Bacterial wilt on tomatoes

*Ralstonia solanacearum*

**Prevention**
- Use tolerant and certified varieties such as Prostar F1, Libra F1, Taiwan F1, Kenton and Fortune maker.
- Carry out soil testing and avoid planting in fields with infection.
- Practise crop rotation with non solanaceeous plants e.g. cereals, beans and cabbages.
- Avoid planting in low wet areas.
- Destroy related plants of Solanaceae family which act as alternative hosts. Plants such as night shades, sweet potato growing near the tomato crop.
- Avoid movement of farm implements from infected to clean fields. Ideally clean all implements before using in the next field.
- Avoid runoff water coming in contact with uninfected fields.
- Use recommended spacing.
- Bio-fumigate with mustard and Radish.

**Monitoring**
- Begin scouting throughout the growing cycle right from the nursery.
- Observe on the vegetative parts for the disease symptoms such as wilting of the entire plant.
- Start management when one plant is observed to show symptoms.

**Direct Control**
- Uproot and destroy by burning and burying all infected plants.
- Apply Wood ash in the affected holes after uprooting plants.
- Carry all affected plants in bucket or polythene bags carefully as they are taken for destruction to avoid spread of the disease.
- Carry out prolonged flooding of fields where bacterial wilt has been present.

**Direct Control**
- Spray with Copper oxychloride or Copper hydroxide at 60gm/20 of water.

**Restrictions**
- Moderately hazardous (WHO II).
- Mode action: Copper based fungicide.
- Toxic to aquatic organism.
- Wear protective clothing when handling chemicals.
- Follow instruction on the product label such as dosage, pre-harvest interval and appropriate time of application.

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Kenya

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