

**Bio control:: Mass production::Virus****Production of the nuclear polyhedrosis virus *Spodoptera litura*****Introduction**

- The virus is effective against the pest on several crops.
- The virus is generally propagated in early fifth instar by surface contamination of semi-synthetic diet.

NPV infected *Spodoptera* larva

Ha NPV products

**Production procedure**

- The mass production of the NPV is carried out in early fifth instar stage of *S. litura*, which yields maximum amount of the NPV. Therefore, in the host culture laboratory a continuous culture of the insects is maintained with proper handling procedures.
- The larvae are grown in diet held in 5 ml glass vials. When the larvae reach the appropriate stage they are transferred to the virus production facility.
- The NPV is multiplied by feeding the semi synthetic diet coated with a clean inoculum of the NPV that has previously been standardized.
- This is accomplished by placing aliquots of 10 ml of the viral suspension of concentration  $1 \times 10^8$  Polyhedral Occlusion Bodies (POB) in the centre over the diet surface either in glass vials and spreading the suspension uniformly all over the surface with a polished glass rod.
- Larvae are released singly after 15 min. into each glass vial/cell and incubated at 25°C for 10 days.
- The larvae begin to die from 5th day onward. The cadavers are collected individually and transferred to 500 ml plastic containers and frozen immediately until processing.
- The processing method is similar to that of *H. armigera*.