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Comparative *in vitro* Antagonistic Potential of some Bio-agents Against *Colletotrichum falcatum* Went., the cause of Red Rot of Sugarcane

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Some promising antagonists viz. Trichoderma harzianum, Trichoderma viride, Aspergillus niger, Aspergillus flavus and Penicillium sp. were selected and evaluated for their comparative efficacy against the red rot pathogen Colletotrichum falcatum under laboratory conditions following the dual culture technique. All the tested antagonists except Penicillium sp. prominently inhibited the mycelial growth of C. falcatum. After 12 days of incubation, the antagonists showed full radial growth by which they encircled, slowed down the growth and sometimes overran the mycelia of C. falcatum on PDA. Penicillium sp. had no effect in restricting the growth of the pathogenic fungi under similar conditions.

Keywords: *Biocontrol, Colletotrichum falcatum, sugarcane, antagonists*