

Incidence of *Corynespora* Leaf Fall Disease of rubber in the main growing areas of Côte d'Ivoire

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1 ABSTRACT

Corynespora Leaf Fall Disease (CLFD) poses a real threat to natural rubber production in the world. It causes natural rubber production losses of the order of 20 to 25%. Observed for the first time in Côte d'Ivoire in 1989, it has recently reached epidemic proportions. The objective of this work is to carry out investigations in the rubber fields of Côte d'Ivoire, in order to evaluate the incidence of *Corynespora* Leaf Fall Disease in the main areas of natural rubber production. The results of the survey in six rubber growing areas revealed, in 2018, the presence of CLFD in five, in particular the South-west (Grand Bereby, San Pedro, Sassandra), South (Anguédedou, Dabou, Grand-Lahou, Sikensi et Tiassale), Central-west (Gagnoa, Issia, Soubré), East (Abengourou, Alepé, Daoukro) and South-east (Aboisso, Adiaké, Bonoua et Tiapoum) with incidence rates between 8 and 22%. Only, the western zone (Blolequin, Guiglo, and Toulepleu) remained free from disease. Higher incidence rates were observed in the south-west and south-east of the country. Among the clones observed, IRCA 18 was the most affected by CLFD, with disease incidence rates estimated at 74%, followed by polyclone plantations (24%) and the clone PB 260 (2%). High incidence of CLFD was noted in young plantations (72%) when compared with older plantations (5%).
