

**Title** Potential of induced resistance in postharvest disease control of horticultural crops  
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#### **Abstract**

Diminished use of conventional fungicides due to pathogen resistance and general unacceptability in terms of public and environmental risk have favoured the introduction of integrated pest management (IPM) programmes. Induction of natural disease resistance (NDR) in harvested horticultural crops using physical, biological and/or chemical elicitors has recently received increasing attention, it being preferred as a disease management strategy. This study reviews the enhancement of inducible antifungal compounds and suppression of anthracnose diseases in aubergine through bio-elicitors. Experiments were conducted to examine the possibility of elicitation of host natural resistance in aubergine against anthracnose, a problem disease in the study area, using a relatively weaker pathogen in aubergine, *Fusarium solani*. The results showed that pre-inoculation with *F. solani* gave greater phytoalexin accumulation, sufficient to prevent lesion development by *Colletotrichum capsici*, agent of aubergine anthracnose. Thus, *F. solani* appears to be an effective elicitor of natural host resistance in aubergine. The mechanism of induction of this resistance after inoculation with *F. solani* appears to be associated with phytoalexin accumulation. Purification of the phytoalexin using flash chromatography showed that the compound is lubimin.