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Effect of graded levels of N, P & K on yield and nutrient uptake of fine rice (*Oryza sativa*) under sub-tropical conditions

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Abstract

An experiment was conducted during *kharif* 2015 at Agronomy Research Farm, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu (J&K), India to study the effect of graded levels of N, P & K on yield and nutrient uptake of fine rice (*Oryza sativa*) under sub-tropical conditions. Results revealed that, graded levels of P and K, highest grain (4091 kg ha⁻¹) and straw yield (7242 kg ha⁻¹) was recorded with P_3K_1 (35:15 kg ha⁻¹ of P_2O_5 and K_2O) though the difference was non-significant. Whereas, with N application highest grain (4214 kg ha⁻¹) and straw yield (7475 kg ha⁻¹) was recorded with 60 kg N ha⁻¹ which was statistically at par with 50 kg ha⁻¹. Graded levels of P and K not influence the nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium uptake but levels of N significantly improve NPK uptake by crop. Highest uptake of total NPK by grains as well as straw was recorded with application of 60 kg N ha⁻¹.

Keywords: graded levels, transplanting, nutrient concentration, uptake

Introduction

Rice is the main source of food for more than half the world's population and its cultivation secures a livelihood for more than two billion people. Rice in India has attained great significance in terms of area, production and productivity so as to feed the large masses. In fact, rice cultivation is in crisis the world over and India is no exception, with a shrinking area, fluctuating annual production, stagnating yields and escalating input costs in general and fertilizer in particular. Application of inadequate and unbalanced fertilization to crops not only results in low crop yields but also deteriorate the soil health. The existing fertilizer recommendations for major nutrients in rice are proving to be sub-optimal for attaining higher productivity levels and need a fresh look to revise them to optimum and more balanced levels. Since the fertilizer is an expensive input, determination of its economical and appropriate dose to enhance crop productivity is imperative to fetch the maximum profit for the growers. At present, the world is facing the shortage of major fertilizers especially nitrogenous and phosphatic fertilizers. Proper fertilization of aromatic rice is an important factor in obtaining higher grain yield and better quality. The traditional varieties of scented rice are tall and prone to lodging particularly when a higher dose of nitrogen is applied. Nitrogen fertilization plays a great role in increasing rice production (Kumar et al., 2017)^[7]. Nitrogen is one of the most mobile plant nutrients in the soil. As phosphorus is necessary for many of the bio-chemical reactions concerning the metabolism of carbohydrates, proteins, fats, transfer of energy within the organization of cell and transformation of hereditary characteristics. So the requirement of plants for phosphorus & potassium is only next to nitrogen.

Basmati rice cultivation is profitable system in Jammu district of J&K and decreasing nutrient availability for crop production directly affects its productivity. Pusa-1121 is the newly developed short to medium duration cultivar could be helpful in higher crop productivity. Also, there comparative analysis of productivity in Jammu district is still not be done. Keeping these facts in view, the present investigation was undertaken as effect of graded level of N, P and K on yield and nutrient uptake by fine rice.

Materials and Methods

An experiment was conducted during *Kharif* 2015, at Agronomy Research farm, Sher-e-kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu (J&K), India (situated at 32°40' N latitude and 74°58' E longitude with an altitude of 332 m above mean sea level). The soil was sandy loam in texture having a *p*H of 8.03, EC 0.22 (dSm⁻¹) organic Carbon 0.45%, total N 248.02 kg ha⁻¹, available phosphorus 13.26 kg ha⁻¹ and available potassium 145.10 kg ha⁻¹. The experiment was conducted in split plot design with replicate thrice consisted of three fertility levels of P (25, 30 and 35 kg P₂O₅ ha⁻¹) and two fertility levels of N (30, 40, 50 and 60 kg N ha⁻¹) in sub plots involving Pusa-1121 variety.

The crop was transplanted in the 2^{nd} week of July in main field. Full dose of P, K and half dose of N was applied at the time of transplanting and rest half dose in two splits. Rice from each net plot in each replication was harvested and dried. The grains after threshing were weighed and recorded as grain yield per net plot. Further, this net plot grain yield was converted to grain yield per hectare.

Chemical analysis of plant sample

The plant samples were taken from each plot at the time of harvesting for estimation of N, P and K concentration. The samples were oven dried, then finely grounded with electric grinder and analyzed for nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium concentration. N, P and K uptake in grain and straw samples were calculated by multiplying per cent nutrient content with their respective dry matter accumulation as per the formula given below:

Nutrient content (%) x dry matter Nutrient uptake (kg ha⁻¹) = $\frac{accumulation (kg ha⁻¹)}{100}$

Nitrogen content of grain and straw were estimated by modified micro-kjeldhal's method as outlined by Jackson (1967)^[5] and expressed in per cent. The phosphorus content of grain and straw were determined by Vanadomolybdo phosphoric acid method and absorbance of the solution was recorded at 430 nm using spectrophotometer (Jackson, 1967)^[5] and potassium content in plant sample (grain and straw separately) was determined by flame photometer method (Jackson, 1967)^[5].

Chemical analysis of soil

Representative soil samples from the experimental plot were drawn from the top 15 cm depth before sowing of the crop. Similarly, the surface soil samples from 0 to 15 cm depth were also collected from each experimental plot at harvest. Soil samples thus collected were air dried under shade, powdered with wooden mallet and passed through 2 mm sieve and analyzed for nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium content. Available nitrogen was determined by alkaline permanganate method as outlined by Subbiah and Asija (1956) ^[13]. Available phosphorus was determined by Olsen *et al.*, 1954 ^[9] and available potassium was determined by ammonium acetate extractable K method using flame photometer as outlined by Jackson (1973) ^[6].

Statistical analysis and interpretation of data

Data recorded on various parameters of the experiment was

subjected to analysis by using Fisher's method of analysis of variance (ANOVA) and interpreted as outlined by Gomez and Gomez (1984)^[4]. The levels of significance used in 'F' and 't' test was p=0.05. Critical difference values were calculated where F test was found significant.

Results and Discussion Grain and straw yield

The outcomes of the study showed that different graded levels of N significantly influence the grain and straw yield but among P and K treatment combination though the results were non-significant is presented in Table 1. Data indicated that among P and K treatment combination, highest grain (4091 kg ha⁻¹) and straw yield (7242 kg ha⁻¹) was recorded with P_3K_1 (35:15 kg ha⁻¹ of P_2O_5 and K_2O) followed by P_3K_2 (35:20 kg ha⁻¹ of P_2O_5 and K_2O) though the difference was non-significant. Whereas, with N application highest grain (4214 kg ha⁻¹) and straw yield (7475 kg ha⁻¹) was recorded with 60 kg ha⁻¹ of N which was statistically at par with 50 kg ha⁻¹ of N but superior to 40 and 30 kg ha⁻¹ of N. The increase in yield may be due to increased NPK uptake and utilization by crop resulting in enhanced growth and yield attributes which may be due to increased photosynthetic efficiency of crop leading to greater dry matter production and translocation to sink. Positive correlation was reported among vield and nitrogen levels (Mahajan et al., 2012 and Devi et al., 2012) [8, 3], phosphorus levels (Yuanqiu-He et al., 2007 and Ya-jie et al., 2012) [16, 15], potassium levels (Uddin et al., 2013 and Arif et al., 2010) ^[14, 1] and NPK levels (Choudhary and Suri, 2014)^[2].

 Table 1: Effect of different fertility levels on grain and straw yield of rice

| Treatments | Grain yield (kg ha-1) | Straw yield (kg ha ⁻¹) |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| Main plots | | |
| P1K1 - 25:15 | 3796 | 5098 |
| P1K2 - 25:20 | 3897 | 5154 |
| P ₂ K ₁ - 30:15 | 4020 | 5278 |
| P ₂ K ₂ - 30:20 | 4014 | 5406 |
| P ₃ K ₁ - 35:15 | 4091 | 5781 |
| P ₃ K ₂ - 35:20 | 4067 | 5414 |
| SEm± | 107 | 293 |
| LSD (p=0.05) | NS | NS |
| Sub plots | | |
| N1 - 30 | 3642 | 4756 |
| N ₂ - 40 | 3925 | 5206 |
| N3 - 50 | 4135 | 5665 |
| N4 - 60 | 4221 | 5794 |
| SEm± | 088 | 153 |
| LSD (p=0.05) | 252 | 438 |

Nutrient concentration

The nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium content in grain and straw as influenced by irrigation schedules and varieties (Table 2). Highest N, P and K concentration grain and straw was recorded with application of P_3K_1 (35:15 kg ha⁻¹ of P_2O_5 &K₂O) followed by P_3K_2 (35:20 kg ha⁻¹ of P_2O_5 &K₂O) with non-significant difference. In terms of N levels, significantly highest N, P and K concentration was observed with application of 60 kg N ha⁻¹ which was at par with 50 kg N ha⁻¹

 Table 2: Effect of different fertility levels on nutrient concentration of rice

| Treatments | Nitrogen (%) | | Phospho | orus (%) | Potash (%) | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|-------|---------|----------|------------|-------|--|--|--|
| Treatments | Grain | Straw | Grain | Straw | Grain | Straw | | | |
| Main plots | | | | | | | | | |
| P ₁ K ₁ - 25:15 | 0.88 | 0.49 | 0.17 | 0.14 | 0.44 | 0.81 | | | |
| P ₁ K ₂ - 25:20 | 0.89 | 0.50 | 0.20 | 0.13 | 0.44 | 0.84 | | | |
| P ₂ K ₁ - 30:15 | 0.87 | 0.51 | 0.21 | 0.13 | 0.44 | 0.84 | | | |
| P ₂ K ₂ - 30:20 | 0.89 | 0.51 | 0.20 | 0.16 | 0.45 | 0.87 | | | |
| P ₃ K ₁ - 35:15 | 0.90 | 0.54 | 0.22 | 0.16 | 0.48 | 0.88 | | | |
| P ₃ K ₂ - 35:20 | 0.90 | 0.52 | 0.19 | 0.14 | 0.47 | 0.87 | | | |
| SEm± | 0.02 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.02 | 0.02 | | | |
| LSD (p=0.05) | NS | NS | NS | NS | NS | NS | | | |
| Sub plots | | | | | | | | | |
| N1 - 30 | 0.86 | 0.48 | 0.18 | 0.13 | 0.42 | 0.82 | | | |
| N ₂ - 40 | 0.88 | 0.50 | 0.20 | 0.14 | 0.45 | 0.85 | | | |
| N3 - 50 | 0.90 | 0.53 | 0.20 | 0.15 | 0.47 | 0.86 | | | |
| N4 - 60 | 0.91 | 0.54 | 0.21 | 0.16 | 0.48 | 0.88 | | | |
| SEm± | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 | | | |
| LSD (p=0.05) | 0.03 | 0.04 | 0.02 | 0.02 | 0.04 | 0.04 | | | |

Nutrient uptake

Graded levels of P and K not influence the nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium uptake (Table 3) by rice but highest NP and K uptake (68.0, 18.2 and 70.6 kg ha-1, respectively) recorded with application of P_3K_1 (35:15 kg ha⁻¹ of P_2O_5 &K₂O) followed by P_3K_2 (35:20 kg ha⁻¹ of P_2O_5 &K₂O) with non- significant difference. However, NPK content of grain and straw showed that increasing levels of N significantly improve NPK uptake by crop. Highest uptake of total nitrogen, phosphorous and potash by grains as well as straw was recorded with application of 60 kg N ha⁻¹ which was at par with 50 kg N ha⁻¹. This may be due to the higher concentration of N, P and K in both grain & straw and dry matter accumulation that led to higher N, P and K uptake at higher level of fertilizers application. Improvement in N, P and K uptake by crop was reported with increased N levels (Sandhu and Mahal, 2014 and Devi et al., 2012)^[10, 3], P levels (Sanusan et al., 2009) [12], K levels (Arif et al., 2010) [1] and NPK levels (Sandhyakanthi et al., 2014)^[11].

| Table 3. | Effect of | f different | fertility | levels on | ΝP | and K u | ptake of rice |
|----------|-----------|-------------|-----------|-----------|------|---------|---------------|
| Table J. | Effect of | unicient | rentinty | levels on | 19,1 | anu K u | plake of fice |

| Treatments | Nitrogen (kg ha ⁻¹) | | | Phosphorus (kg ha ⁻¹) | | | Potassium (kg ha ⁻¹) | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------|-------|-----------------------------------|-------|-------|----------------------------------|-------|-------|
| 1 reatments | Grain | Straw | Total | Grain | Straw | Total | Grain | Straw | Total |
| | Main plots | | | | | | | | |
| P ₁ K ₁ - 25:15 | 33.34 | 25.12 | 58.46 | 6.52 | 7.30 | 13.82 | 16.80 | 41.18 | 57.98 |
| P ₁ K ₂ - 25:20 | 34.56 | 25.66 | 60.22 | 7.71 | 6.83 | 14.54 | 17.15 | 43.41 | 60.56 |
| P ₂ K ₁ - 30:15 | 34.85 | 26.93 | 61.77 | 8.38 | 7.10 | 15.48 | 17.89 | 44.58 | 62.48 |
| P ₂ K ₂ - 30:20 | 35.86 | 27.62 | 63.48 | 8.15 | 8.39 | 16.54 | 18.05 | 47.34 | 65.39 |
| P ₃ K ₁ - 35:15 | 36.95 | 31.12 | 68.07 | 8.90 | 9.30 | 18.21 | 19.69 | 50.93 | 70.61 |
| P ₃ K ₂ - 35:20 | 36.44 | 28.29 | 64.73 | 7.78 | 7.58 | 15.36 | 19.30 | 47.14 | 66.44 |
| SEm± | 0.87 | 1.59 | 1.97 | 0.51 | 0.60 | 0.88 | 0.67 | 3.13 | 3.37 |
| LSD (p=0.05) | NS | NS | NS | NS | NS | NS | NS | NS | NS |
| | | | | Sub plot | 8 | | | | |
| N1 - 30 | 31.27 | 22.81 | 54.08 | 6.49 | 6.25 | 12.74 | 15.53 | 39.03 | 54.56 |
| N ₂ - 40 | 34.73 | 26.11 | 60.84 | 7.65 | 7.15 | 14.80 | 17.50 | 44.21 | 61.71 |
| N3 - 50 | 37.11 | 29.83 | 66.93 | 8.46 | 8.53 | 16.99 | 19.23 | 48.98 | 68.21 |
| N4 - 60 | 38.22 | 31.08 | 69.30 | 9.03 | 9.07 | 18.11 | 20.33 | 50.84 | 71.17 |
| SEm± | 0.92 | 1.10 | 1.73 | 0.34 | 0.43 | 0.58 | 0.72 | 1.50 | 1.81 |
| LSD (p=0.05) | 2.64 | 3.16 | 4.97 | 0.96 | 1.23 | 1.68 | 2.06 | 4.31 | 5.18 |

Available nutrients in soil after harvest of crop

In soil, after harvest of crop, the available nutrients viz., nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium were significantly not influenced by different graded levels of N, P and K (Table 4). Results revealed that, P_3K_2 (35:20 kg ha⁻¹ of P_2O_5 & K_2O) recorded higher available nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium in soil after harvest of crop (244.0, 17.0 and 141.9 kg ha-1, respectively) followed by P_3K_1 (35:15 kgha⁻¹ of $P_2O_5 \& K_2O$). In the different graded levels of N recorded significantly higher available nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium in soil after harvest of crop (244.2, 16.2 and 142.7 kg ha⁻¹, respectively) followed by 50 kg ha⁻¹. This might be due to the fact that increased application of fertilizers leave some residual nutrient in soil besides nutrient uptake be crop. Similar results were also observed by Choudhary and Suri (2014)^[2] and Yuanqiu He et al. (2007)^[16]. Further, it was also observed that increased root growth with increased application of fertilizers added nutrients in soil after decaying (Devi et al., 2012)^[3].

 Table 4: Effect of different fertility levels on available nutrients in soil after harvest of rice

| Truestantes | Available nutrients (kg ha ⁻¹) | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|-------|-----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Treatments | Nitrogen Phosphorus | | Potassium | | | | | | |
| Main plots | | | | | | | | | |
| P ₁ K ₁ - 25:15 | 231.77 | 11.83 | 127.92 | | | | | | |
| P1K2 - 25:20 | 232.44 | 12.06 | 132.61 | | | | | | |
| P ₂ K ₁ - 30:15 | 238.77 | 14.25 | 135.42 | | | | | | |
| P ₂ K ₂ - 30:20 | 238.51 | 14.71 | 139.33 | | | | | | |
| P ₃ K ₁ - 35:15 | 243.07 | 16.72 | 139.66 | | | | | | |
| P ₃ K ₂ - 35:20 | 244.04 | 17.07 | 141.91 | | | | | | |
| SEm± | 4.73 | 1.33 | 3.65 | | | | | | |
| LSD (p=0.05) | NS | NS | NS | | | | | | |
| | Sub plots | | | | | | | | |
| N ₁ - 30 | 230.01 | 11.46 | 127.89 | | | | | | |
| N ₂ - 40 | 234.96 | 12.79 | 131.51 | | | | | | |
| N3 - 50 | 242.13 | 15.31 | 142.37 | | | | | | |
| N4 - 60 | 244.28 | 16.20 | 142.79 | | | | | | |
| SEm± | 2.30 | 0.77 | 3.15 | | | | | | |
| LSD (p=0.05) | 6.60 | 2.21 | 9.02 | | | | | | |

Conclusion

From data presented it might reasonably be argued that the highest yield and nutrient uptake of rice was recorded with treatment P_3K_1 (35:15 kg ha⁻¹ of P_2O_5 and K_2O) with non-significant difference. Among the graded levels of N higher values were recorded with the application of 60 kg N ha⁻¹ which was at par with 50 kg N ha⁻¹.

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