{d}	1.66^{d}	0.66^{d}	1.00^{d}	1.33^{d}	4.66	2.00^{c}	1.33^{d}	0.33^{d}	0.66^{d}	1.00^{d}
V_1T_2	7.33	3.66^{d}	2.66^{cd}	1.66^{cd}	2.00^{cd}	2.33^{cd}	5.33	2.66^{c}	2.00^{cd}	1.00^{d}	1.33^{d}	1.66^{d}
V_1T_3	9.33	5.66^{bc}	4.66^{bc}	3.00^{bc}	3.33^{bc}	3.66^{bc}	7.00	4.33^{bc}	3.33^{bc}	2.33^{bc}	2.66^{bc}	3.00^{bc}
V_2T_1	6.66	3.33^{d}	2.33^{d}	1.00^{d}	1.33^{d}	1.66^{d}	5.00	2.33^{c}	1.66^{cd}	0.66^{d}	1.00^{d}	1.33^{d}
V_2T_2	8.33	4.66^{cd}	3.66^{c}	2.33^{c}	2.66^{c}	3.00^{c}	6.33	3.66^{bc}	2.66^{c}	1.66^{cd}	2.00^{cd}	2.33^{cd}
V_2T_3	9.66	6.33^{b}	4.66^{bc}	3.66^{bc}	4.00^{bc}	4.33^{bc}	7.33	5.00^{b}	3.66^{bc}	2.66^{bc}	3.00^{bc}	3.33^{bc}
V_3T_1	8.00	4.33^{cd}	3.33^{cd}	2.00^{cd}	2.33^{cd}	2.66^{cd}	5.66	3.00^{c}	2.33^{cd}	1.33^{cd}	1.66^{cd}	2.00^{cd}
V_3T_2	8.66	5.00^{c}	4.33^{bc}	2.66^{c}	3.00^{c}	3.33^{c}	6.66	4.00^{bc}	3.00^{bc}	2.00^{c}	2.33^{c}	2.66^{c}
V_3T_3	10.00	6.66^{b}	5.00^{b}	4.00^{b}	4.33^{b}	4.66^{b}	7.66	5.33^{b}	4.00^{b}	3.00^{b}	3.33^{b}	3.66^{b}
Control	7.66	9.33^{a}	10.66^{a}	12.33^{a}	13.33^{a}	11.66^{a}	6.00	7.66^{a}	9.33^{a}	11.00^{a}	12.33^{a}	11.66^{a}
Var.												
P value	0.473	0.684	0.619	0.771	0.459	0.282	0.315	0.104	0.536	0.099	0.403	0.963
F value	0.908	0.419	0.542	0.278	0.953	0.764	1.565	4.200	0.731	4.348	1.151	0.038
Treatment												
P value	0.269	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.250	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001
F value	1.421	9.956	22.165	56.730	75.492	31.900	1.494	17.520	22.278	43.331	53.168	46.380
Var. X Treatment												
P value	0.806	0.558	0.261	0.651	0.348	0.610	0.785	0.009	0.493	0.870	0.942	0.671
F value	0.492	0.836	1.420	0.703	1.206	0.760	0.521	4.604	0.937	0.398	0.275	0.070

Data are mean of three replications

1.00/3 leaves respectively) which was statistically on par with the treatment V_1T_2 (2.66, 1.66, 1.00 and 1.33/3 leaves respectively) and was significantly different from V_2T_1 (3.00, 2.33, 1.66 and 2.00/3 leaves respectively), V_3T_1 (3.66, 3.00, 2.33 and 2.66/3 leaves respectively), V_2T_2 (4.00, 3.33, 2.66 and 3.00/3 leaves respectively), V_3T_2 (4.66, 3.66, 3.00 and 3.33/3 leaves respectively), V_1T_3 (5.00, 4.00, 3.33 and 3.66/3 leaves respectively) and V_2T_3 (5.33, 4.33, 3.66 and 4.00 /3 leaves respectively). No significant variation was found among the V_1T_3, V_2T_1 and V_3T_2 at 3,5,10 and 15 DAT. The V_3T_3 recorded a minimal reduction in the jassid population (5.66, 4.66, 4.00 and 4.33/3 leaves respectively). It was observed that in all treatments, there was a slight increase in the jassid population at 15 DAT. In the control, the population gradually increased from 1 to 10 DAT, followed by a slight natural reduction at 15 DAT.

The interaction effect of both variety and treatment has a significant effect at 10 DAT. The insecticidal treatments play a major role in the reduction of the jassid population during *kharif*. The combined effect of variety and treatment was not significant but individually the insecticidal treatments had a significant effect on the population reduction of jassid during *spring-summer*.

Effect of different insecticidal treatments on whitefly population during Kharif, 2020 and spring-summer, 2021 (Table 3)

The incidence of whiteflies prior to the treatment did not vary significantly in both seasons. The whitefly population ranged from 6.33 to 10.00 /3 leaves during *Kharif* and 4.66 to 7.66 /3 leaves during *spring-summer*. All the treatments were found effective over control in reducing the whitefly population at 1, 3, 5, 10, and 15 DAT. The population of the whitefly was recorded at least on 5 DAT and later it started increasing slowly with time.

One, three, five, ten and fifteen days after treatment during Kharif, 2020

At 1, 3 and 5 DAT, V_1T_1 showed the highest reduction in whitefly population (2.66, 1.66 and 0.66/3 leaves respectively) which was at par with treatments V_1T_2 and V_2T_1 (3.66 and 3.33/3 leaves respectively) at 1 DAT and in V_2T_1 at 3 and 5 DAT (2.33 and 1.00/3 leaves respectively). Among the remaining treatments lowest whitefly population was recorded at V_1T_2 (3.66, 2.66 and 1.66/3 leaves respectively) followed by V_3T_1 (4.33, 3.33 and 2.00/3 leaves respectively), V_2T_2 (4.66, 3.66 and 2.33/3 leaves respectively), V_3T_2 (5.00, 4.33

and 2.00/3 leaves respectively), V_1T_3 (5.66, 4.66 and 3.00/3 leaves respectively) and V_2T_3 (6.33, 4.66 and 3.66/3 leaves respectively) at 1, 3 and 5 DAT. The minimum reduction in the number of whiteflies was observed with treatment V_3T_3 (6.66, 5.00 and 4.00/3 leaves respectively) which was statistically at par with treatment V_2T_3 (6.33/3 leaves) at 1 DAT and significantly different from other treatments on 3 and 5 DAT. The population of whiteflies increased in control and reached 12.33/3 leaves at 5DAT.

The population of whiteflies started increasing from 10 DAT onwards. At 10 and 15 DAT, V_1T_1 registered the highest reduction in whitefly population (1.00 and 1.33/3 leaves respectively) which was statistically similar to V_2T_1 (1.33 and 1.66/3 leaves respectively) followed by V_1T_2 (2.00 and 2.33/3 leaves respectively), V_3T_1 (2.33 and 2.66/3 leaves respectively), V_2T_2 (2.66 and 3.00/3 leaves respectively), V_3T_2 (3.00 and 3.33/3 leaves respectively), V_1T_3 (3.33 and 3.66/3 leaves respectively) and V_2T_3(4.00 and 4.33/3 leaves respectively).

The minimum reduction in the population of whiteflies was observed in treatment V_3T_3 (4.33 and 4.66/3 leaves respectively) which are significantly higher than the control (13.33 and 11.66/3 leaves respectively). The natural reduction of whitefly number in control plots might be due to a decrease in temperature.

The variety and interaction of variety and treatment had no significant effect on the population of whiteflies but individually the insecticidal treatments had a significant effect on the reduction of the number of whiteflies.

One, three, five, ten and fifteen days after treatment during spring-summer, 2021
Similar results were also observed during *spring-summer*, 2021. At 1 and 3 DAT, the population of whitefly was found lowest in V_1T_1 (2.00 and 1.33/3 leaves respectively) which was not significantly different from V_3T_1, V_1T_2, and V_2T_1 (3.00, 2.66, and 2.33/3 leaves respectively) at 1 DAT. The V_1T_1 (1.33 nos./3 leaves) also resulted in the highest reduction of whitefly at 3 DAT which was significantly different from other treatments. There was no statistical difference among the treatments V_1T_3 (4.33/3 leaves), V_3T_2 (4.00/3 leaves) and V_2T_2 (3.66/3 leaves) in respect of the whitefly population at 1 DAT.

At 3 DAT the maximum whitefly population reduction was observed in V_1T_1, which was followed by V_2T_1 (1.66/3 leaves) and was statistically at par with V_1T_2, V_3T_1 (2.00 and 2.33/3 leaves respectively). Similarly, there was no significant difference among the treatments V_2T_3, V_1T_3 and V_3T_2 (3.66, 3.33 and 3.00/3 leaves respectively).

The treatment V_1T_1 (0.33, 0.66 and 1.00/3 leaves respectively) also registered the lowest whitefly population at 5, 10 and 15 DAT which were statistically not different from V_2T_1 (0.66, 1.00 and 1.33 respectively) and V_1T_2 (1.00, 1.33 and 1.66/3 leaves respectively) at 5, 10 and 15 DAT. There was no statistical difference among the treatments

V_1T_3 (2.33, 2.66 and 3.00/3 leaves respectively), V_2T_3 (2.66, 3.00 and 3.33/3 leaves respectively) and were statistically at par with V_3T_1 (1.33, 1.66 and 2.00/3 leaves respectively) and V_2T_2 (1.66, 2.00 and 2.33/3leaves respectively) at 5, 10 and 15 DAT. The treatment V_3T_2, recorded 2.00, 2.33 and 2.66 numbers of whitefly per three leaves at 5, 10 and 15 DAT and was significantly higher than V_3T_3 (3.00, 3.33 and 3.66/3 leaves respectively) and control (12.33 and 11.66/3 leaves respectively) and significantly lower than the other treatments.

At 1, 3, 5, 10 and 15 DAT, V_3T_3 (5.33, 4.00, 3.00, 3.33 and 3.66/3 leaves respectively) registered the lowest reduction of whitefly population in comparison with other treatments and significantly higher than control (7.66, 9.33, 11.00, 12.33 and 11.66/3 leaves respectively).

The population of whiteflies was influenced only by the individual effect of treatments whereas, the individual effect of variety and combined effect of variety X treatment had no significant impact on reduction of the whitefly population.

Discussion
The insect pest population was found increasing in control plots. Chlorantraniliprole 18.5%SC @ 25gm *a.i.*/ha was found to be the most effective and the best insecticide in pest management and variety Arka among all the varieties. All the insect pest population except jassid was found to decrease up to 5 DAT during both seasons and were later found to be increasing slowly in all the insecticidal treatments. The jassid population showed a decreasing trend up to 10 DAT and then started increasing slowly. The insecticides emamectin benzoate 5% SG @ 8.5gm *a.i.*/ha and lambda-cyhalothrin 5% EC @ 15gm *a.i.*/ha were also found significantly effective in comparison to control.

The notable decline in population can be attributed to the application of chlorantraniliprole 18.5% SC @ 25gm *a.i.*/ha and this may be because of the specific mode of action associated with this insecticide. These findings are in line with Rahman *et al*. 2015 and Saini and Yadav 2022 where the Arka Anamika variety demonstrated superiority among the varieties tested. Arka Anamika exhibited fewer issues with insect pests and gave higher fruit yield. Further, the research conducted by Yadav *et al*. 2020 substantiates the current study, indicating that Chlorantraniliprole 18.5% SC at a rate of 25 gm *a.i.*/ha is the most effective method for whitefly management.

Potai *et al*. 2018 also identified Chlorantraniliprole 18.5% SC @ 25 gm *a.i.*/ha as an effective treatment for managing sucking pests which also corroborates the present findings. A study conducted by Rohit *et al*. 2020 also concluded that Chlorantraniliprole 18.5% SC is the most effective method for controlling sucking pests after Thiamethoxam 25% WG. These multiple instances of confluence between the present findings and prior research demonstrate the consistent

efficacy of Chlorantraniliprole 18.5% SC in pest management across different studies.

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