Helminthosporiosis in rice

Recognize the problem
This is one of the most important diseases affecting rice. It can attack in any stage of development, but the damage is worse at the end of the cycle because it drastically decreases the yield and the quality.

It looks like coal. Small oval brown spots with a grey center appear on the leaves. Strong attacks can make leaves dry.

Dark coffee-colored spots appear in the panicle and severe attacks cause spots in the grain and loss of yield and milling quality.

Background
The disease is caused by a fungus. It is spread via the seeds and also survives on crop residues.

It appears more frequently under wet and hot conditions, at temperatures higher than 28 °C.

Black powder masses appear in pods, leaves and stalks. These masses contain spores, which are the source of the disease and can infect other rice plants.

Management
• There are resistant varieties, such as MAC 18, which is resistant to the major diseases and has long grain for exportation. Seeds may be purchased at CIAT of Santa Cruz, address: Avenida Irala 603, esquina Ejército, primer anillo, Santa Cruz de la Sierra
• To decrease humidity, avoid dense sowing. 100 kg seeds per hectare are enough in the mechanized system, or 90 kg seeds if the rice is "chaqueado". Use 80 kg seeds per hectare in the transplant system
• To kill the fungus, seeds are treated before sowing with Carbendazim + Thiram at 200 mL per 100 kg seeds. The disease will not appear in the field if this is applied to the seeds, unless plants are ploughed
• If seeds were not treated, apply Myclobutanil-based products in a preventive or curative way. It is more effective in the first development stages of the disease

Scientific name(s) > Cochliobolus miyabeanus

The recommendations in this factsheet are relevant to: Bolivia

When using a pesticide, always wear protective clothing and follow the instructions on the product label, such as dosage, timing of application, and pre-harvest interval.

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