



**Evaluation of Mycoflora and Mycotoxins Contamination of Mustard Seeds
(*Brassica juncea* L.)**



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ABSTRACT : Oil seeds are of great economic importance and their significance in life of human next to cereals. Mustard (*Brassica juncea* L.) is a major oil seed crop of Northern India including Bihar state. Samples of mustard collected from pre-harvest stage from different farms. The seed Mycoflora of different seeds were screened by blotter paper, agar plate method and seed washing methods. The agar plate method was found to be suitable as there was higher percent incidence of seed mycoflora. Species of *Aspergillus*, *Alternaria*, *Curvularia*,

Fusarium, *Penicillium* and *Rhizopus* were found associated with seed, percentage incidence of which varied from 2-15%. Some of the isolates of *Aspergillus flavus*, *Alternaria*, *Curvularia*, *Fusarium moniliforme* and *Penicillium citrinum* were found toxigenic which produces aflatoxins, Zearalenone and Citrinin respectively in the culture media. Sahay (1988) recorded the incidence of aflatoxins in mustard seeds. The samples were found naturally contaminated with Aflatoxins, Zearalenone and Citrinin.

KEYWORDS : Northern, *Aspergillus flavus*, *Alternaria*, Aflatoxins, Zearalenone and Citrinin.