

P-ISSN: 2349–8528 E-ISSN: 2321–4902 www.chemijournal.com IJCS 2020; 8(4): 3438-3441

© 2020 IJCS Received: 19-05-2020 Accepted: 21-06-2020

Ashutosh Singh

Assistant Professor-cum-Junior Scientist, Mandan Bharti Agriculture College, Agwanpur, Saharsa, Bihar, India

Amit Kumar Pandey

Assistant Professor-cum-Junior Scientist, Mandan Bharti Agriculture College, Agwanpur, Saharsa, Bihar, India

Umesh Singh

Associate Dean-cum-Principal, Mandan Bharti Agriculture College, Agwanpur, Saharsa, Bihar, India

Corresponding Author: Amit Kumar Pandey Assistant Professor-cum-Junior Scientist, Mandan Bharti Agriculture College, Agwanpur, Saharsa, Bihar, India

Effect of integrated nutrient management practices on soil chemical properties: A review

Ashutosh Singh, Amit Kumar Pandey and Umesh Singh

DOI: https://doi.org/10.22271/chemi.2020.v8.i4aq.10186

Abstract

A long term imbalanced use of fertilizers is adversely affecting the sustainability of agricultural production eventually causing environmental pollution. The major issue for the sustainable agricultural production will be management of soil organic carbon and rational use of organic inputs as integrated plant resource management. It play a vital role in improving stocks of plant nutrient in soil by increasing the efficiency of plant nutrients, thus limiting losses to the environment. It optimize the function of the soil biosphere and ultimately sustaining the physical, chemical and biological function of soil. This paper has reviewed the research work carried out by various scientist on impact of integrated nutrient management on different soil chemical properties in India and abroad.

Keywords: Effect, INM, Soil, pH, EC, CEC

Introduction Soil pH

Soil pH, a function of parent materials, weathering time, vegetation and climate is considered as one of the dominant chemical indicators of soil characteristics, identifying trends in change for a range of soil biological and chemical function, nutrient availability and biological activities. Application of inorganic fertilizers and organic manures has been reported to affect soil pH. Chaudhary *et al.*, 1981 ^[11] reported that the continuous application of FYM decreased the soil pH, as farm yard manure released different organic acids during the decomposition process. Kumar *et al.*, 2006 ^[17] evaluated the effect of integrated nutrient supply on physicochemical properties of soil and reported that a decrease in the soil pH was observed with organic manure. The lowest soil pH of 7.3 against initial value of 7.6 was recorded with 100% NPK + vermicompost. Acid produced during the decomposition of organic matter and released by the microbes are responsible for the reduction in soil pH.

The initial soil had a pH of 8.5 and at the end of 25th crop cycle the pH in various treatments was ranging from 8.12 to 8.18. This important indicator was not influenced significantly by the application of fertilizers continuously or due to integrated nutrient management compared to control. The acidifying effect of N fertilizers is nullified with the improvement in buffering capacity of soil under integrated use of organic manure (Sridevi and Ramana, 2016) ^[35]. pH of surface and sub-surface soils were not affected significantly by long term application of nutrients. It is also evident that pH of surface and sub-surface soil were slightly increased in treatments of inorganic nutrient application alone while slight decrease in soil pH was recorded in the treatment received FYM along with inorganic nutrients (Chouhan *et al.*, 2017) ^[13]. Dwivedi *et al.*, 2007 also reported that soil pH remained almost unchanged manure, might be due to solubilising effect of FYM.

The soil pH at 0-15 cm depth varied significantly after twenty-ninth cycle of rice crop. The lowest pH in the surface soil was registered under control while the highest pH to the tune of 8.19 was recorded due to NPK + FYM. There was no remarkable variation in soil pH due to various treatments of nutrient management through chemical fertilizers alone or in combination with FYM (Bhatt *et al.*, 2017) ^[8]. The results of continuous cropping and fertilization after 32 years, revealed non-significant impact of various treatments on soil pH. Soil pH was slight high in treatments where integrated use of fertilizers and manures was made (Bhatt *et al.*, 2019) ^[9]. This marginal increase in soil pH in integrated treatments might be due to the moderating effect of organics over the year as it decreases the activity of

exchangeable Al³⁺ ions in soil solution due to chelating effect of organic molecules (Prasad *et al.*, 2016) ^[27]. According to Sharma *et al.* (1988) ^[33] soil pH was maintained or declined with integrated nutrient management treatments effects 31 years compared to initial values.

Application of FYM, rice straw and green manure along with inorganic fertilizers decreased soil pH as compared to the fertilizers alone in rice-wheat cropping system (Kumar et al., 2012) [18]. Selvi et al., 2005 [31] reported that application of chemical fertilizers for 32 years significantly reduced soil pH while application of organic manure improved soil pH. The increase in soil pH might be due to moderating effect of organic manures as it decreases the activity exchangeable Al³⁺ ions in the solution due to chelation effect of organic molecules. The soil pH in the treatment receiving recommended dose of inorganic fertilizers was 7.24 which decreased to 7.08 and 7.04 with the addition of FYM and vermicompost. This was ascribed to the acidifying effect of organic acids produced during the course of decomposition of organic amendments (Srikantha et al., 2000) [36]. Parvathi et al., 2013 [26] studies the long term effect of manure and fertilizers on physical and chemical properties of Alfisols and observed that soil pH was the highest in FYM treated plots (5.51) and the lowest in NPK + lime plots (5.21) lower value of pH was recorded in the treatment where recommended dose of NPK along with 8 tonnes/ha organic manure was applied and this might be due to production of H+ ions and subsequently release of H+ in the solution resulting from heavy application of organic manure to the soil (Sur et al., 2010). More (1994) [37] had also reported that the application of farm wastes and organic manures reduced the pH of the soil from 9.0 to 8.4. Sharma et al., 2000 [32] reported that integrated application of FYM and chemical fertilizers resulted in slight reduction in soil pH in all the treatments.

Electrical conductivity

Soil electrical conductivity a measure of salt concentration indicates trend in salinity, nutrient recycling and biological activities along with pH. It can act as surrogate measure of soil structured declined, especially in sodic soil. The electrical conductivity of the soil decreased with the application of FYM. The decrease in electrical conductivity might be due to the release of different organic acid during decomposition process which solubilised the salt and that leached down through irrigation water (Chaudhary *et al.*, 1981) [11].

Bharadwaj and Omanwar (1992) [5] studies long term effect of continuous rotational cropping and fertilization on soil properties and reported that electrical conductivity was not affected by any of the treatments, while Santhy et al., 1999 [30] reported that a slight increase in salt content was observed with the application of 100 per cent NPK + FYM and a considerable increase with the application of inorganic alone at different levels and at various combinations. The electrical conductivity of soil was evaluated after the harvest of rice as well as wheat crop by Bharambe et al. (2004) [6] which revealed that there was no significant change in electrical conductivity of soil with the application of various fertilizer combinations with and without FYM. Kumar et al. (2006) [17] reported that electrical conductivity of soil decreased with the application of organic manure. The electrical conductivity of surface and sub-surface soil after harvest of soybean and wheat crop was not affected significantly by the treatments of long term application of integrated nutrients. The value of electrical conductivity did not show remarkable alteration and this may be attributed to low residual effect of applied input and high buffering capacity of soil (Chouhan *et al.*, 2017) ^[13]. Lal Bahadur *et al.*, 2012 ^[19] also reported that no marked influence of continuous use of inorganic fertilizers alone or in combination of FYM on electrical conductivity of soil and thus may be due to buffering capacity of soil.

The lowest electrical conductivity was recorded in control (0.27 dSm⁻¹) while the highest electrical conductivity (0.33 dSm⁻¹) was recorded with the treatment NPK + FYM in surface soil. Addition of NPK fertilizers increases accumulation of salts concentration in soil which contribute to increased electrical conductivity (Bhatt et al., 2017) [8]. The highest value of electrical conductivity was recorded (0.32 dSm⁻¹) where 100% NPK was applied followed by treatment where 25% N applied through FYM with 75% NPK, while the lowest value of electrical conductivity was found (0.26 dSm⁻¹) in the control treatment. This might be due to the effect of inorganic fertilizers on electrical conductivity which was increased with increase in recommended inorganic fertilizers levels (Bhatt et al., 2019) [9]. Aziz et al., 2012 [1] also found similar results while studying effect of integrated nutrient management on soil physical properties using soybean as indicator crop under temperate condition. This might be due to release of electrolysis upon the decomposition of applied manure and fertilizers. A study in a permanent manorial trail on aridisols showed an increase in soil electrical conductivity value from 0.67 dSm⁻¹ to 0.80 dSm⁻¹ due to the continuous application of fertilizers for over 30 years. The increase in the electrical conductivity of the soil with continuous application of fertilizers was due to addition of salts through fertilizers and solubilization of native minerals due to reduction in pH (Hemlatha et al., 2013) [16]. Kumar et al., 2012 [18] reported that application of FYM, rice straw and green manure along with inorganic fertilizer decreased soluble salt concentration compared to the fertilizers alone in rice-wheat cropping system. The application of FYM @ 10 t ha⁻¹ to groundnut and 15 t ha⁻¹ to wheat significantly reduced electrical conductivity over control. Application of FYM and fertilizers reduced the electrical conductivity of soil. This could be attributed to increased of cation exchange capacity by addition of FYM and fertilizers (Rajani et al., 2019) [28].

Cation exchange capacity

Cation exchange capacity is a measure of how many cations can be retained on soil particles surface. It is the total capacity of a soil to hold exchangeable cations. It is an inherent soil characteristic and is difficult to alter significantly. Cation exchange capacity of soil increased in soil treated with 100% vermicompost followed by 50% vermicompost supplemented with 50% NPK when compared to control (Manivannam et al., 2009) [22]. Bharti and Sharma (2017) [7] reported that continuous use of chemical fertilizers and amendments reduced the CEC values in almost all the treatment except that of 100% NPK + FYM where the initial status was almost maintained. Report of the long term effect of continuous use of chemical fertilizers and manures reported that after 16 cropping cycle cation exchange capacity of soil increased in all the treatments over the initial status of soil (Sharma et al., 2014) [34]. Chauhan et al., 2017 [12] reported that highest value of CEC was recorded in the treatment 100% NPK with FYM and lowest in control.

Cation exchange capacity was recorded maximum in the treatment receiving 5 tonnes of farm yard manures + nitrogen fixer - B + half dose of nitrogen + phosphate solubilizers +

half dose of P₂O₅. The values of CEC were significantly higher in integrated treatments than organic treated (Datt et al., 2013) [14]. The CEC value of soil was comparatively high in 100% NPK + FYM treated plots which might be due to the higher organic colloids in these plots. The increase in CEC with the addition of FYM can be attributed to the increase in root biomass and crop residue production and then incorporation in soil (Meena et al., 2017) [23]. Bellaki et al., 1998 [4] stated that combined application of organic and inorganic sources of nutrients resulted significant increase in CEC over control. The CEC of the soil was found to be significantly increased by the application of higher rate of FYM and the best treatment was application of 7.5 tonn FYM ha-1 with the half dose of N and P fertilizers (Rajshree et al., 1995) [29]. Pandey and Shukla (2006) [25] indicated that application of vermicompost charged effective cation exchange capacity of the soil due to change of negative of the soil colloids.

The effective cation exchange capacity of the soil was significantly affected by all treatments except the chemical P fertilizers when applied at the rate of 40 and 60 kg ha⁻¹. The increase was due to improved soil condition by vermicompost and lime and increase of negative charges on the surface of the soil colloids (Bekela et al., 2018) [3]. Mahmoud and Ibrahim (2012) [21] reported that CEC was increased significantly with the application of vermicompost alone and it's in combination with water treated residue. The lowest CEC was found in non-treated control and the higher CEC was found in 150% NPK treatments. The highest CEC due to NPK fertilizers application compared to FYM might be due to more aromatic nature of organic matter produced under NPK fertilizer treatment compared to FYM (Brar et al., 2015) [10]. Basumatary and Talukdar (1998) [2] reported that continuous combined application of chemical fertilizer and organic manure increased the cation exchange capacity of soil over the initial value, where as soil fertility deterioration was observed under chemical fertilizers. Incorporation of crop residue and inorganic fertilizers showed significant increase in cation exchange capacity over the initial value. The increase in CEC was due to improvement in organic carbon content of the soil (Sharma et al., 2000) [32]. Laxminarayana (2001) [20] reported that higher CEC of the soil due to integrated use of organic and inorganic fertilizer in soybeanwheat cropping system mainly because of increased organic carbon content in soil. Long term application of inorganic nutrient along with organic manure significantly increased the cation exchange capacity of soil. Higher CEC in the treatments of long term application of integrated nutrient along with FYM was might be due to higher organic carbon under these treatments (Chauhan et al., 2017) [12]. Rajani et al., 2019 [28] reported a significant increase in cation exchange capacity in the treatment receiving FYM @ 10 t ha⁻¹ with 50% NPK, 50% NPK with rhizobium + PSM to groundnut and 100% NPK to wheat as compared to rest of the treatment.

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