

**ON THE OCCURRENCE OF NEMATODE INDUCED PINE
WILT DISEASE IN NIGERIA**

FASAHAT A. KHAN AND RASHEED A. GBADEGESIN*

*Department of Crop Protection,
Institute of Agricultural Research,
Ahmadu Bello University, PMB 1044, Zaria, Nigeria.*

Abstract

Tropical pines, initially raised for research purpose, are becoming increasingly important as plantation species in Nigeria for their use as a source of raw material for long fibred pulp in paper production. Large areas of unproductive hardwood forests are being converted into plantations of exotic softwood, specially *Pinus* species. Also, *Pinus* spp., notably *P. caribaea* and *P. oocarpa*, are considered to play a vital role in afforestation programme in the Northern Guinea and derived Savanna zones. Afaka Experimental Area, located within Afaka Forest Reserve, stretching over 10,000 ha in the Northern Guinea Savanna zone, is one such plantation where exotic species of *Pinus* and *Eucalyptus* are grown for provenance trials and other researches.