**Title of technical bulletin: Castor Wilt**

Castor, *Ricinus communis* L. is an important non edible oilseed crop in India. India accounts for 59% of global castor area and 81% of world castor production and ranks first in area and production in the world. Castor oil is fast becoming one of the most sought after plant oils, owing to its rich properties and variety of end-uses in lubricant, pharmaceutical and cosmetic preparations. Though castor productivity in India is more than the world average, there are several production constraints in the rain fed castor growing areas, of which pests and diseases play a major role. Many pathogens are known to infect the castor crop at different stages of crop growth. *Fusarium* wilt, gray rot and root rot have become the major diseases. *Fusarium* wilt is a destructive disease which is both seed and soil borne. An attempt has been made to compile the information regarding the distribution, economic importance, symptoms, variability of pathogen, nematode –fungus interaction, disease cycle, screening of castor germplasm for identification of resistant sources and management of wilt disease.

The technical bulletin on “**Castor Wilt**” was published and released on the occasion of DOR Foundation Day *i.e*., 01.08.2014. The technical bulletin contains information on distribution, economic importance, symptoms, variability of pathogen, nematode –fungus interaction, disease cycle, screening of castor germ plasm for identification of resistant sources and management of wilt disease. The bulletin is useful to students and researchers engaged in Castor research, teaching and development.

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