

Combined Effect of Generally Regarded As Safe (GRAS) Compounds and *Trichoderma harzianum* on the Control of Postharvest Diseases of Rambutan

D. Sivakumar,¹ R.S. Wilson Wijeratnam,¹ R.L.C. Wijesundera²
and M. Abeyesekere¹

Botryodiplodia theobromae, *Colletotrichum gloeosporioides* and *Gliocephalotrichum microchlamydosporum* are the causal fungi of the rambutan postharvest diseases stem-end rot, anthracnose and brown spot, respectively. Two different treatments of rambutan fruits (*Nephelium lappaceum*) against the three pathogens were compared: potassium metabisulphite (250 ppm) or cinnamaldehyde (30 ppm), each combined with *Trichoderma harzianum* (TrH 40). The application of TrH 40 and potassium metabisulphite effectively controlled the incidence and severity of the three postharvest diseases and maintained the overall quality and color of the fruit under low temperature storage at 13.5°C and 95% r.h. for 18 days. The greatest effect of this treatment was shown on *G. microchlamydosporum*. Cinnamaldehyde affected the growth and germination of TrH 40, whereas potassium metabisulphite did not.

KEY WORDS: *Gliocephalotrichum microchlamydosporum*; *Colletotrichum gloeosporioides*; *Botryodiplodia theobromae*; rambutan; *Nephelium lappaceum*; GRAS compounds; *Trichoderma harzianum*.

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¹Industrial Technology Institute 363, Baudhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 7, Sri Lanka [Fax: +94-1-683128; e-mail: dharini@iti.lk].

²Dept. of Botany, University of Colombo, Colombo, Sri Lanka.