

Original Research Article

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## Effect of Wheat Residue Management and Fertilizer Levels on Growth and Yield of Fodder Maize (*Zea mays* L.)

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### ABSTRACT

#### Keywords

Residue management, Fertilizer levels, Fodder maize, Growth, Yield.

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Field experiment was conducted at Farming System Research Centre, AICRP-IFS, Department of Agronomy, College of Agriculture, Junagadh Agricultural University, Junagadh, Gujarat on medium black soil during summer season of 2015 and 2016 to study the effect of wheat residue management and fertilizer levels on growth and yield of fodder maize (*Zea mays* L.). Data revealed that among different residue management treatments, harvesting through combine harvester and straw incorporation in soil + 5 kg madhyam + 25 kg N ha<sup>-1</sup> recorded higher plant height, no. of leaves plant<sup>-1</sup>, leaf area index, leaf chlorophyll content, stem diameter, no. of internodes plant<sup>-1</sup>, dry matter plant<sup>-1</sup> and fodder yield followed by harvesting through combine harvester and straw incorporation in soil + 5 kg *Trichoderma* + 25 kg N ha<sup>-1</sup>. Among different fertilizer levels application of 100% RDF recorded significantly highest plant height, no. of leaves plant<sup>-1</sup>, leaf area index, leaf chlorophyll content, stem diameter, no. of internodes plant<sup>-1</sup>, dry matter plant<sup>-1</sup> and fodder yield over rest of the levels.

### Introduction

Maize (*Zea mays* L.) is one of the most important fodder crop all over the world. It is also fondly called as a “king of fodder” due to its great importance in animal diet, as it can be grown throughout the year mainly due to its photo-thermo-insensitive character. Among the cultivated non-legume fodder as well as grain crops, maize is the most important cereal crop in India, which can be grown in all the three seasons- *kharif*, *rabi* and summer. Maize is cultivated in diverse production environments ranging from temperate hill zone to the semi-arid region (Singhal, 2003). Sustainable food and nutrition security involves meeting current

need in agriculture production without sacrificing the prospects for meeting the need of future generation.

We have to produce more and more from less and less land. This would necessitate optimization of our efforts in land utilization, soil and moisture conservation with greater emphasis on residue management with adequate nutrition through fertilizers. In the light of these observations an experiment was laid out to know the effect of residue management and fertilizer levels in fodder maize on growth and yield.

## Materials and Methods

A field experiment was conducted at Farming System Research Centre, AICRP-IFS, Department of Agronomy, College of Agriculture, Junagadh Agricultural University, Junagadh, on medium black soil during summer season of 2015 and 2016 to study the effect of wheat residue management and fertilizer levels on fodder maize (*Zea mays* L.) in medium black soils of Saurashtra.

There were total fifteen treatment combinations comprising of five residue management practices (R<sub>1</sub>) no residue incorporation (Manual harvesting), (R<sub>2</sub>) harvesting through combine harvester and burning the straw, (R<sub>3</sub>) harvesting through combine harvester and straw incorporation in soil, (R<sub>4</sub>) harvesting through combine harvester and straw incorporation in soil + 5 kg *T. viride* + 25 kg N ha<sup>-1</sup> and (R<sub>5</sub>) harvesting through combine harvester and straw incorporation in soil + 5 kg madhyam + 25 kg N ha<sup>-1</sup> assigned to main plot and three fertilizer levels as a sub plot treatments viz., (F<sub>1</sub>) control, (F<sub>2</sub>) 50% RDF and (F<sub>3</sub>) 100% RDF were tried out in Split Plot Design (SPD) with three replications.

All agronomical practices were followed during investigation period and meteorological week wise weather parameters also observed. The net plot wise yield was recorded and subjected to statistical analysis Cochran and Cox (1957).

## Results and Discussion

### Effect of wheat residue management

The growth parameters (Table 1) were markedly influenced by residue management. Significantly higher plant height (219.1 cm), number of leaves plant<sup>-1</sup> (18.6), leaf area index (15.70), leaf chlorophyll content

(53.71), stem diameter (1.92 cm), number of internodes plant<sup>-1</sup> (15.13) and dry matter plant<sup>-1</sup> (99.61 g) was recorded in R<sub>5</sub> (harvesting through combine harvester and straw incorporation in soil + 5 kg madhyam + 25 kg N ha<sup>-1</sup>) as compared to rest of the treatments except R<sub>4</sub> (harvesting through combine harvester and straw incorporation in soil + 5 kg *T. viride* + 25 kg N ha<sup>-1</sup>).

It is the fact that microbial culture along with N might have increased decomposition of residue during that they releases growth factors which plays role in cell division, cell elongation and progressive initiation of tissues and organ differentiation and expansion of component cell thereby enhanced growth parameters (Meena and Singh, 2013 and Soleymani *et al.*, 2016).

The data depicted in table 1 showed that harvesting through combine harvester and straw incorporation in soil + 5 kg madhyam + 25 kg N ha<sup>-1</sup> (R<sub>5</sub>) recorded significantly higher fodder yield (54057 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) but it was on same bar with R<sub>4</sub> (harvesting through combine harvester and straw incorporation in soil + 5 kg *T. viride* + 25 kg N ha<sup>-1</sup>). This might be due to, yield of crop is a function of several yield components which are dependent on complimentary interaction between vegetative and reproductive growth of crop.

A significant increase in green fodder yield under these treatments because, straw incorporation with microbial inoculants leads to faster decomposition of straw, improved the status of soil organic matter, leading to higher uptake of available nutrients from soil and ultimately increased the growth and yield components.

The results are in accordance with the results obtained by Singh and Yadav (2006) and Rajkhowa and Borah (2008).

**Table.1** Effect of wheat residue management and fertilizer levels of growth and yield of fodder maize

Treatments	Plant height (cm)	No. of leaves plant <sup>-1</sup>	Leaf area index	Leaf chlorophyll content	Stem diameter (cm)	No. of internodes plant <sup>-1</sup>	Dry matter plant <sup>-1</sup> (g)	Fodder yield (kg ha <sup>-1</sup> )
<b>Main plot (Crop residue management: R)</b>								
R <sub>1</sub>	189.7	15.5	14.62	48.70	1.62	11.85	86.16	39936
R <sub>2</sub>	185.8	15.1	14.24	47.48	1.59	11.45	82.92	37620
R <sub>3</sub>	197.3	16.7	15.13	49.89	1.75	13.87	91.82	45625
R <sub>4</sub>	215.7	18.1	15.33	52.17	1.88	14.85	98.02	51366
R <sub>5</sub>	219.1	18.6	15.70	53.71	1.92	15.13	99.61	54057
S.Em±	4.8	0.4	0.21	0.79	0.05	0.42	1.28	1288
C. D. at 5%	14.3	1.2	0.64	2.37	0.15	1.27	3.84	3860
C.V. (%)	10.1	10.6	10.86	6.66	12.48	13.40	5.88	12
<b>Sub plot (Fertilizer levels: F)</b>								
F <sub>1</sub>	181.1	15.2	14.12	47.49	1.58	11.88	86.71	39668
F <sub>2</sub>	203.2	16.5	15.05	50.15	1.74	13.56	91.99	44294
F <sub>3</sub>	220.3	18.2	15.80	53.47	1.93	14.85	98.50	53200
S.Em±	3.4	0.3	0.16	0.54	0.04	0.27	0.95	534
C. D. at 5%	9.8	0.8	0.45	1.55	0.11	0.76	2.71	1526
C.V. (%)	9.4	9.2	5.81	5.90	11.61	10.91	5.61	8
Interaction (R×F)	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	Sig.	Sig.

R<sub>1</sub>: No residue incorporation (Manual harvesting); R<sub>2</sub>: Harvesting through combine harvester and burning the straw; R<sub>3</sub>: Harvesting through combine harvester and straw incorporation in soil; R<sub>4</sub>: Harvesting through combine harvester and straw incorporation in soil + 5 kg *T. viride* + 25 kg N ha<sup>-1</sup>; R<sub>5</sub>: harvesting through combine harvester and straw incorporation in soil + 5 kg madhyam + 25 kg N ha<sup>-1</sup>

F<sub>1</sub>: Control; F<sub>2</sub>: 50% RDF; F<sub>3</sub>: 100% RDF

**Table.2** Interaction effect of wheat residue management and fertilizer levels on dry matter plant<sup>-1</sup>

Fertilizer levels	Wheat residue management				
	R <sub>1</sub>	R <sub>2</sub>	R <sub>3</sub>	R <sub>4</sub>	R <sub>5</sub>
F <sub>1</sub>	77.22	79.15	84.63	94.97	97.59
F <sub>2</sub>	84.53	84.16	92.44	99.43	99.41
F <sub>3</sub>	96.72	85.44	98.39	101.82	110.16
S.Em.±			2.99		
C.D. at 5 %			8.56		
C.V. (%)			5.61		

**Table.3** Interaction effect of wheat residue management and fertilizer levels on Fodder yield of maize

Fertilizer levels	Wheat residue management				
	R <sub>1</sub>	R <sub>2</sub>	R <sub>3</sub>	R <sub>4</sub>	R <sub>5</sub>
F <sub>1</sub>	35449	33625	39533	41827	47908
F <sub>2</sub>	38771	36432	41415	52124	52728
F <sub>3</sub>	45588	42803	55927	60147	61536
S.Em.±			1688		
C.D. at 5 %			4826		
C.V (%)			8		

### Effect of fertilizer levels

Data presented in table: 1 indicated that fertilizing the crop with 100% RDF (F<sub>3</sub>) registered significantly highest plant height (220.3 cm), number of leaves plant<sup>-1</sup> (18.2), leaf area index (15.80), leaf chlorophyll content (53.47), stem diameter (1.93 cm), number of internodes plant<sup>-1</sup> (14.85) and dry matter plant<sup>-1</sup> (98.50 g).

The improvement in growth parameters with application of 100% RDF might have resulted in better and timely availability of primary nutrients for their utilization by plant.

Profound influence of fertilizer on crop growth seems to be due to maintaining congenial nutritional environment on account of their greater availability from soil media. These findings are in consonance with those reported by Khot and Umrani (1992), Oad *et al.*, (2004) and Arun Kumar *et al.*, (2007). Result revealed in table 1 showed that significantly highest fodder (53200 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) was recorded under treatment F<sub>3</sub> (100% RDF) over rest of the levels.

This may probably attributed to NPK being part of the essential nutrients required for the promotion of the meristematic and physiological activities such root development, plant dry matter production leading to an efficient absorption and translocation of water and nutrients, interception of solar radiation and assimilation of carbon dioxide. These activities promote higher photosynthetic activities leading to the production of enough assimilates for subsequent translocation towards sink and hence the production of higher yield.

These findings closely associated with those of Jalia *et al.*, (2008) and Maqsood and Shehzad (2013).

### Interaction effect

The data depicted in table 2 indicated that significantly higher dry matter plant-1 (110.16 g) was registered in treatment combination R5N3 (harvesting through combine harvester and straw incorporation in soil + 5 kg madhyam + 25 kg N ha<sup>-1</sup> along with 100% RDF) but it didn't significantly differed from R4N3

(harvesting through combine harvester and straw incorporation in soil + 5 kg *T. viride* + 25 kg N ha<sup>-1</sup> along with 100% RDF).

The result presented in table 3 revealed that treatment combination R5N3 (harvesting through combine harvester and straw incorporation in soil + 5 kg madhyam + 25 kg N ha<sup>-1</sup> along with 100% RDF) registered higher fodder yield (61536 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) over rest of the treatment combinations but it was remained at par with R4N3 (harvesting through combine harvester and straw incorporation in soil + 5 kg *T. viride* + 25 kg N ha<sup>-1</sup> along with 100% RDF).

Based on the study, it can be concluded that effective management of what residues along with improved growth characters and higher fodder yield can be secured with adopting treatments likes harvesting through combine harvester and straw incorporation in soil + 5 kg madhyam + 25 kg N ha<sup>-1</sup> and harvesting through combine harvester and straw incorporation in soil + 5 kg *T. viride* + 25 kg N ha<sup>-1</sup> along with 100% RDF.

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