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### V Sujatha

Agricultural Research Station, Yelamanchili, Andhra Pradesh, India

#### SVS Gangadhara Rao

Agricultural Research Station, Yelamanchili, Andhra Pradesh, India Seed yield and economics of sesame (Sesamum indicum L.) as effected by application of organic sources of nutrients in North coastal zone of Andhra Pradesh

# V Sujatha and SVS Gangadhara Rao

#### Abstract

A field experiment was conducted at the Agricultural Research Station, Yellamanchili, Visakhapatnam Dist., Andhra Pradesh during *rabi* season of 2015-16 to study the effect of organic sources of nutrients *viz.*, FYM, vermicompost, neemcake and press mud cake on growth, yield and economics of sesame. The experiment was laid out in randomized block design with three replications. The results of the investigation showed that Improved practices *i.e.*, 40:20:20 kg NPK/ha (T<sub>2</sub>) recorded significantly higher seed yield (532.4 kg/ha) and net monetary returns (2.18) over other treatments. Among the organic manures tested, application of FYM (4 t/ha) + NC (0.4 t/ha) (T<sub>7</sub>) recorded significantly higher seed yield 468.6 kg/ha) and B: C ratio (1.46) over rest of the treatments.

Keywords: Organic manures, sesame, seed yield, economics

## Introduction

Sesame (*Sesamum indicum* L.) is the oldest indigenous oilseed crop of India. It is grown for its rich source of oil. Sesame seeds contain 45- 55% oil and 25 % protein. Sesame proteins are limited by lysine but rich in tryptophan and methionine. Sesame oil is rich in unsaturated fatty acids, mainly oleic and linoleic acids. In India, sesame is cultivated in 1.75 m ha area with a production of 0.77 million tonnes and productivity of 410 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>. (Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers welfare, G.O.I, 2018). In Andhra Pradesh, it is grown in an area of 0.64 lakh ha with a production of 0.17 lakh tonnes and productivity of 257 kg ha<sup>-1</sup> (Agricultural Statistics at a glance, 2016-17).

The productivity of sesamum in Andhra Pradesh is low as compared to India, due to its cultivation in poor fertile soils and poor agronomic management particularly nutrient management. Excessive use of chemical fertilizers in intensive cropping systems leads to deterioration of soil health, decline in soil organic carbon and overall nutrient imbalances. Hence, nutrient management through organics improves the physical, chemical and biological properties of soil besides enhancing crop productivity on sustainable basis. Addition of organic manures *viz.*, FYM, vermicompost, neem cake and press mud cake etc. not only supply the essential plant nutrients but also improves the soil structure. Therefore, the present study was undertaken to evaluate different organic sources of nutrients on yield and economics of sesame in North coastal zone of Andhra Pradesh.

## **Materials and Methods**

A field experiment was conducted on sandy loam soils of Agricultural Research Station, Yellamanchili, Visakhapatnam Dist., Andhra Pradesh during *rabi* season of 2015-16. The experiment was laid out in a randomized block design with three replications. The soil of the experimental site was sandy loam in texture, slightly alkaline in reaction (pH 7.6), with 0.20% organic carbon and 188, 20 and 102 kg ha<sup>-1</sup> of N, P and K, respectively. The experiment consisted of nine treatments *viz.*,  $T_1$  - Control (no manures & chemical fertilizers),  $T_2$  - Improved practices (40:20:20 kg NPK/ha),  $T_3$  - FYM @ 8 t/ha,  $T_4$  - Vermicompost @ 2.6 t/ha,  $T_5$  - Neem cake @ 0.8 t/ha,  $T_6$  - Press mud cake @ 2 t/ha,  $T_7$  - FYM (4 t/ha) + NC (0.4 t/ha),  $T_8$  -VC (1.3 t/ha) + NC (0.4 t/ha),  $T_9$  -Press mud cake (1.0 t/ha) + NC (0.4 t/ha). Sesame cv. YLM-66 was sown @ 5 Kg seeds/ha in rows of 30 cm apart.

Corresponding Author: V Sujatha Agricultural Research Station, Yelamanchili, Andhra Pradesh, India Thinning of overcrowded plants and gap filling was done 7 days after sowing maintaining the plant to plant distance in the row at 10 cm. Well decomposed FYM, vermicompost, neemcake and press mud cake with 0.5%, 1.5%, 5.0% and 2.1% N, respectively was used as organic sources of nutrients. The required quantities of organic manures were incorporated (10 days before sowing of the crop) in the soil based on the N- equivalent basis. In the treatment  $T_{1}$ , recommended doses of 40 kg N + 20 kg  $P_20_5$  + 20 kg  $K_2O/ha$  in the form of urea (46% N), single super phosphate (16%  $P_20_5$ ) and murate of potash (60% K<sub>2</sub>0) were applied to the sesame crop. Half of the total nitrogen was applied at the time of sowing and rest of nitrogen was top dressed at 30 days after sowing. Full dose of P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> and K<sub>2</sub>O was given at the time of sowing. Recommended agronomic practices and plant protection measures were followed to maintain a healthy crop. The data on growth, yield attributes and seed yield were recorded at the time of harvest. The economic analysis of the treatments was also made on the basis of mean seed yield. The Data was subjected to statistical analysis.

## **Results and Discussion Growth**

Plant height, number of branches, number of capsules and seed yield at maturity was significantly influenced by application of organic manures (Table1). Application of 40-20-20 Kg NPK/ha -Improved practices (T<sub>1</sub>) recorded significantly taller plants (96.3 cm) over all other treatments. Among the different organic manures tested, application of FYM (4 t/ha) + NC (0.4 t/ha) (T<sub>7</sub>) recorded significantly higher plant height (87.1 cm) over rest of the organic treatments.

The higher plant height in  $T_1$  *i.e.* Improved practices (40-20-20 Kg NPK/ha) might be due to the quick release and increased availability of nutrients as compared to organic sources of nutrients. Whereas, increase in plant height in FYM (4 t/ha) + NC (0.4 t/ha) (T<sub>7</sub>) treated plot might be due to its higher content of N which was readily available to crops. These results are in agreement with the findings of Duhoon S.S *et al.* (2004) <sup>[3]</sup>.

Significantly lower plant height (56.5 cm) was recorded with control  $(T_1)$ .

Significantly maximum number of branches plant<sup>-1</sup> (4.97) was observed with the adoption of Improved practices *i.e.*, 40-20-20 Kg NPK/ha (T<sub>1</sub>). The chemical fertilisers are readily soluble in water and therefore readily available to plants. Among the organic sources tested, application of FYM (4 t/ha) + NC (0.4 t/ha) (T<sub>7</sub>) recorded significantly higher number of branches plant<sup>-1</sup> (4.55) over all other organics. This might be due to higher nitrogen content coupled with quick release of nutrients to synchrony with the crop demand. The results are in conformity with the findings of Deshmukh M R and Duhoon S S (2008) <sup>[1]</sup>.

Significantly lower number of branches plant<sup>-1</sup> (3.04) was recorded with control ( $T_1$ ).

Significantly highest number of capsules per plant (93.4) was observed with the adoption of Improved practices *i.e.*, 40-20-20 Kg NPK/ha (T<sub>1</sub>). This might be due to faster mineralization of nutrients as compared to organic sources of nutrients. Among the organic sources tested, application of FYM (4 t/ha) + NC (0.4 t/ha) (T<sub>7</sub>) recorded significantly higher number of capsules per plant (84.2) over rest of the organic sources of nutrients. This might be associated with continuous slow release of nutrients at critical stages of crop growth period. Similar results were also obtained by Takar SS *et al.* (2017) <sup>[10]</sup>.

The lowest number of capsules per plant (54.2) was recorded with control  $(T_1)$ .

# Seed Yield

Significantly higher seed yield of 532.4 kg ha<sup>-1</sup> was obtained with the application of Improved practices *i.e.* 40-20-20 kg NPK ha<sup>-1</sup> over rest of the treatments. Thus, an increased availability of nutrients might have increased all the growth and yield attributing characters which finally contributed to increase the seed yield compared to organic sources of nutrients.

Among the organic nutrient sources tested, highest seed yield of 468.6 kg ha<sup>-1</sup> was obtained with the application of FYM (4 t/ha) + NC (0.4 t/ha) (T<sub>7</sub>) might be due to the addition of secondary and micronutrients along with the major nutrients might have increased the nutrient absorption capacity which intern reflected in seed yield of sesame. Similar results were also reported by Kapil Ahirwar *et al.* (2017) <sup>[6]</sup>.

Control treatment  $(T_1)$  recorded the lowest seed yield (164.3 kg/ha).

# Economics

The data regarding Economics and B: C ratio of sesame are presented in Table 2. The highest gross returns (Rs.42592 ha<sup>-1</sup>) was obtained with the application of Improved practices *i.e.*, 40-20-20 kg NPK ha<sup>-1</sup> closely followed by T<sub>7</sub> *i.e.*, FYM (4 t/ha) + NC (0.4 t/ha) (Rs.37488 ha<sup>-1</sup>). The highest net returns and B: C ratio (Rs.29202 ha<sup>-1</sup> and 2.18 respectively) were obtained from treatment T<sub>2</sub> *i.e.*, Improved practices (40:20:20 kg NPK ha<sup>-1</sup>) and it was followed by T<sub>7</sub> *i.e.*, FYM (4 t/ha) + NC (0.4 t/ha) with net returns of Rs. 22238 ha<sup>-1</sup> and B: C ratio of 1.46 respectively. These results are in accordance with the findings of Kamlesh Choudhary *et al.* (2017) <sup>[5]</sup>.

Table 1: Effect of organic sources of nutrients on growth, yield attributes and yield of sesame.

Treatments	Plant height (cm)	No. of branches Plant <sup>-1</sup>	No. of capsules Plant <sup>-1</sup>	Seed yield (kg ha <sup>-1</sup> )
T <sub>1</sub> – Control (no manures & chemical fertilizers)	56.5	3.04	54.2	164.3
T <sub>2</sub> - Improved practices (40:20:20 kg NPK/ha)	96.3	4.97	93.4	532.4
T3 - FYM @ 8 t/ha	76.6	4.06	74.3	359.1
T <sub>4</sub> - Vermicompost @ 2.6 t/ha	66.4	3.46	62.8	229.2
T <sub>5</sub> - Neem cake @ 0.8 t/ha	74.7	3.87	71.5	325.7
T <sub>6</sub> - Press mud cake @ 2 t/ha	70.0	3.91	68.6	310.3
T <sub>7</sub> - FYM (4 t/ha) + NC (0.4 t/ha)	87.1	4.55	84.2	468.6
$T_8 - VC (1.3 t/ha) + NC (0.4 t/ha)$	68.3	3.48	65.7	252.8
$T_9$ –Press mud cake (1.0 t/ha) + NC (0.4 t/ha)	78.2	4.12	76.1	374.5
S.Em ±	2.86	0.16	2.57	20.62
CD (P = 0.05)	8.57	0.41	7.71	61.83
CV%	6.6	7.2	6.2	10.7

Table 1: E	ffect of c	organic sources	of nutrients	on Economics	and B:C ratio of	sesame.
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Treatments	Gross returns (Rs ha <sup>-1</sup> )	Cost of cultivation (Rs ha <sup>-1</sup> )	Net returns (Rs ha <sup>-1</sup> )	<b>B:C Ratio</b>
T <sub>1</sub> – Control (no manures & chemical fertilizers)	13144	10150	2994	0.29
T <sub>2</sub> - Improved practices (40:20:20 kg NPK/ha)	42592	13390	29202	2.18
T3 - FYM @ 8 t/ha	28728	11950	16778	1.40
T <sub>4</sub> - Vermicompost @ 2.6 t/ha	18336	30950	-12614	-0.41
T <sub>5</sub> - Neem cake @ 0.8 t/ha	26056	18550	7506	0.40
T <sub>6</sub> - Press mud cake @ 2 t/ha	24824	10400	14424	1.39
$T_7$ - FYM (4 t/ha) + NC (0.4 t/ha)	37488	15250	22238	1.46
$T_8 - VC (1.3 t/ha) + NC (0.4 t/ha)$	20224	24450	-4226	-0.17
$T_9$ –Press mud cake (1.0 t/ha) + NC (0.4 t/ha)	29960	14850	15110	1.02

# Conclusion

Imbalanced/ excessive use of chemical fertilisers has led to several problems viz., soil degradation, decline in productivity, pollution hazards etc. In this context, Application of nutrients through organic sources have several benefits in terms of building up of soil organic matter, improving soil physical, chemical and biological properties compared to sole application of recommended chemical fertilisers.

From the present study, it can be concluded that application of FYM (4 t/ha) + NC (0.4 t/ha) (T<sub>7</sub>) is the best organic nutrient source for getting higher seed yield and profitability in sesame in order to sustain the production under changing climate in north coastal zone of Andhra Pradesh.

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