

## **Occurrence of Different Fungal Diseases of Maize (*Zea mays* L.) in different Localities of District Muzaffarabad AJK, Pakistan.**

**Maryum Iqbal Awan, M. Qayyum Khan and Syeda Sadiqa Firdous\***

Department of Botany, University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Muzaffarabad, Pakistan.

\*Corresponding author e-mail: Siddiqua\_frds@yahoo.com

### **Abstract**

A survey of Maize (*Zea Mays* L.) fungal diseases was conducted in September-October, 2010 in different sites of District Muzaffarabad AJK. Selection sites were representing different altitudes and ecological zones i.e. subtropical, humid and temperate zones. These sites were Chattar (800 m), Ghari Duppata (1400 m), Chikar (1800 m) and Sudan Ghalli (2500 m). Disease estimation of 0-5 scale was used to estimate percent leaf area diseased (PLAD). Each scale unit was designed a specific PLAD for each disease. A total of 32 plants were examined per site of sampling. Results showed that among significant fungal pathogens, *Bipolris maydis* the causal agent of Southern Corn Leaf Blight (SCLB), *Exserohilum turcicum* (pass) Leonard and Suggs the causal agent of Northern Corn Leaf Blight (NCLB), *Puccinia sorghi* the causal agent of common rust, *Colletotrichum graminicola* the causal agent of Anthracnose leaf blight (ALB), *Physoderma maydis* the causal agent of brown spots (BS) were occurred in all selected sites SCLB was more serious in low altitude (800-1400m) where it produced spectacular epiphytotic severities of over 75 percent. At this altitude same results were for Rust, ALB and BS. Similarly, NCLB was observed in all areas, but severity was higher over 60 & 75 percent at Chikar and Sudan Ghalli representing higher altitude (1800-2500 m). This is the first time that these data sets have been provided for Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Pakistan.