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The ICRISAT's genebank is the world's repository for germplasm of its five research mandate crops (sorghum, pearl millet, chickpea, pigeonpea and groundnut) and of six small millets (finger millet, foxtail millet, small millet, kodo millet, proso millet and barnyard millet). The genebank currently holds a total of about 1,14,800 accessions of germplasm under medium-term storage (4° C and 30% RH) and long-term storage (-20° C in vacuum packed aluminum packets) for conservation and future utilization in crop improvement. Seed health testing is conducted for accessions from medium-term storage to identify accessions that are infected by seed-borne pathogens and require salvaging and further regeneration before the healthy seed (clean, infection-free and >85% germination) are moved to the long-term storage. During 2004, we conducted seed health testing, using the standard blotter method, of 2897 germplasm accessions (groundnut 426, chickpea 1115 and pigeonpea 1356) that were field regenerated during 2003-04 post-rainy season. The frequency of seed infection by various fungi and bacteria varied from 2-30% in groundnut, 1-46% in chickpea and 2-34% in pigeonpea. These resulted in seed germination loss of 9%, 29% and 52% in groundnut, chickpea and pigeonpea, respectively. Of many fungal species detected, the common and predominant seed-borne fungi across three crops were *Alternaria alternata*, *Fusarium oxysporum*, *Rhizoctonia bataticola*, *R. solani*, and *Verticillium* spp. Infected germplasm accessions will be salvaged by chemical seed treatment and those with higher infection level will be regenerated further, and tested for seed health for long-term conservation and international exchange.

Bioefficacy of *Steinernema* sp. (STUDP-2) and *Heterorhabditis* sp. (HUDP-2) on Some Insect Pests of Important Crops

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The experiment on bioassay test of entomopathogenic nematodes (EPN's) was conducted on different lepidoteran and coleopteran insect pests in laboratory as well as in pot conditions. The test insect larvae were *Plutella xylostella*, *Earias vitella* and *Phyllophaga* sp. In laboratory conditions it was observed that *Steinernema* sp. (STUDP-2) was more effective against *P. xylostella* and *Phyllophaga* sp. compared to *Heterorhabditis* sp. (HUDP-2). After 120 hrs of exposure the mean per cent mortality of both the insect larvae observed was 97.5 and 77.5 % against *Steinernema* sp. (STUDP-2) and 97.5 and 70.0% against *Heterorhabditis* sp. (HUDP-2). *Steinernema* sp. (STUDP-2) was found comparatively less effective than *Heterorhabditis* sp. (HUDP-2) against *E. vitella*. After 120 hrs of exposure *Steinernema* sp. (SUDP-2) and

