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## Effect of rock phosphate in presence or absence of organic manures and lime on phosphorus availability and dry matter yield of soybean (*Glycine max*)

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### Abstract

A pot experiment was carried out to study the effect of rock phosphate in presence or absence of organic manures and lime on soil phosphorus availability, plant concentration and dry matter yield of soybean (var. JS-335). Results showed that the accumulation of available P in soil, plant P concentration and dry matter yield were affected by rock phosphate, manures and lime application. Liming enhanced organic P mineralization thereby increasing P availability. Among the different treatments, significantly higher available P was accumulated in T<sub>9</sub> (Soil + RP + VC @ 10 t ha<sup>-1</sup> + lime) followed by T<sub>8</sub> (Soil + RP + compost @ 10 t ha<sup>-1</sup> + lime) on 30<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> DAS. However on 90<sup>th</sup> DAS and at harvest, T<sub>9</sub> (Soil + RP + VC @ 10 t ha<sup>-1</sup> + lime) was statistically at par with T<sub>8</sub> (Soil + RP + compost @ 10 t ha<sup>-1</sup> + lime). Results further examined that concentration of P in soybean was found in T<sub>3</sub> (soil + RP + FYM @ 10 t ha<sup>-1</sup>) showing parity with T<sub>2</sub> (Soil + RP) while T<sub>9</sub> (soil + RP + VC @ 10 t ha<sup>-1</sup> + lime) showed significantly higher dry matter yield than other treatments at the time of harvest. Effectiveness of rock phosphate as a P source for crop production is enhanced by the solubility effect of organic manures and lime application.

**Keywords:** Available phosphorus, P concentration, dry matter yield, soybean

### Introduction

Phosphorus has been called the key to life because it is directly involved in most life process. It is a component of every living cell and tends to be concentrated in seeds and in the growing point of plants which affects the overall growth of plants by influencing the key metabolic processes such as cell division and development, energy transport (ATP, ADP), signal transduction, macromolecular biosynthesis, photosynthesis and respiration. Application of phosphorus fertilizer is often necessary for crop production. Options for P inputs are organic materials, mineral P fertilizers or phosphate rocks (PR). P availability in soil is often a limiting factor for plant growth, even though the total amount of soil P may be great. Its availability is governed by solubility and how readily phosphorus becomes fixed in soils (Onwonga *et al.*, 2013 and Manimaran, 2014) [14, 12]. Phosphorus availability is enhanced by application of organic or inorganic amendments such as manures, composts, crop residues, rock phosphates or various inorganic P fertilizers (Das *et al.*, 1991; Trivedi *et al.*, 1995 and Onwonga *et al.*, 2013) [5, 18, 14]. The quantum of P fertilizer needed depends not only on the crop P requirements, but also on the amount of extractable soil P and the P fixing capacity of the soil. Assessment of P availability in soils and precise prediction of P fertilizer requirements is the key to sustainable agriculture and protection of environment from the detrimental effect of excess P (Wang *et al.*, 2001) [20]. The high cost of soluble phosphate fertilizer such as single or triple super phosphate has generated considerable interest in the utilization of rock phosphate. Rock phosphate is considered as slow releasing P source and commonly cannot supply P in the rate as per crop requirement (Bhattacharya and Singh, 1990) [3]. But its solubility can be enhanced by acid fixation or combination with organic matter (Akande *et al.*, 2005 and Aloud, 2011) [1, 2]. In association with phosphate solubilizing microorganisms and organic manure, RP could be used as a P source in many crops ((Manjunath *et al.*, 2006; Onwonga *et al.*, 2013 and Wahid *et al.*, 2015) [13, 14, 19].

Soils with inherent pH values between 6 and 7.5 are ideal for P-availability, while pH value below 5.5 and between 7.5 and 8.5 limits P-availability to plants due to fixation by aluminum, iron, or calcium often associated with soil parent materials (Bhattacharya and Singh, 1990) [3].

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Liming can increase phosphate availability by stimulating mineralization of soil organic phosphorus (Condon *et al.*, 1993 and Jokubauskaite *et al.*, 2015) [4, 9]. Keeping these, the present investigation was carried out to study the effect of rock phosphate in presence or absence of organic manures and lime on soil phosphorus availability, plant concentration and dry matter yield of soybean.

## Materials and Methods

### Materials used

A pot experiment was conducted in the Department of Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry, College of Agriculture, CAU, Imphal during kharif season of 2016. The experimented soil was clayey in texture and acidic reaction with pH 5.5 having high organic carbon (1.22%), medium nitrogen (363.77 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) and high potassium (258.5 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) content. The different treatments used in the study were T<sub>1</sub> = Soil (control), T<sub>2</sub> = Soil + RP (Rock phosphate), T<sub>3</sub> = Soil + RP (Rock phosphate) + FYM @ 10 t ha<sup>-1</sup>, T<sub>4</sub> = Soil + RP (Rock phosphate) + compost @ 10 t ha<sup>-1</sup>, T<sub>5</sub> = Soil + RP (Rock phosphate) + VC @ 10 t ha<sup>-1</sup>, T<sub>6</sub> = Soil + RP (Rock phosphate) + lime, T<sub>7</sub> = Soil + RP (Rock phosphate) + FYM @ 10 t ha<sup>-1</sup> + lime, T<sub>8</sub> = Soil + RP (Rock phosphate) + compost @ 10 t ha<sup>-1</sup> + lime, T<sub>9</sub> = Soil + RP (Rock phosphate) + VC @ 10 t ha<sup>-1</sup> + lime.

### Methods adopted

Four kg of air dried soil was taken in each of a series of pots. Rock phosphate (RP) was applied to each pot based on the recommended dose phosphorus for the test crop soybean (variety JS-335). According to different sets of treatments, FYM, compost and VC were mixed thoroughly with the soil at the rate of 10 t ha<sup>-1</sup>. Based on lime requirement determination by SMP buffer method (Shoemaker *et al.*, 1961) [16], liming was done two weeks ahead and allowed to react with soil mass according to different sets of treatments. Recommended dose of nitrogen and potassium were added at the rate of 20 kg N ha<sup>-1</sup> and 40 kg K<sub>2</sub>O ha<sup>-1</sup> in the form of urea and muriate of potash, respectively to each pot as basal application. To each pot, five to six seeds of soybean (variety JS-335) were sown and after germination, three seedlings were maintained throughout the experiment. The soils of each treatment were moistened to 60% of water holding capacity throughout the experiment. The loss of moisture was replenished by the periodic addition of sterile distilled water by weight difference.

Rhizosphere soil samples were periodically collected on 0<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, 60<sup>th</sup>, 90<sup>th</sup> DAS and at harvest for determination of

available phosphorus content in soil. Available phosphorus content was determined spectrophotometrically by Bray and Kurtz No.1 method as described by Jackson (1973) [8]. The whole plants were used to record the dry matter yield on 30<sup>th</sup>, 60<sup>th</sup> and 90<sup>th</sup> DAS and at harvest. These plant samples were dried at 65 to 70°C to constant dry weight. Dry weight was recorded at each stage to assess total dry matter production and expressed in grams per plant. Then, the plant samples were ground and used for the determination of phosphorus content. Di-acid (HNO<sub>3</sub>: HClO<sub>4</sub>) extracts of plant samples were subjected to analysis of P using the vanadomolybdate phosphoric acid yellow colour (ammonium molybdate + ammonium metavanadate) method (Jackson, 1973) [8].

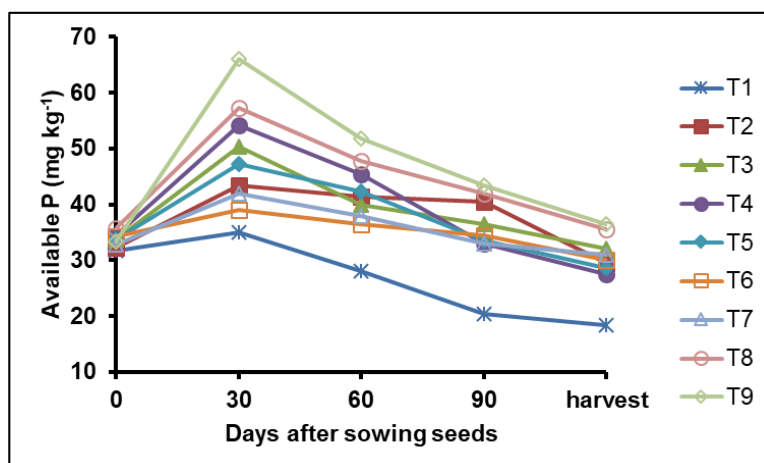
### Statistical Analysis

The experiment was carried out under randomized block design (RBD). Altogether there were 9 treatment combinations replicated thrice. The data pertaining to the investigation were statistically analysed through analysis of variance technique for comparing the treatments effects as described by Gomez and Gomez (1984) [6]. The significance of various effects was tested at 5% level of probability.

## Result and Discussion

### Available P

Results revealed that the available P increase up to 30<sup>th</sup> DAS and decline till harvest irrespective of different treatments (Fig. 1). There was significant increase in available P in rock phosphate fertilized soil in presence or absence of organic manures and lime over the control. Increase in phosphorus availability due to rock phosphate application was also reported earlier by Laskar *et al.* (1990) [11] and Aloud (2011) [2]. Among the different treatments, significantly higher available P was accumulated more in T<sub>9</sub> (Soil + RP + VC @ 10 t ha<sup>-1</sup> + lime) followed by T<sub>8</sub> (Soil + RP + compost @ 10 t ha<sup>-1</sup> + lime) on 30<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> DAS. However on 90<sup>th</sup> DAS and at harvest, T<sub>9</sub> (Soil + RP + VC @ 10 t ha<sup>-1</sup> + lime) accumulated more available-P which was statistically at par with T<sub>8</sub> (Soil + RP + compost @ 10 t ha<sup>-1</sup> + lime). This showed that liming can increase phosphate availability by stimulating mineralization of soil organic phosphorus (Haynes, 1982; Singh and Diwakar, 2002 and Jokubauskaite *et al.*, 2015) [7, 17, 9]. Reports were also given regarding solubility effect of organic manures thereby enhancing phosphorus availability from rock phosphate (Akande *et al.*, 2005; Aloud, 2011 and Das *et al.* 1991) [1, 2, 5].



**Fig 1:** Changes in Available P (mg kg<sup>-1</sup>) in soybean grown rock phosphate fertilized soil in presence or absence of organic manures and lime

### Phosphorus (P) concentration in Plant

Results showed that irrespective of different treatments, P concentration in soybean decline up to 90<sup>th</sup> DAS with slight increase at harvest with exception in untreated control showing decrease up to 60<sup>th</sup> DAS and then again increase till harvest (Table 1). Exhibition of P decline with crop growth was also reported earlier by Setia and Sharma (2007) [15]. Closer examination of the results revealed that P concentration in soybean plant was significantly more in soybean grown in soil treated with rock phosphate in presence or absence of organic manure and lime over control at

different growth stages of the plant. Among the treatments, comparatively higher P concentration was observed in T<sub>9</sub> (soil + RP + VC @ 10 t ha<sup>-1</sup> + lime), T<sub>6</sub> (soil + RP + lime) and T<sub>3</sub> (soil + RP + FYM @ 10 t ha<sup>-1</sup>) which showed equal effect with T<sub>6</sub> (soil + RP + lime) and T<sub>9</sub> (soil + RP + VC @ 10 t ha<sup>-1</sup> + lime), respectively on 30<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> DAS of crop growth. However, on 90<sup>th</sup> day, P concentration was significantly more in T<sub>6</sub> (soil + RP + lime) followed by T<sub>9</sub> (soil + RP + VC @ 10 t ha<sup>-1</sup> + lime) and at harvest, T<sub>3</sub> (soil + RP + FYM @ 10 t ha<sup>-1</sup>) accumulated more P content in soybean showing statistically at par with T<sub>2</sub> (Soil + RP).

**Table 1:** Changes in total P concentration (mg kg<sup>-1</sup>) in soybean grown in rock phosphate fertilized soil in presence or absence of organic manures and lime

Treatments	Days after sowing seeds			
	30	60	90	harvest
T <sub>1</sub>	5749.49	4537.82	4688.86	5400.84
T <sub>2</sub>	6671.56	5831.09	5733.17	6899.88
T <sub>3</sub>	6907.71	6340.68	6009.57	7015.71
T <sub>4</sub>	6451.24	6071.40	5817.18	6771.40
T <sub>5</sub>	6606.28	5684.21	5602.61	5996.04
T <sub>6</sub>	7169.32	6581.80	6483.89	6705.96
T <sub>7</sub>	6320.69	5798.45	5549.65	5816.52
T <sub>8</sub>	6769.48	5969.81	5619.09	6338.76
T <sub>9</sub>	7208.04	6363.40	6194.12	6701.63
S.E.d(±)	151.19	134.88	130.02	147.45
CD <sub>0.05</sub>	320.52	285.95	275.64	312.59

### Dry matter yield

There was an increasing trend of dry matter yield up to 90<sup>th</sup> DAS with slight decline at harvest (Table 2). In general, comparatively higher dry matter yield of soybean was observed in soil treated with rock phosphate in presence or absence of organic manures and lime over the untreated control at different growth stages. Enhanced agronomic effectiveness of rock phosphate was reflected in increased dry matter yield (Kerra *et al.*, 1994) [10]. Critical examination of data revealed that comparatively higher dry matter yield of

soybean was found in T<sub>9</sub> (soil + RP + VC @ 10 t ha<sup>-1</sup> + lime) which is at par with T<sub>7</sub> (soil + RP + FYM @ 10 t ha<sup>-1</sup> + lime) on 30<sup>th</sup> DAS. However, on 60<sup>th</sup> and 90<sup>th</sup> days T<sub>9</sub> was at par with T<sub>8</sub> (soil + RP + compost @ 10 t ha<sup>-1</sup> + lime). Detail study of the data revealed that at harvest, T<sub>9</sub> (soil + RP + VC @ 10 t ha<sup>-1</sup> + lime) show significantly higher dry matter yield which is followed by T<sub>8</sub> (soil + RP + compost @ 10 t ha<sup>-1</sup> + lime). Application of rock phosphate and organic manures in presence of lime enhanced dry matter yield of soybean than the corresponding soil without lime.

**Table 2:** Dry matter yield (g plant<sup>-1</sup>) of soybean fertilized with rock phosphate in presence or absence of organic manures and lime

Treatments	Days after sowing seeds			
	30	60	90	harvest
T <sub>1</sub>	2.58	4.58	4.79	4.25
T <sub>2</sub>	2.78	5.50	5.62	4.87
T <sub>3</sub>	3.71	4.63	5.24	4.95
T <sub>4</sub>	2.93	5.06	5.38	4.78
T <sub>5</sub>	3.11	5.00	5.67	5.34
T <sub>6</sub>	3.67	4.72	4.92	4.80
T <sub>7</sub>	3.85	5.05	5.76	5.51
T <sub>8</sub>	3.21	5.62	6.08	5.58
T <sub>9</sub>	3.96	5.65	5.97	5.86
S.E.d(±)	0.07	0.12	0.12	0.11
CD <sub>0.05</sub>	0.16	0.25	0.27	0.25

### Conclusion

Irrespective of crop growth, significant increase in available P in soil, plant P concentration and dry matter yield of soybean was observed in rock phosphate fertilized soil in presence or absence of organic manures and lime over the control. Available P in soil and dry matter yield of soybean increase upto 30<sup>th</sup> and 90<sup>th</sup> DAS, respectively and decline till harvest in both the parameters. However, P concentration in soybean decline up to 90<sup>th</sup> DAS with slight increase at harvest with exception in untreated control. Among the different treatments, significantly higher available P content in soil was accumulated in T<sub>9</sub> (Soil + RP + VC @ 10 t ha<sup>-1</sup> + lime) on

90<sup>th</sup> DAS and at harvest which was statistically at par with T<sub>8</sub> (Soil + RP + compost @ 10 t ha<sup>-1</sup> + lime). While significantly higher P concentration in soybean was found in T<sub>3</sub> (soil + RP + FYM @ 10 t ha<sup>-1</sup>) showing parity with T<sub>2</sub> (Soil + RP). Soil treated with T<sub>9</sub> (soil + RP + VC @ 10 t ha<sup>-1</sup> + lime) recorded significantly higher dry matter yield than other treatments at the time of harvest. Effectiveness of rock phosphate as a P source for crop production is enhanced by the solubility effect of organic manures and lime application. Liming enhanced organic P mineralization thereby increasing P availability as well as dry matter yield.

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