

***Fusarium solani* a new pathogen that causes stem rot of sugarcane in South Gujarat, India**

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The present study reports that *Fusarium solani* NVS671 causes sugarcane stem rot in South Gujarat, India. The pathogen was isolated and identified based on morphology and internal transcribed spacer region. The ITS gene sequence of *F. solani* NVS671 was deposited in GenBank using BANKIT (Accession No. KU305731). The pathogenicity of *F. solani* along with *Colletotrichum falcatum* strain cfNAV as a positive control was evaluated on cultivar Co671 by cut cane assay under greenhouse

conditions. The disease index value of *C. falcatum* cfNAV and *F. solani* NVS671 recorded was highest, which indicates that under in vivo condition *F. solani* NVS671 can also cause aggressive infection like red rot pathogen on CoC671 sugarcane variety. The study demonstrated that *F. solani* NVS671 also causes stem rot in sugarcane in South Gujarat, India and also this is the first report on this pathogen causing stem rot in sugarcane.

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