**Sugarcane Whipsmut**

**Casual organism:** *Ustilago scitaminea*  
**Local Name:** Kamad ki kangriar

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| - Cultivation of resistant varieties e.g. CPF-246, CPF-247, SPF-213, CP-77400, CPF-248  
- Avoid ratooning. Sets from infected cane should not be used for planting.  
- Hot water treatment of sets at 52°C for 18 minutes can help to eliminate the internal infection.  
- Follow crop rotation. Green manure crops should be included e.g. Barseem, Jantar  
- Adopt 4ft plant spacing method to improve aeration and to conserve moisture  
- Destroy crop residues by burning cane trash after harvest  
- The affected canes produce long black whip like structure and coiled or curved shoots which are covered with thin, white and papery skin.  
- The affected plants have long slender and thin cane than rest of crop and produce more tillers than the healthy ones.  
- The smutted shoots may arise from top of the cane or from lateral buds.  
- Later on, the skin ruptures and releases spores which contaminate soil and the standing crop. | - Pull out diseased plants from the infected field. These should be burnt. Try to remove diseased plants before smut whips mature.  
- When using a pesticide, always wear protective clothing, avoid drinking, eating and smoking  
- As the disease is systemic in affected plants, spraying fungicides will have no effect.  
- WHO class II, moderately hazardous | - Prevention: Dipping seed cane sets in 1% propiconazole, carboxin or pyroquilon can prevent infection of set buds. |

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**Pakistan**  
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**Photo:** Sugarcane Whipsmut. Photo: William M. Brown Jr., Bugwood.org, CC BY

**Photo:** Infected sugarcane. Photo: Mauritius Sugar Industry Research Institute

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