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EFFECTS OF COCOA POD HUSKS SOIL AMENDMENT ON COWPEA INFESTATION BY *MELOIDOGYNE* SPP.

OLUFUNKE A. EGUNJOBI

Nematology Laboratory,
Department of Agricultural Biology, University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria.

Abstract

Cocoa pod husks (CPH) were tried as soil amendment against the root-knot nematode, *Meloidogyne*spp. on cowpea, *Vigna unguiculata* cv. Ife Brown. Partially decayed and dry CPH were incorporated into the soil in flake form at the rate of 6,000 kg/ha in the preliminary trial and 65,000 kg/ha in the greenhouse and micro-field trials. *Meloidogyne* infestation, measured in terms of galling incidence were reduced by 28.2, 50.0 and 36.7% in the respective trials. Economic yield of cowpea (shelled dry grains) were increased by 6.7, 39.03 and 24.93%, respectively in the preliminary, greenhouse and micro-field trials. Fresh pod, root and shoot weights increased to varying degrees to a maximum of 45.8%.