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Effect of potting media on per cent germination and growth of Jackfruit (*Artocarpus heterophyllus* L.) grafts cv. Konkan prolific

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Abstract

Among the tropical fruits, Jackfruit (*Artocarpus heterophyllus* L.) is an important underutilized fruit and often called the poor man's fruit because of its affordability and availability in large quantities during the season. The jackfruit trees are raised by seeds and therefore the progenies do not breed true to type and show many variations. Hence, vegetative propagation methods are must in jackfruit. For this standardization of its germination of seedlings and vegetative propagation techniques plays an important role. Hence, experiment proposed entitled "Effect of potting media on per cent germination and growth of Jackfruit (*Artocarpus heterophyllus* L.) grafts cv. Konkan Prolific" was conducted at Fruit Crop Nursery of Department of Horticulture, Dr. Balasaheb Sawant Konkan Krishi Vidyapeeth, Dapoli during 2012-2013. In this experiment eight potting media were tried in Randomized Block Design and replicated at thrice. Among the different potting media Soil + FYM (1:1) media gave higher seed germination, seedling growth and vigour up to 30 days.

Keywords: Potting media, germination, jackfruit grafts and Konkan prolific

Introduction

Jackfruit, *Artocarpus heterophyllus* L. belonging to family Moraceae is one of the most popular and widely grown, evergreen fruit tree. Jackfruit produces heavier yields than any other tree species and bears largest known edible fruit weighing around 35-50 kg each. This is one of the underexploited nutritious fruit crop indigenous to the rainforests of Western Ghats of India (Reddy *et al.*, 2004) ^[9]. The full commercial exploitation of these existing jackfruit plants has not been possible because of their heterozygous in nature. There is a wide variation with respect to fruit size, shape, quality, season of bearing and harvesting. The jackfruit trees are raised by seeds and therefore the progenies do not breed true to type and show many variations. The success of nursery is largely depends on healthy rootstock for grafting. Potting media plays an important role in seed germination. Media not only acts as a growing place but also good source of nutrient for plant growth (Ramteke *et al.*, 2015) ^[8]. Hence, it is of prime importance to standardize the suitable potting media for commercial production of jackfruit seedling for grafting.

Material and Methods

The experiment was conducted at Fruit Crop Nursery, Department of Horticulture, College of Agriculture Dapoli, Dist. Ratnagiri during the year 2012-2013 with different potting media *viz.*, T₁- Soil + FYM (1:1), T₂- Soil + FYM (2:1), T₃- Soil + FYM (3:1), T₄- Soil + Vermicompost (1:1), T₅- Soil + Vermicompost (2:1), T₆- Soil + Vermicompost (3:1), T₇- Soil + Sand + FYM (1:1:1) and T₈- Soil + Sand + Vermicompost (1:1:1). Uniform sized, fully ripe fruits were selected. The seeds were extracted, washed with clean water and dried in shade for a day. The soaking of seeds carried out for 24 hours in clean water before sowing. The different combinations of soil, sand, FYM and vermicompost as per the treatment combinations were used for filling the polythene bags of 15 × 20 cm in size. Seeds of jackfruit were sown in individual polythene bags up to the depth of 2-2.5 cm. Per cent seed germination at fifteen and thirty days after sowing, were recorded. Germination percentage were calculated by dividing the total number of germinated seeds by the total number of seeds sown and

multiplied by 100. Observations on growth of five grafts randomly selected in each treatment were recorded at 15 days and 30 days after grafting *viz.*, Plant height (cm), Girth at collar region (cm), Number of leaves and Dry matter (g.). The dry matter (g) was estimated at one month old jackfruit grafts. The uprooted grafts were filled in separate brown paper bag and kept in hot air oven. Weighing was done regularly until they attain constant weight. This constant weight was recorded as dry matter. The data in the present investigation was statistically analyzed by the method suggested by Panse and Sukhatme (1985) ^[7].

Result and Discussions

Effect of potting media on germination percentage of jackfruit: Data pertaining to the effect of potting media on per cent seed germination of jackfruit are presented in table 1. At 15 days after sowing, per cent seed germination was significantly varied from 24.67 to 46.00 per cent among all potting media treatments. Significantly the highest (46.00%) seed germination was observed in treatment T₇ which was at par with treatment T₁, T₂, T₃, T₄ and T₈. Significantly lowest (24.67%) seed germination was observed in treatment T₅. Similarly, at 30 days after sowing, per cent seed germination was significantly varied from 71.00 to 90.00 per cent, among all potting media treatments. Significantly the highest (90.00%) seed germination was observed in treatment T₇ and it was at par with T₁, T₂, T₃, T₄ and T₈. Significantly lowest (71.00%) seed germination was observed in treatment T₅. However, the present findings are confirmative with results reported by Hande (1987)^[4] in Jamun and Gawankar et al., (2019) ^[3] in jackfruit seed germination in various potting media.

Effect of potting media on plant height (cm) of jackfruit grafts cv. Konkan Prolific: The data on the growth of jackfruit grafts raised in different media are presented in table 2. At 15 days after grafting, height of jackfruit grafts was nonsignificantly varied from 18.38 to 20.96 cm among all the potting media. Data present in Table 2 revealed that at 30 days after grafting, height of jackfruit grafts was significantly varied from 20.12 to 22.81 cm among all the potting media. Significantly highest (22.81 cm) graft height was observed in T₂ treatment which was at par with treatments T₁, T₆, T₇ and T₈. However, the lowest (20.12 cm) graft height was observed in treatment T₄. The similar findings were accordance with Gawankar *et al.*, (2019) ^[3] in jackfruit.

Effect of potting media on girth at collar region (cm) of jackfruit grafts cv. Konkan Prolific: Data present in table 2 showed that, at 15 days after grafting, girth at collar region of jackfruit grafts was non-significantly varied from 1.07 to 1.27 cm among all the potting media. Similarly, at 30 days after grafting, girth at collar region of jackfruit grafts was non-significantly varied from 1.17 to 1.34 cm among all the potting media.

Effect of potting media on number of leaves of jackfruit grafts cv. Konkan Prolific: The data pertaining to number of leaves per plant due to allotted treatments at various growth stages are presented in table 2. Data showed that, at 15 days after grafting, numbers of leaves of jackfruit grafts were non-significantly varied from 1.30 to 2.40 among all the potting media. Similarly, at 30 days after grafting, numbers of leaves of jackfruit grafts were non significantly varied from 2.13 to 3.53 among all the potting media.

Effect of potting media on dry matter (g) of jackfruit grafts cv. Konkan Prolific: The overall functioning of plant ultimately leads to the formation and progressive accumulation of the dry matter in the plant body. Thus, the growth of plant is nothing but the progressive accumulation of dry matter. The data regarding the dry matter production as affected by potting media are presented under table 2. At 30 days after grafting, dry matter of jackfruit grafts was significantly varied from 2.10 to 4.00 g. Among all the potting media treatments. Significantly highest (4.00 g) dry matter was observed in treatment T_1 . Whereas, lowest (2.10 g) dry matter was noted in treatment T₇. Potting media treatments showing dry matter (g) of jackfruit grafts in descending order is as $T_1 > T_2 > T_3 > T_4 > T_6 > T_5 > T_8 > T_7$. The results are confirmative with Das et al., (2006) ^[1] in sapota air grafts, Iftikhar and Qasim (2003) ^[5], Firoz et al., (1998)^[2] in cherry cuttings, and Nagwekar (1981)^[6] in mango grafts.

Table 1: Effect of potting media on per cent seed germination o	of
jackfruit.	

Treatmonte	Per cent seed germination				
Treatments	15 Days After Sowing	30 Days After Sowing			
т	38.00	84.00			
11	(38.05)	(66.83)			
т	32.00	76.00			
12	(34.31)	(61.41)			
Т	37.33	82.00			
13	(37.65)	(64.96)			
т.	40.67	89.00			
14	(39.61)	(70.64)			
T5	24.67	71.00			
	(29.51)	(57.44)			
T_6	26.67	76.00			
	(31.00)	(60.78)			
T ₂	46.00	90.00			
17	(42.70)	(71.58)			
т.	33.33	79.00			
18	(35.15)	(62.73)			
Mean	34.83	80.87			
	(287.98)	(516.38)			
'F' test	SIG	SIG			
SEm ±	3.29	3.49			
C.D. at 5%	9.98	10.57			

(Statistical analysis is based on the transformed values of the per cent germination).

 Table 2: Effect of potting media on plant height (cm), Girth at collar region (cm), number of leaves and dry matter (g) of jackfruit grafts cv.

 Konkan Prolific

	Plant height (cm)		Girth (cm) at collar region		Number of leaves		Dry matter (g)
Treatments	15 Days After	30 Days After	15 Days After	30 Days After	15 Days After	30 Days After	30 Days After
	Grafting	Grafting	Grafting	Grafting	Grafting	Grafting	Grafting
T_1	19.83	22.33	1.27	1.34	1.40	3.53	4.00
T_2	20.96	22.81	1.19	1.28	1.50	3.07	3.47
T ₃	18.38	20.52	1.10	1.21	2.30	3.13	3.10
T ₄	19.13	20.12	1.19	1.31	1.30	2.33	2.90

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T ₅	18.42	20.72	1.07	1.17	1.30	2.13	2.30
T ₆	20.01	22.16	1.15	1.21	2.40	2.57	2.37
T ₇	19.01	22.54	1.25	1.33	1.80	3.50	2.10
T8	19.48	21.65	1.10	1.21	1.50	3.13	2.21
Range	18.38-20.96	20.12-22.81	1.07-1.27	1.17-1.34	1.30-2.40	2.13-3.53	2.10-4.00
Mean	19.40	21.61	1.16	1.25	1.69	2.92	2.80
'F' test	NS	SIG	NS	NS	NS	NS	SIG
SEm ±	0.65	0.39	0.06	0.07	0.37	0.44	0.02
C.D. at 5%	_	1.17	_	_	_	_	0.06

Treatment details

T_1	Soil + FYM (1:1)	T 5	Soil + Vermicompost (2:1)
T_2	Soil + FYM (2:1)	T_6	Soil + Vermicompost (3:1)
T_3	Soil + FYM (3:1)	T_7	Soil + Sand + FYM $(1:1:1)$
T_4	Soil + Vermicompost (1:1)	T_8	Soil + Sand + Vermicompost (1:1:1)

Conclusion

Thus, from the present investigation, it could be concluded that, T_1 Soil + FYM (1:1) potting media had shown better results in per cent seed germination and all the growth parameters of jackfruit grafts up to 30 days age followed by T_7 Soil + Sand + FYM (1:1:1).

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