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## Control of White Root Disease of Rubber with *Trichoderma*

CHARLES THEN KHOON THIAM, H'NG WEI CHANG

*All Cosmos Industries Sdn Bhd, PLO 650, Jalan Keluli 7, Pasir Gudang Industrial Estate, 81700 Pasir Gudang, Johor, Malaysia*

AND

MUHAMMAD MUZAFFAR SAIRI

*Arif Efektif Sdn Bhd, PLO 539, Jalan Keluli, Pasir Gudang Industrial Estate, 81700 Pasir Gudang, Johor, Malaysia*

*Three treatments were employed to evaluate the effectiveness of Trichoderma in controlling white root disease of rubber caused by Rigidoporus lignosus. These treatments include T1: Control; T2: 200 g Trichoderma compost and T3: 200 g Trichoderma compost + Trichoderma spp. talc. Seven-month-old rubber seedlings from RISDA Semaian were used. Each treatment comprised of 20 rubber seedlings. Prior to treatment with Trichoderma each rubber seedling was planted in a larger polybag pre-inoculated with a rubberwood block fully colonised by Rigidoporus lignosus. The emergence of foliar symptoms was observed over a period of 10 weeks. T1 seedlings recorded the highest disease severity index (DSI) and disease incidence (DI) of 98.75 per cent and 100.00 per cent respectively. T2 seedlings recorded a DSI and DI of 36.25 per cent and 40.00 per cent respectively. No foliar symptoms were observed in T3 seedlings. It is postulated that the difference in the degree of infection is due to the introduction of Trichoderma into the rhizosphere. In addition, T2 and T3 rubber recorded an increase in stem diameter of 17.76 per cent and 19.20 per cent respectively.*

**Keywords:** Rubber, white root disease, Rigidoporus lignosus, Trichoderma.

