Supplemental material

Suppl. Table 1. Utilized *T. afroharzianum* isolates to generate a composite spore suspension termed TriMix. F = France; G = Germany

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Species** | **Isolate** | **Origin** | **Host** | **Year of isolation** |
| *T. afroharzianum* | Tri1 | Croix de Pardie (F) | Maize | 2018 |
|  | Tri2 | Künzing (G) | Maize | 2018 |
|  | Tri3 | Pocking (G) | Maize | 2018 |

Suppl. Tab 2. Significance of the effect of isolate, inoculation method and variety on the disease severity of *T. afroharzianum*, fresh matter content and water content of maize cobs.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Factor** | **Disease severity**  | **Fresh matter content** | **Water content** |
| Isolate | \*\*\* | \*\*\* | \*\*\* |
| Inoculation method (IM) | \* | n.s. | n.s |
| Variety (V)  | \* | n.s. | n.s |
| IM x V | \* | n.s. | n.s  |

\* p≤0.05; \*\* p≤0.01; \*\*\* p≤0.001; n.s not significant

Suppl. Tab. 3: Significance of the effect of disease severity classes, cob material and variety thus there interactions on amylase activity, glucose content and C/N ratio in maize cobs.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Factor** | **Amylase activity** | **Glucose content** | **C/N ratio** |
| Disease severity classes (DS) | \*\*\* | \*\*\* | \* |
| Cob material (CM) | n.s | n.s | \*\*\* |
| Variety (V)  | \*\*\* | \* | \*\*\* |
| DS x V | \*\*\* | n.s | \* |
| DS x CM | n.s | n.s | \*\*\* |
| CM x V  | n.s | n.s | n.s |
| DS x CM x V | n.s | n.s | n.s |

\* p≤0.05; \*\* p≤0.01; \*\*\* p≤0.001; n.s not significant



Suppl. Figure 1. Schematic representation of the experimental design showing the planting arrangement and plot design. Two of the three rows were inoculated with the pathogenic *T. afroharzianum* mix isolate (TriMix), one row inoculation with silk channel and the other by inoculation with the needle pin. The remaining row served as a control, with half of the plants inoculated with water through the silk channel and the other half by needle pin inoculation.