

CLIMATIC INFLUENCE ON INCIDENCE OF PAPAYA DIEBACK IN SABAH, MALAYSIA

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Papaya dieback was first detected in Sabah in early 2000 affecting trees at the Agriculture Research Station in Quoin Hill, Tawau. The disease was later found affecting papaya in other districts in the East Coast Region. A survey was carried in other districts of Sabah especially the interior region, i.e., Keningau and Tenom, where most commercial papaya farms were found in Sabah. Results from this survey showed that the disease was confined mostly to districts in the East Coast Region. An analysis of the weather patterns showed marked differences in terms of rainfall, temperature, and relative humidity. This paper discusses the influence of climatic factors on the incidence of papaya dieback between these two regions.

Keywords: papaya dieback, Sabah, temperature, relative humidity, rainfall