

Towards immunity of oil palm against *Ganoderma* fungus infection

ABSTRACT

The first record of *Ganoderma* can be traced back to the Pharmacopoeia written by Chinese scientists in first century B.C. Several *Ganoderma* species are known as 'white rot' fungi, which cause the decay of the white cellulose on wood by degrading the lignin component. *Ganoderma boninense* is the main agent of basal stem rot (BSR) disease, as a persistent problem in the oil palm (*Elaeis guineensis*, Jacq.) cultivation that needs to be controlled. Oil palm, which is the main host of this pathogen, is an economically important crop grown in Southeast Asia, Africa, and America. Due to the negative effects of *Ganoderma* on the plants, especially on oil palm, this review focuses on the mechanisms of *Ganoderma* infection and its control, the importance of lignin and silicon (Si) to plant defense. This review also explores different methods for *Ganoderma* control and techniques for producing less susceptible oil palm. Genetic manipulation of oil palm for enhancing resistance to *Ganoderma* is also discussed.

Keyword: *Elaeis guineensis*; *Ganoderma boninense*; Innate immunity; Serine-rich protein; Silicon