

**FUNGICIDE TYPE AND APPLICATION
TECHNOLOGY FOR THE CONTROL OF
COTTON SEEDLING DISEASES**

**A. B. Bassi, Jr.,
Ciba Crop Protection
Greensboro, NC**

Cotton seedling diseases vary across the cotton belt depending on soil type, crop rotation history (if practiced), and rainfall/weather patterns. *Pythium spp.* and *Rhizoctonia solani* reportedly cause serious problems and impact seedling establishment, seedling health, replanting/production costs. In-furrow fungicides and seed treatments such as Ridomil®+PCNB and Apron play a key role in cotton seedling health and overall plant vigor.

Cotton seedling disease control begins with an overall disease management approach which includes: good seed bed preparation, optimum planting dates, high quality seed, variety selection, seed treatment, field drainage, and in-furrow fungicide treatment. Several studies have been conducted over the past few years on hopperbox treatments with variable results. The value and consistency in performance of a seed treatment in combination with an in-furrow fungicide has been validated repeatedly in field trials and substantiated over many years of testing. Ridomil PC Liquid or granular in-furrow fungicide treatments will control seed and seedling diseases of cotton. These products provide effective control of seed rot as well as pre & post emergence damping-off caused by *Pythium* and *Rhizoctonia*. Crop losses due to these seedling diseases range from 3% to 9% from year to year across the major cotton producing states. The benefits of using Ridomil PC Liquid Twin-Pak include: reduces likelihood of re-planting costs, lower seed cost, diminishes labor costs, decreases energy costs, lessens machinery use, decreases additional costs for weed control due to re-planting, gets cotton off to healthy start allowing early herbicide applications, allows grower to plant early to capitalize on soil moisture and early harvest, provides longer control over seed treatments and hopperbox treatments during early seedling development.