Crop rotation against Stem rot in rapeseed

Recognize the problem

Rapeseed is generally used as a oilseed crop and is grown in irrigated and rain fed areas.

Stem rot is a common disease in rapeseed. It is caused by a fungus which causes light brown spots to appear on the stem when the crop is attacked.

Stem rot usually happens after one month of sowing.

Background

- The fungus is found in the soil and in the residues of the previous crop.
- There is greater danger of this disease occurring if it the same crop is grown each season. This allows a build up of fungus in the field which eventually breaks out and affects the entire crop.
- Crop rotation is the continuous change of crops growing in your field each season.

Management

Rotate rapeseed with other crops, for example:

1. Rapeseed then peas and then Rapeseed (two season)
2. Rapeseed then wheat (one season)
3. Add or rotate any fodder crop, such as maize, before rapeseed (One season)

Scientific name(s) > *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum*

The recommendations in this factsheet are relevant to: Pakistan