Green Semilooper in Soybean

Recognize the problem
The semilooper larva is green in colour with several thin light lines running the length of the body. When crawling, it forms a characteristic loop or hump so is known as the semilooper. The full grown larva feeds on foliage, flowers and pods. In severe infestation, it defoliates the plant leaving behind only midribs. The female moth lays tiny white creamy eggs on the underside of the leaves or young stems. The eggs hatch 3-4 days later. The newly emerged caterpillars feed on the lower surface of the upper canopy of soybean leaves in a characteristic manner, leaving the top epidermis intact.

Background
The semilooper feeds on soybean crops and causes yield losses up to 30-40%. It affects the crop at the vegetative stage and if the infestation is at the podding or flowering stage, it can cause considerable yield losses. Usually the infestation occurs before late August and early September.

Management
• Practise deep summer ploughing
• Install bird perches at 20 ha in the field
• Spray *Beauveria bassiana* 4 ml/litre of water during high humidity
• Spray 5 % Neem Seed Kernel Extract (NSKE) at flowering stage as a preventive measure
• Spray quinalphos 25% EC at 30 ml or chlorpyriphos 20% EC @ 30 ml in 10 litres of water

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.

Scientific name(s) > *Chrysodeixis acuta*

The recommendations in this factsheet are relevant to: India