

SITUATION OF PHYTOPHTHORA LEAF FALL DISEASE OF RUBBER (*Hevea brasiliensis*) IN SOUTH EAST VIETNAM

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Summary

Rubber tree (*Hevea brasiliensis*) is the leading tropical crop of economic value in the South East of Vietnam. Phytophthora leaf fall disease is identified as a major disease and causes significant damage to rubber tree plantations. The disease incidence and severity of Phytophthora leaf fall disease was studied to assist with the effective management of the disease. Results of the study showed that the disease incidence and disease severity in four provinces: Binh Phuoc, Binh Duong, Dong Nai and Tay Ninh, started increasing from May and peaked in September when the rainfall in the area was highest. Disease incidence and severity have been declining since November and symptoms of disease were not observed from January to April. The results also show that the rubber varieties planted in the South East region have different levels of disease resistance, in which RRIC121, RRIV2, RRIV115 and GT1 are the most disease resistant varieties. Disease incidence and severity are highest in the plantations at early stages of latex exploitation (6-8 years) compared to other stages. The rubber plantation planted in gray soil showing higher disease incidence and severity than those grown on basalt red soil.

Keywords: *Hevea brasiliensis*, *Phytophthora leaf fall disease*, *disease incidence*, *disease severity*, *plantation*, *varieties*.