INDOXACARB AS ALTERNATIVE FOR CONTROLLING *TUTA ABSOLUTA* (MEYRICK) (LEPIDOPTERA: GELICHIIDAE)

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ABSTRACT

The tomato plants give high potential yield in Albania farm conditions, both in open field and in protected area too. *Tuta absoluta* is the most harmful pest of tomato causing a considerable damage as well as with the high population dynamic in low costal area of Albania. In the lack of control measure, the percentage of damage caused by this pest on tomato in greenhouses and open-field can achieve very high level. In this context the integration of control measures is crucial to achieve successfully the controlling of this pest. The use of pesticides based on different chemistries and with varying modes of action is an important component of an integrated pest management strategy. We have used Avaunt 15 EC (Indoxacarb) to control *Tuta absoluta* besides mass capture. The decision scheme of using insecticides for management of *Tuta absoluta* is largely based on adult captures in sexual pheromone traps. Time of intervention with Avaunt 15 EC (Indoxacarb) in our experimental is based on economical threshold: 100 males per pheromone trap per day, 2 females per plant, 26 larvae per plant, 8% defoliation. As a final conclusion using Indoxacarb is a useful chemical compound for controlling *Tuta absoluta* both in open and protected field. The usage of Avaunt 15 EC (Indoxacarb) does not give high technical effect but must be combined with other control measures especially with mass capture technique.

Keywords: Indoxacarb, *Tuta absoluta*, monitoring, economical threshold, pheromone.