



Insect-pests, Natural Enemies and Soil Micro-flora in Cabbage Grown under Subhash Palekar Natural and Conventional Farming Systems

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Abstract: The effect of a favourable micro-climate offered in the Subhash Palekar Natural Farming (SPNF) system in comparison to the ongoing Conventional Farming (CF) in cabbage was enumerated. Both the farming systems had same pest diversity, but, delayed their incidence by 1-3 weeks as compared to CF. The SPNF attracted relatively more natural enemies, with the occurrence of *Diadegma semiclausum* (Hellen) as an additional important bioagent. The abundance of soil microbes and enzymes activity helps stimulate plant growth. Therefore, the change in their level in a cropping season (pre-sowing to post-harvest) in both the systems was compared. Both these parameters increased, but, the increase (soil micro-flora: bacteria=3.03%; fungi=12.5%; actinomycete=12.4% and soil enzymes activity: dehydrogenase=34.29%, phosphatase=7.31% and urease=10.51%) was significantly higher in SPNF than in CF system. The SPNF, although seems a viable option for cabbage cultivation but further institutional studies on larger landscape are required.

Keywords: ZBNF, Diversity, Abundance, Soil microbes, Enzymatic activity
