DISEASES Affecting
Yellow Yam (round leaf)

Several fungal diseases may affect yellow yam (Round Leaf) resulting in:
- COMPLETE LOSS OF CROP WHEN EARLY GROWTH AFFECTED
- POOR YIELD AND QUALITY OF YAM HEADS

These conditions are often overlooked by farmers
During Wet Periods Phomopsis Leaf Spot And Anthracnose Pathogens:
- Rapidly Invade Young Leaves, Tips And Vines
- Causing Death Of Plant Tissues, (Burn)

Necrosis on the young leaf (left) and tip die back
Early symptoms of leaf spot

Heavy Infection May Result In Leaf Fall (‘Leaf Shedding’)

Symptoms of Phyllosticta Leaf Spot appears as light brown lesions surrounded with the dark brown border on upper and lower surfaces of the leaf

Anthracnose And Fusarium Pathogens Affect Stems, Cause Death Of Young ‘Eyes’ And Sprouts

Stem showing symptoms of necrosis and rot
Necrosis of ‘eye’ and young sprouts Occur as result of leaf infection

Diseases Management Strategies:
- Ensure that planting sets are diseases free
- Crop rotation & adequate plant nutrition
- Post harvest treatment of heads with fungicides (Topsin® or Amistar®)
- Spraying of yam with fungicides to prevent & reduce disease infection
- Cultural measures (weed control, removal & burning of plant residues after harvest)

For Diagnosis And Advice Call Your Nearest Rada Office
Yam anthracnose is caused by the fungal pathogen *Colletotrichum gloeosporioides*.

*Dioscorea alata* (sweet yam) cultivars are highly susceptible to yam anthracnose with *Dioscorea cayenensis* (yellow yam) being less susceptible.

The disease manifests itself by the dieback of vines, lesions on leaves and reduction in the size of tubers. Yield reduction can be as high as 90%.

The pathogen can be introduced on infected yam heads, debris left in the field, nearby infected alternative hosts or older yam plantings.

The impact on yield is highly dependent on the susceptibility of the cultivar, timing of disease onset and prevailing environmental conditions.